



# FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

## Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	Globe thistle
Botanical Name:	Echinops ritro
Family:	Asteraceae
Plant Type:	Herbaceous Perennial Flower
Season of Bloom:	Mid-summer to late summer

The globe thistle or Echinops, is a striking addition to the perennial border, sporting steely blue, round composite flower heads and interesting textured leaves. The true species grows up to five feet with the blooms held high on sturdy stems.

Echinops will self-sow if not deadheaded, but is not troublesome like some of its thistle cousins.

Globe thistle tolerates most soils except heavy wet types, but prefers a dry, sandy soil and a sunny location. The plant may require staking if the soil is rich. The long tap root makes it difficult to divide or transplant, however basal plantlets can be removed and relocated.



As part of the King's Garden design, blue and yellow flowers are used in combination in long, linear beds, setting them apart from the distinct use of cool colors at one end, and warm colors on the opposite end of the garden. Globe thistle combines with lemon-colored marigolds and hollyhocks, and blue lupine, bachelor buttons, and salvia.

After flowering, the plant is cut to the base, rewarding the gardener with a second flush of blooms in the fall. Globe thistle is deer resistant and has few pest problems. It attracts bees and butterflies and many compliments for its dramatic appearance.

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