

Botanical Name: Penstemon heterophyllus var. australis

Common Name: Foothill penstemon, Foothill beardtongue

Type of Plant: dicot: perennial Family Scrophulariaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape upright, spreading, rangy plant with narrow blue-green foliage and pink to purple, fine-textured flowers held above

Height to 2 ft. Spread 3' to 4' 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 distinctly blue-green to gray in color

Flowers small, tubular flowers to 1/2" long, 1/8" across; set in pink to purple pikes; blooms spring and early summer

Fruit capsule with many seeds

Propagation: stem cuttings

Usage: good mixed in perennial borders, with other California natives and for a source of pink to 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