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*Scabiosa atropurpurea*

[Synonyms : *Scabiosa maritima*]

**SWEET SCABIOUS** is a biennial or perennial (grown as an annual). Native to south-western Europe it has fragrant dark crimson, pink or white flowers.

It is also known as Egyptian rose, Garden scabious, Grandmother's pincushion, Mournful widow, Mourning bride, Mourning widow, Pincushion flower, *Purpur-Skabiose* (German), Red Indian scabious, Scabious, and Southern scabious; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of 'I have lost all', unfortunate attachment, and widowhood.

*Atropurpurea* is derived from Latin *atro-* (black, dark) and *purpureo-* (purple) components meaning 'dark purple'.

In times past sweet scabious was viewed as an appropriate flower to include in a widow's bouquet or posy, and in Portugal and Brazil particularly the flower was a familiar sight in funeral wreaths.

It is the birthday flower for 26<sup>th</sup> June.