

Scabiosa Flutter

(*Scabiosa columbaria*)

Propagation

- Choose a well-drained medium with an EC of 0.8 to 1.0 mmhos and a pH of 5.5 to 6.2.
- Stick cuttings the day of arrival if possible. Otherwise, store at 45°F (7°C) for not more than 18 hours before sticking.
- Soil temperature should be maintained at 70 to 72°F (21 to 24°C) until roots are visible.
- A rooting hormone basal dip of 1,000 ppm should be applied to promote early, uniform rooting.
- Mist at moderate to high levels for the first 24 hours to rehydrate cuttings. Use a low mist setting after this period.
- Begin fertilization with 50 to 75 ppm N 10 days after stick.
- During root development, maintain moderate moisture levels in the soil. Avoid saturation of media. Scabiosa will root slowly if rooting media is kept too wet.
- Pinching once in the propagation tray at 28 to 32 days after sticking will promote a well-branched finished plant.
- Rooted cuttings should be ready for transplanting 35 to 42 days after sticking.

Growing On to Finish

Media

- Use media with good aeration and drainage.
- Prefers a medium that is high in organic matter.
- A pH of 5.8 to 6.2 is optimum.

Temperature

- **Nights:** 50 to 55°F (10 to 13°C)
- **Days:** 55 to 60°F (13 to 15°C)
- Temperatures below those recommended will slow plant growth significantly.
- An average daily temperature of 60°F (16°C) is optimal, but plants will tolerate a wide range of warm temperatures.
- Scabiosa do not require vernalization for flowering. However, vernalization has been shown to hasten flowering by up to two weeks.

Light

- Will perform best under moderate to high light levels of 5,000 to 8,000 f.c. (50,000 to 80,000 Lux).
- Plants grown under short days will benefit from extended day lighting to hasten flowering. However, this is not recommended.
- Finish Scabiosa outside under full sun conditions for best quality.

Watering

- The media should be allowed to dry slightly between watering and never saturated. However, plants should not be allowed to wilt at any time.
- Leach regularly to avoid the buildup of high soluble salt levels.

Fertilizer

Use a balanced fertilizer at a rate of 150 to 175 ppm. Periodic use of a calcium-based fertilizer should help optimize the nutrient levels.

Pinching

Plants should be pinched once in the propagation tray or within two weeks after transplanting to create very full plants.

Controlling Growth

Under most conditions, will not require growth regulator treatments. Plants will respond to B-Nine at 2,500 ppm if growing conditions cause stretch.

Common Problems

Insects: Aphids, Spider Mites

Diseases: Flutter Scabiosa are naturally resistant to Powdery Mildew. However, any Scabiosa can experience PM under poor growing conditions. Pythium can be a problem if overwatered.

Problem: Plant collapse

Causes: Plants grown in saturated media for extended periods of time (Pythium); Rooted cuttings transplanted too deeply

Problem: Excessive vegetative growth and lack of flowers

Causes: Excessive ammonium-based fertilizer; Over-fertilization under low light conditions; Low light and over-watering; saturated media

Problem: Yellowing of young foliage

Causes: Saturated media

Crop Schedule & Uses

(Crop Schedule in Weeks from Spring planting.)

1 PPP* 1-quart (10-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting 12 - 14 weeks

Rooted cutting 8 - 10 weeks

1 PPP* 1-gallon (15-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting 14 - 16 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

3 PPP* 2 to 3-gallon (25 to 30-cm) pot

Unrooted cutting 14 - 16 weeks

Rooted cutting 10 - 12 weeks

*PPP: Plants per pot

