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Knautia arvensis

[Synonyms : *Scabiosa arvensis*, *Trichera arvensis*]

FIELD SCABIOUS is a perennial. Native from Europe to North Africa it has bluish-lilac flowers.

It is also known as *Ackerknautie* (German), *Acker-Skabiöse* (German), *Acker-Witwenblume* (German), *Åkervädd* (Swedish), Bachelor's buttons, *Beemdkroon* (Dutch), Billy buttons, Blackamoor's beauty, Black soap, *Blåhat* (Danish), Blue bonnet, Blue buttons, Blue caps, Blue men, Broadweed, Calscalary, Cardies, *Chrastavec rolní* (Czech), *Chrastavec rol'ný* (Slovak), *Clafrllys* (Welsh), Clodweed, Clogweed, Coachman's buttons, Cornflower, Curl-doddy, Cushions, Drumsticks, Egyptian rose, *Feldwitwenblume* (German), Gentleman's pincushion, Gipsy rose, *Knautie* (German), *Knautie des champs* (French), Lady's cushion, Lady's hatpins, Lady's pincushion, Mournful widow, Mourning widow, Pincushion, Pins and needles, Purple buttons, Robin's pincushion, Scabious, Scabril, Snake flower, Soldier's buttons, Teddy buttons, *Wiesen-Knautie* (German), *Wiesen-Witwenblume* (German), Wild aster, Wild scabious, and *Witwenblume* (German).

Arvensis means 'of or growing in cultivated fields or land'.

The name Scabious is said to be derived from the Latin word for 'scab or mange' *scabies*.

Medicinally, herbalists used to recommend field scabious internally as a tonic, and for treating various lung disorders and worms. Externally it was prescribed for many different skin disorders including carbuncles, wounds, sores and ulcers. The juice was also an ingredient in a mixture used for treating leprosy, dandruff, freckles and pimples. Today the fresh plant is used in homoeopathy.