

XERISCAPE

NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Penstemon

With many beautiful varieties of penstemon, it is hard to recommend just a few. These perennials are spectacular in bloom, with their trumpet shaped flowers ranging in color from orange to red, to purple, to white and everything in between. Hummingbirds can't resist their flowers.

The growth habits of penstemons include low-growing ground covers with short spikes or small basal rosettes that produce tall, long lasting floral spikes.

Penstemons generally like full sun, but require protection from reflected sun or heat here in the low desert. Most are widely adaptable to our seasonal temperature changes. They require good drainage, and are drought tolerant. During the cooler months they require almost no water, but during the dry summer months periodic irrigation is advised. Do not overwater in the summer. They readily reseed themselves to create a riot of color in your landscape. Plant 2 to 3 feet apart as penstemons resent crowding and need adequate growing room for each plant.

Penstemons are wonderful accent plants, and make great additions to a desert-adapted landscape. When several species are grouped in a landscape, they create a spectacular show of color throughout many seasons.

Penstemon baccharifolius

Rock Penstemon

This shrub-like penstemon forms a small clump of deep green foliage growing 2 feet tall and wide. In the late spring and summer, short spikes of red flowers bloom adding color to your landscape in a season when many other plants shut down. An added bonus - Rock penstemon's foliage looks good year-round.

Penstemon eatonii

Firecracker Penstemon

Firecracker penstemon's scarlet flowers cover the 1 to 2 foot flower stalks from late winter through spring. After the bloom season, they reseed themselves readily. Cut the flower stalks to the basal rosette of leaves before seed pods open to control reseeding. Or to collect the seeds, wait until the flower stalk dries and then cut, storing them in paper bags until the seed pods open. Deep, infrequent watering in the summer and good drainage are essential.

Penstemon parryi

Parry's Penstemon

Parry's penstemon is *probably* the easiest of all penstemons to grow and the most well-known. The 2 to 3 foot stalks show off the hot pink flowers in a glorious display of color from late February to April. Excess shade will create undesirable, sparse, sprawling growth.

Penstemon superbus

Superb Penstemon

This penstemon adds stunning coral color on flower stalks that can reach 5 feet tall. It occurs naturally along rocky canyons and washes in Arizona and requires good drainage. Occasional summer soakings are recommended.