Harlequin Blue Pincushion Flower

Scabiosa columbaria 'Balharbu'



Harlequin Blue Pincushion Flower flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 14 inches

Spacing: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Scabious

Description:

Large lilac-blue flowers on tall wiry stems, over compact mounds of foliage, continuously throughout the summer on this improved dwarf plant; great for mixed containers, rock gardens, or even cascading on walls; remove faded flowers

Ornamental Features

Harlequin Blue Pincushion Flower features unusual sky blue pincushion flowers with lilac purple overtones at the ends of the stems from early summer to mid fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its deeply cut ferny leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Harlequin Blue Pincushion Flower is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Harlequin Blue Pincushion Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Harlequin Blue Pincushion Flower will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 14 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 12 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Harlequin Blue Pincushion Flower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.