



FORT TICONDEROGA

National Historic Landmark

Flower of the Week

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Common Name:	Pincushion flower; Scabiosa
Botanical Name:	Scabiosa atropurpurea
Family:	Dipsacaceae (Teasel family)
Plant Type:	Herbaceous annual
Season of Bloom:	Summer and fall

A favorite of Victorian and cottage gardeners, **scabiosa** resembles a pincushion dotted with pearl-headed pins. Of the 80 species of scabisosa, so named by Linnaeus, *Scabiosa atropurpurea* is the only annual scabiosa in cultivation.

This European native was brought to New England by colonists who were familiar with combining it with fennel and marsh mallow in an herbal bath remedy used to treat scabies.

There are both annual and perennial varieties in the King's Garden that flourish in sunny locations. Flower colors range from reddish purple, pink, salmon, rose, white to violet blue. The cultivar '**Ace of Spades**' is deep maroon to nearly black.

This showy and versatile flower is excellent for drying, pressing, cutting and attracting butterflies. If consistently deadheaded, scabiosa will bloom repeatedly from early summer through fall. The perennial variety *Scabiosa columbaria* '**Butterfly Blue**' was named the year 2000 Perennial Plant of the Year. In zone 8 and warmer, 'Ace of Spades' is perennial and can grow up to five feet tall!

