

## Western Whiteflower Penstemon



### Western Whiteflower Penstemon *Penstemon pratensis*

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 14 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: White Flowered Penstemon, Whiteflower Beardtongue

#### Description:

A lovely variety that mounds medium green foliage; graceful stems uphold volumes of radiant white blooms; great for massed visual impact; plants are vigorous and very drought tolerant

#### Ornamental Features

Western Whiteflower Penstemon has masses of beautiful racemes of white tubular flowers rising above the foliage in early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its narrow leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

#### Landscape Attributes

Western Whiteflower Penstemon is an herbaceous perennial with tall flower stalks held atop a low mound of foliage. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Western Whiteflower Penstemon is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Western Whiteflower Penstemon in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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### Planting & Growing

Western Whiteflower Penstemon will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 14 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America.

Western Whiteflower Penstemon is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.