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Echinops bannaticus

[Synonyms : *Echinops armatus*, *Echinops ritro*]

GLOBE THISTLE is a perennial. Native to southern and south-eastern Europe it has small, thistle-like greyish-blue flower heads.

It is also known as *Balkan-Kugeldistel* (German), Ball thistle, *Banater Kugeldistel* (German), *Bělotrn banátský* (Czech), *Blå bolltistel* (Swedish), Blue globe thistle, Blue hedgehog, Everlasting flower, Globe flower, *Grå bolltistel* (Swedish), Perennial globe-thistle, *Sinipallo-ohdake* (Finnish), and Steel-globe thistle.

Bannaticus means ‘of or from the once Austrian crownland of Banat, a region in central Europe (which at the beginning of the 21st Century straddles three national borders with the largest eastern part in Romania, the smaller western area in Serbia and the smallest northern piece in Hungary)’.

Authorities believe that the globe thistle was introduced to Britain in 1570.