

Favourite Plant: *Echinops ritro*, Small Globe Thistle

Family: Asteraceae, Aster

Hardiness: Zone 3 - 8

The RHS presents an Award of Merit to plants of outstanding excellence that are of practical value to the home gardener. Globe thistle certainly qualifies with its bold, architectural foliage and perfectly round flower heads. The grey-green foliage, with silvery hairs on the undersides, is particularly handsome, but prickly.



Globe thistle takes well to any well-drained sunny site. It is a very undemanding plant, drought tolerant and rarely troubled by pests. It blooms throughout the summer and into the fall. Mine still looked outstanding in

September and was very popular with birds, bees and butterflies.

The tall stems, although sturdy, benefit from support in windy locations.

Dividing globe thistle is unnecessary and difficult because of the long tap root. They will self seed, thriving for years in the same spot.

If you want to share this perennial with gardening friends detach a rooted shoot from the outside of a clump with a small spade in the spring.