

Echinops 'Veitch's Blue'

Veitch's Blue Globe Thistle

Echinops 'Veitch's Blue' (Veitch's Blue Globe Thistle) is a 4-season flowering perennial known for its striking geometric globe flowers. Plants form a bushy, upright mound of prickly grey-green leaves in spring. Perfect spheres of cornflower blue flowers sit atop branching stems, 3-3.5' tall. The densely packed globes of star-shaped flowers on thin leafless upper stems appear to float over the garden. Many bees, butterflies, and other pollinators are attracted to the blooms from July to September. In winter, the round seed heads bring considerable architectural interest and provide food for birds, especially goldfinches. Globe thistles are tough, hardy plants well-adapted to full sun, drought conditions and dry, rocky soils. If soils are too rich and fertile, plants may flop or decline. Plants are short-lived but re-seed readily. With a deep taproot, avoid transplanting once established; young plants may be moved.

Botanical Name: Echinops 'Veitch's Blue'

Common Name: Veitch's Blue Globe Thistle

Family: Asteraceae

Nativity: Not Native to US

USDA Zone: 3 to 9

Light Type: Full sun

Soil Type: Sand, loam

Soil Preferences: Prefers well-draining, infertile soil

Soil Moisture: Dry to Medium

Typical height (ft): 3-3.5'

Typical width (ft): 1.5-2'

Foliage: Grey green, dark green

Bloom Time: July, August, September

Bloom: Dusty blue, cornflower blue, lavender

Ecological features: Floral resources attract butterflies, bees, & other pollinators; fall seed heads attract birds, especially goldfinches

Tolerance of: Drought, deer, heat, salt

Additional notes: 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: Alabaster Giant Hyssop (Agastache foeniculum 'Alabaster'), Rozanne Cranesbill (Geranium 'Rozanne'), Album Culver's Root (Veronicastrum virginicum 'Album'), Drumstick Allium (Allium sphaerocephalon), Tall Verbena (Verbena bonariensis), White garden phlox (Phlox paniculata 'David' and others), 'Hyperion' Daylily, Moonshine yarrow (Achillea 'Moonshine'), Moonbeam coreopsis (Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'), Coneflowers (Echinacea spp.)

For more information see:

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/perennials/unique-perennials/echinops-veitchs-blue>

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/echinops-ritro-veitchs-blue-globe-thistle>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=255135&isprofile=1&basic=echinops>

<https://www.shootgardening.co.uk/plant/echinops-ritro-veitchs-blue>

<http://www.gardening.cornell.edu/homegardening/scenebb82.html>

Images of Echinops 'Veitch's Blue'



G303-08 Plant form



echinops_-_sharon_beecroft
Floating flowers



img_6842
flower close-up



3896fe36b300002ab31a8192de2d912b
contrasting shapes

Image choices for narrative:

G303-08.jpg - plant form

echinops_-_sharon_beecroft.jpg - floating flowers