

***Scabiosa atropurpurea* Pincushion Flower, Sweet Scabiosa¹**

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Introduction

Pincushion flower forms a wonderful, aster-like flower atop a 12-inch-tall herbaceous perennial (Fig. 1). The deep pink flowers appear during the warm months.

General Information

Scientific name: *Scabiosa atropurpurea*

Pronunciation: skay-bee-OH-suh
at-roe-per-POOR-ree-uh

Common name(s): pincushion flower, sweet scabiosa

Family: *Dipsacaceae*

Plant type: annual

USDA hardiness zones: all zones (Fig. 2)

Planting month for zone 7: Jun; Jul

Planting month for zone 8: May; Jun; Jul; Aug

Planting month for zone 9: Apr; May; Jun; Jul; Aug;
Sep



Figure 1. Pincushion flower

Planting month for zone 10 and 11: Feb; Mar; Apr;
May; Jun; Jul; Aug; Sep; Oct; Nov; Dec

Origin: not native to North America

Uses: border; mass planting

Availability: somewhat available, may have to go out
of the region to find the plant

1. This document is FPS537, one of a series of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original publication date October, 1999. Reviewed September, 2007. Visit the EDIS Web Site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.

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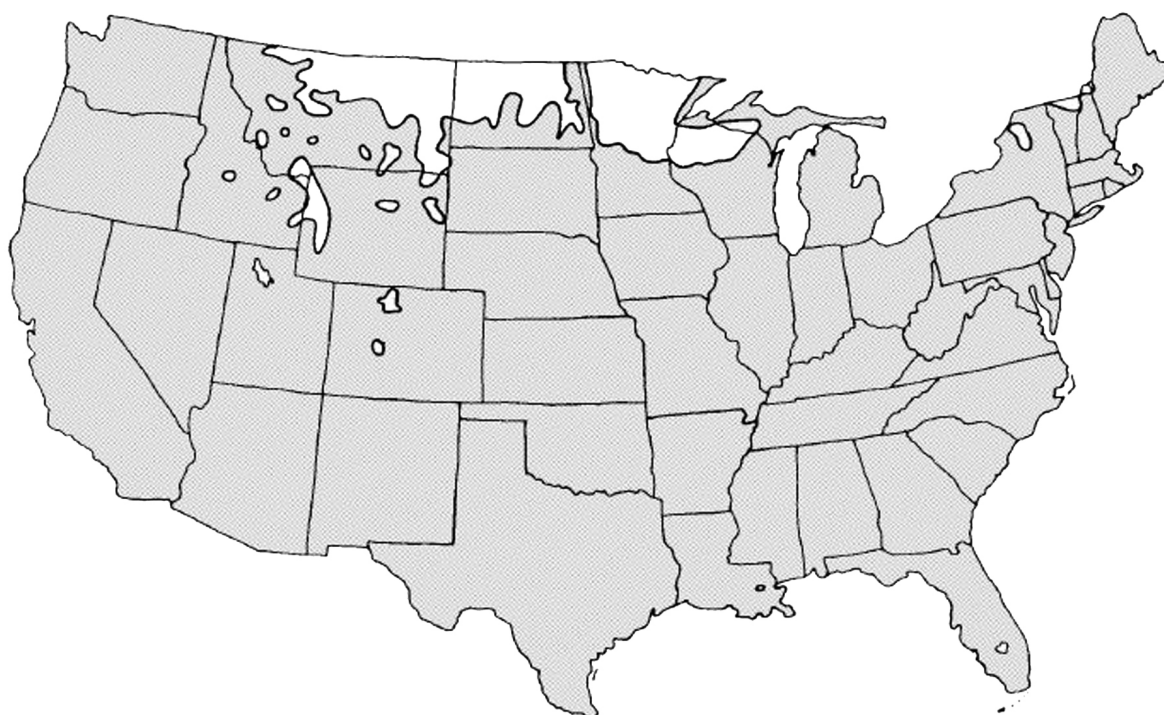


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

Description

Height: 1 to 3 feet

Spread: 1 to 2 feet

Plant habit: upright

Plant density: open

Growth rate: moderate

Texture: medium

Leaf blade length: 2 to 4 inches

Leaf color: green

Fall color: not applicable

Fall characteristic: not applicable

Flower

Flower color: pink

Flower characteristic: showy; summer flowering

Foliage

Leaf arrangement: most emerge from the soil, usually without a stem

Leaf type: simple

Leaf margin: parted

Leaf shape: spatulate

Leaf venation: pinnate

Leaf type and persistence: not applicable

Fruit

Fruit shape: no fruit

Fruit length: no fruit

Fruit cover: no fruit

Fruit color: not applicable

Fruit characteristic: inconspicuous and not showy

Trunk and Branches

Trunk/bark/branches: not applicable

Current year stem/twig color: not applicable

Current year stem/twig thickness: thick

Culture

Light requirement: plant grows in full sun

Soil tolerances: acidic; sand; loam; clay

Drought tolerance:

Soil salt tolerances: unknown

Plant spacing: 12 to 18 inches

Other

Roots: not applicable

Winter interest: not applicable

Outstanding plant: not particularly outstanding

Invasive potential: not known to be invasive

Pest resistance: long-term health usually not affected
by pests

Use and Management

Pests and Diseases

There are no major problems.