

Penstemons

- More than 200 species in 4-Corners area
- Penta = 5, Stemons = stamens
 - One stamen is threadlike and sterile
- Snapdragon or figwort family.



Abuelita penstemon

Penstemon abuelitas



- Family: Scrophulariaceae
- Not much known about this species.
- A cross between two native penstemons (*P. cardinalis* x).
- Dark green leaves and crimson red flowers that attract hummingbirds.
- 2 feet tall and 1.5 to 2 feet in diameter.
- Very low water-use.
- Full sun to partial shade.
- Maintenance: plant dies back in winter – remove dead foliage and wait for plant to re-emerge.

Abuelita penstemon

Penstemon abuelitas



Desert penstemon

Penstemon pseudospectabilis



- Family: Scrophulariaceae
- Native to southwest U.S. including New Mexico.
- Pink flowers (no scent).
- Flowers from early spring through early summer.
- 1.5 to 2.5 feet tall and 2 feet in diameter.
- Low water-use.
- Foliage stays somewhat green during mild winters.

Rocky Mountain penstemon

Penstemon strictus



- Family: Scrophulariaceae
- Native to southwest U.S. including New Mexico.
- Dark purple flowers.
- 2 to 2.5 feet tall and 1.5 feet in diameter.
- Flowers from mid-spring through early summer.
- Low to medium water-use and full sun.
- Can be seen in Farmington street medians.
- Attracts bumble bees.

Scarlet bugler

Penstemon barbatus



- Family: Scrophulariaceae
- Native to southwest U.S. including New Mexico.
- Tall penstemon (3-5 feet) but generally less than 2 feet in diameter.
- Due to its tall, skinny growth, some stems may fall over in high winds.
- Flowers from mid-spring through early summer.
- A favorite of hummingbirds.
- Low to medium water-use.

Pineleaf penstemon

Penstemon pinifolius



- Family: Scrophulariaceae
- Native to Arizona and New Mexico.
- Short beardtongue (2 feet) with many small, dark orange to reddish flowers.
- Flowers from mid-spring through early summer.
- Another favorite of hummingbirds.
- Low water-use, full sun.
- Somewhat evergreen.

Bush or sand penstemon

Penstemon ambiguus



- Family: Scrophulariaceae
- Native to southwest U.S. including New Mexico.
- Mounded, fairly large plant (2-3 feet tall by 4-5 feet wide) with many white to pinkish flowers that can completely hide the foliage.
- Flowers from mid-spring throughout summer and into fall.
- Very low water-use.
- Full sun or partial shade.
- Plant parts are somewhat toxic.