

Lakeshore Garden Centres

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Richardson's Beard Tongue



Richardson's Beard Tongue

Penstemon richardsonii

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 32 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Other Names: Richardson's Penstemon, Cutleaf Beardtongue

Description:

An outstanding penstemon, presenting gorgeous rose and violet-blue flowers rising above gray-green foliage; makes a beautiful visual impact when massed in the garden, along walkways, or in borders; forms shrub-like mounds over time

Ornamental Features

Richardson's Beard Tongue has masses of beautiful spikes of rose tubular flowers with sky blue overtones and violet streaks rising above the foliage from mid summer to mid fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive serrated narrow leaves remain grayish green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Richardson's Beard Tongue is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

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, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Richardson's Beard Tongue is recommended for the following landscape applications;



Richardson's Beard Tongue flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Richardson's Beard Tongue in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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

Planting & Growing

Richardson's Beard Tongue will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity extending to 32 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. 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. This plant does not require much in the way of fertilizing once established. 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. It can be propagated by division.

Richardson's Beard Tongue 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. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. 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.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.