

# BLACK KNIGHT SCABIOSA

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S C A B I O S A   A T R O P U P U R E A



## CULTURAL & HISTORICAL NOTES ...

Black Scabiosa, commonly known as “pincushion flower,” is native to southern Europe. The name “Scabiosa” derives from the Latin “scabere,” meaning “to scratch,” as the plant was historically used to treat skin ailments. In the language of flowers, Scabiosa symbolizes peace, innocence, purity and unfortunate love, with its dark blooms also representing mourning and loss. Beyond its ornamental appeal, Black Scabiosa has been utilized in natural dyeing to produce muted, earthy tones, adding depth to textile artistry.

## HOW TO GROW...

**Sowing:** Start seeds indoors 4–6 weeks before the last frost date. Sow seeds on the surface or lightly cover them, as they require light to germinate.

**Transplanting:** Once the danger of frost has passed, transplant seedlings outdoors, spacing them 9–12 inches apart to allow adequate air circulation.

**Support:** Provide support, such as netting or staking, to prevent plants from flopping, especially in windy areas.

**Deadheading:** Regularly remove spent flowers to encourage continuous blooming and prevent self-seeding.

*Note: While Black Scabiosa is generally non-toxic, it's advisable to handle all dye plants with care, wearing gloves to prevent potential skin irritation.*

## DYE TECHNIQUE TO TRY ...

Great for bundle dyeing, or try fresh or dried petals to create dye baths. Gently simmer petals in water to extract the dye, then strain. Pre-mordant cleaned natural fibers with alum for enhanced color absorption. Submerge the fabric in the dye bath at 140°F (60°C) for one hour, stirring occasionally. Allow the fabric to cool in the dye bath before rinsing and drying.

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**PARTS USED**  
Flowers, fresh or dried

**GERMINATION**  
10-14 days

**USDA ZONES**  
3-9

**HARVEST**  
90-100 days



**LIGHT**  
Full sun -  
partial shade

**SOIL**  
Moist, well-drained  
soil; slightly alkaline to  
neutral pH (6.0–8.0)

**WATERING**  
Water regularly  
until established;  
once mature, water  
during dry spells,  
ensuring soil  
remains moist but  
not waterlogged

