November Hort Report

This month I’m sharing Scabiosa columbaria ‘Butterfly Blue’, a perennial which blooms all summer into fall. We have had a few frosts, and it’s still going strong. The plant itself is short, and mounded, and has finely cut leaves. The flowers are held above the foliage, and wave merrily in the wind. Including the flowers, it’s only about 18 inches tall. Scabiosa columbaria does not tolerate wet soil, especially in winter. I deadhead often, to keep them blooming and looking their best, although the seedpods are quite interesting. This is a great front-of-the border plant, for full sun, in an unusual color. S. columbaria is also available with pink or violet blooms. Last year I bought a ‘red’ Scabiosa, which turned out to be the annual S. atropurpurea, which grew to an astonishing five feet. Four were a lovely maroon, and one was pink. Since they were not what I wanted, I was happy they were annuals. This year, I checked the labels carefully before I bought.