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Pineleaf Penstemon

Penstemon pinifolius

Plant Height: 6 inches

Flower Height: 12 inches

Spread: 8 inches

Spacing: 6 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Beardtongue



Pineleaf Penstemon in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Pineleaf Penstemon flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Pineleaf Penstemon features delicate spikes of tomato-orange tubular flowers with yellow throats rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer. Its grassy leaves remain dark green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Pineleaf Penstemon is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Pineleaf Penstemon is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Pineleaf Penstemon will grow to be only 6 inches tall at maturity extending to 12 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 8 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 6 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is quite intolerant of urban pollution, therefore inner city or urban streetside plantings are best avoided. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Pineleaf Penstemon is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.