

Field Scabious (*Knautia arvensis*)

FS KNAU ARV

Erect perennial up to 1.5 metres tall. Introduced from Eurasia as an ornamental. Also known as Bluebuttons.



Distribution

Limited distribution in the Southern Interior.

Please report *all* occurrences.

Quick ID

Solitary violet flower heads.

Ring of narrow, green floral bracts.

Leaves deeply lobed into 5 to 15 narrow segments.

Lower part of plant is bristly/hairy.

Interesting Facts:

Still sold as an ornamental and butterfly attractant.



Manual Treatment: Cut or mow pastures before seed-set. Cultivation can manage this weed. Heavily infested pastures and hayfields can be cultivated and rotated to an annual crop.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: Violet blue to pale purple, up to 4 cm wide; solitary on the end of a long, leafless stalk. Below each flower head are 8 to 12 sepals and a ring of narrow green bracts. Florets have 4 to 5 lobed petal tubes, four stamens, and a single pistil.

Leaves and Stems: Low growing rosette in first year. Rosette leaves are entire, coarsely toothed, stalked leaves 10 to 25 cm long. Produces one main stem the second year. Stem leaves are opposite, stalkless and deeply lobed into 5 to 15 narrow segments.

Seeds: Rectangular, light brown, four-sided seeds that are densely covered with long hairs. Can produce 200,000 seeds and may remain viable in the soil for several years.

Roots: Woody taproot.

Reproduction and Dispersal: By seed. Most seeds fall close to parent plant but animals also facilitate seed dispersal in their manure.

Habitat Preference: Roadsides, pastures and fields. Prefers nutrient-rich and moderately moist to dry loam soils, but also establishes in gravelly soils. Can invade undisturbed plant communities.

