PLANT FACT SHEET

Scabiosa columbaria L.

GENUS *Scabiosa* **FAMILY** Caprifoliaceae

COMMON NAMES Pincushion, African white scabious

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves

DESCRIPTION

A small herb. It grows 60 cm high and spreads 40 cm wide. It has a woody rootstock. The leaves are grey-green. The leaves at the base are woolly. They can have smooth edges or be deeply lobed. The upper leaves are divided into leaflets along the stalk. These are also often further divided. The flowers are in heads and are purple-blue. They are 40 mm wide. The fruit is dry. It has one seed.

HABITAT

It is a subtropical plant. It grows between 5-3,475 m above sea level in South Africa. In Zimbabwe it grows between 800-2,000 m above sea level. It needs well-drained soil. It grows on chalk grasslands in Europe. It can grow in arid places. It suits hardiness zones 6-10.

NOTES

There are about 75-80 Scabiosa species. Also put in the family Dipsacaceae.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/48372a2f-7646-44da-81e3-d4d73dcb665e