

# Field scabiosa

# Knautia arvensis

# **Description**

It escaped cultivation in British Columbia from its use as a garden ornamental.

#### Habit

Herbaceous perennial, erect, hairy and sparsely branched.

### Leaves

Hairy; lower leaves are usually coarsely toothed, or sometimes entire, and form a basal rosette.

Upper leaves are opposite and deeply, pinnately cut.

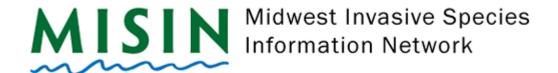
#### **Stems**

Stiff hairs angled downwards, but are not prickly.

#### **Flowers**

Blue to purple in color. Inflorescence is a dense composite of small florets clustered into a domed-shaped head resembling a single flower that occurs singly at the ends of stems. Below the flower head is a ring of narrow green bracts.





#### **Fruits and Seeds**

Fruit is nut-like, cylindrical, very small and hairy.

A single plant can produce up to 2000 seeds.

#### Habitat

Native to Europe. Found in roadsides, pastures, and meadows.

## Reproduction

By seed or vegetatively.

#### Similar

Not likely to be confused with other plants. Similar looking plants can be found in the Pincushion family (Scabiosa spp.).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Cut or mow plants before seed-set. Pulling is seldom effective due to difficulty in removing the long, branched roots. Tilling and cultivation of other species has been effective in controlling populations. Escort (metsulfuron-methyl) at 20 gr/ha (8.0 gr/acre) provides excellent control and should be applied to actively growing plants up to the early flower bud stage.

#### Credits

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