

Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost' Star Frost White Globe Thistle

Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost' (Star Frost Globe Thistle) has spectacular frost-colored flower globes that provide 4-season interest. Coarse-textured, prickly green leaves form a dense basal rosette in spring. Stems soon elongate and branch, each bearing one globe flower head, reaching 3-4' high in flower. Flower heads (2" in diameter) are composed of densely-packed, intricate spiked, star-like flowers that attract a wide variety of bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Great for cut flowers. In the fall, flowers turn into attractive, geometric thistle seed heads with oblong brown seeds. This relatively short-lived herbaceous perennial does best in well-drained soils, poor soils. Richer soils may cause weak stems and sprawling.

Botanical Name: Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'

Common Name: Star Frost White Globe Thistle

Family: Asteraceae

USDA Zone: 3 to 8

Light Type: Full Sun

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Well-drained soils

Soil Moisture: Medium to Dry

Typical height (ft): 3-4'

Typical width (ft): 2-3'

Foliage: Deeply dissected leaves with green upper side, and grey-green on the underside.

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom: Silvery-white

Ecological features: Floral resources for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators; small songbirds eat the seed in fall and winter

Tolerance of: Drought, deer, rabbit, dry soil, rocky soil, salt, heat

Additional notes: Provides winter architecture and structure. Can survive high heat if compensated with extra watering. Taproot makes this plant difficult to transplant once established. Winter seed heads are beautiful and good for birds, but be prepared for self-sowing. Plant with plenty of space to fill in or give young transplants to friends. Relatively short-lived plant, so some re-seeding is needed to persist.

Companion plants: Pale Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea pallida*), Giant Hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*), Rozanne Cranesbill (*Granium 'Rosanne'*), Album Culver's Root (*Veronicastrum virginicum 'Album'*), Drumstick Allium (*Allium sphaerocephalon*), Tall Verbena (*Verbena bonariensis*), Tufted Hair Grass (*Dechampsia caespitosa*)

For more information see:

<https://www.highcountrygardens.com/perennial-plants/unique-plants/echinops-star-frost-globe-thistle>

<https://www.selectseeds.com/perennial-seeds-2/globe-thistle-star-frost-seeds.aspx>

<http://www.perennials.com/plants/echinops-bannaticus-star-frost.html>

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/perennials/unique-perennials/how-to-grow-echinops>

Images of Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'



Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'-1.jpg
flowers close-up



Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'-2.webp
beginning to bloom



Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'-3.webp
in garden context



Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'-4.webp
foliage

Image choices for narrative:

Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'-1.jpg - flowers close-up

Echinops bannaticus 'Star Frost'-3.webp - in garden context