

Botanical Name: Penstemon centranthifolius

Common Name: Scarlet bugler

Type of Plant: Dicot: perennial Family Scrophulariaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a subshrub with several erect slender stems arising from a common basal stem to form a low clumping shape; stems are smooth and bluish-green

Height 2-3ft Spread equal Growth Rate slow- moderate

Environment:

Exposure full sun Does poorly in shaded locations; needs heat for best growth

Soil Prefers sandy soils; tolerates clay if not over-watered

Hardiness Zones 11-13, 18-23) Hardy to frost; thrives in summer heat

Morphology:

Leaves pinnate, opposite, ovate-spatulate with base clasping the stems; 1-1/3" long with a distinct bluish-green color; margins are entire

Flowers bright red, tubular, borne on slender racemes that arise from the ends of upright stems, April - June

Fruit a tiny capsule

Propagation: Seed

Usage: A showy low-filler for usage in desert or dry Mediterranean-theme gardens; it is valued for its drought-hardiness and bright red flowers (good hummingbird attractor)

Landscape Care:

Watering an occasional deep soak during the first year; water sparingly after the plant is established

Fertilizing none required after established

Pruning cut back old stems during dormant season (Fall)

Pests/Diseases subject to root rot in wet poorly-drained soils

Other tends to die back close to ground during dormancy in driest areas

Origin: Upper-elevation locations of So. Calif. deserts and chaparral