

## Variegated Pincushion Flower

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### Variegated Pincushion Flower *Scabiosa farinosa 'Variegata'*

Height: 18 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 16 inches

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Variegated Powdery Scabious

#### Description:

This variegated selection features a low mound of thick, green and yellow variegated leaves; short stems rise up, bear small lacy pincushion flowers of pink or lavender; long blooming, and has a tidy habit perfect for edging, rock gardens, or containers



*Variegated Pincushion Flower*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

#### Ornamental Features

Variegated Pincushion Flower features unusual lavender pincushion flowers with pink overtones at the ends of the stems from late spring to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive serrated oval leaves remain dark green in color with showy buttery yellow variegation and tinges of chartreuse throughout the year.

#### Landscape Attributes

Variegated Pincushion Flower is an herbaceous annual with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Variegated Pincushion Flower is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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### Planting & Growing

Variegated Pincushion Flower will grow to be about 14 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 16 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Variegated Pincushion Flower is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.