

Botanical Name: Penstemon heterophyllus 'Blue Springs'

Common Name: Blue Springs foothill penstemon

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Scrophulariaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape spreading dense plant with fine textured blue-green foliage
and blue/purple flower clusters held above the foliage

Height to 2 ft. Spread 2' to 3' Growth Rate moderate

Environment:

Exposure outdoors full sun

Soil prefers fast-draining soils

Hardiness hardy; zones 7-24

Morphology:

Leaves linear to narrowly lanceolate leaves to 3" long, 1/8"
across, oppositely arranged; leaves are medium green with a bluish cast

Flowers tubular, resembling snapdragon flowers, held in densely set
lavender blue spikes; flowers are about 1" long, 1/2" across

Fruit capsule with many seeds

Propagation: stem cuttings

Usage: good mixed in perennial borders, with other California natives
and for a source of blue-purple color in the landscape; plants are short-lived
when receiving regular watering, longer lived in dry areas

Landscape Care:

Watering regular watering when first planted, benefitting from drier
conditions after established; excellent drainage is essential for longest life

Fertilizing generally none required

Pruning head back after bloom to stimulate second bloom in summer

Pests/Diseases root rot in heavy soils

Other _____

Origin: California species; named cultivars are commercial selections