Mars Midget Scabious

Knautia macedonica 'Mars Midget'



Mars Midget Scabious flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 16 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Description:

This beautiful summer long bloomer forms a compact mound of grey-green leaves bearing lovely ruby red button flowers that open in succession over several months, removing spent blooms promotes new blooms; terrific for edging sunny borders or in containers

Ornamental Features

Mars Midget Scabious features airy ruby-red pincushion flowers at the ends of the stems from early summer to early fall. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Mars Midget Scabious is an open herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Mars Midget Scabious is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Mars Midget Scabious will grow to be about 16 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. It tends to be leggy, with a typical clearance of 1 foot from the ground, and should be underplanted with lower-growing perennials. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 3 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to dry locations, and dislikes excessive moisture. 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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.

Mars Midget Scabious is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.