

## Super Star Beard Tongue

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### Super Star Beard Tongue *Penstemon hartwegii* 'Super Star'

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ●

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Beardtongue

#### Description:

A striking penstemon producing luminous, brick red blooms, rising above shiny green foliage; strong plants have a high tolerance to heat and rain; makes an outstanding visual impact when massed in the garden, along walkways, or in borders

#### Ornamental Features

Super Star Beard Tongue has masses of beautiful spikes of brick red trumpet-shaped flowers with white centers rising above the foliage from late spring to early fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

#### Landscape Attributes

Super Star Beard Tongue is an herbaceous annual 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.

Super Star Beard Tongue is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Super Star Beard Tongue flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

# Golden Acre Home & Garden

620 Goddard Ave. NE  
Calgary, AB, T2K 5X3  
phone: 403-274-4286  
[www.goldenacre.ca](http://www.goldenacre.ca)

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### Planting & Growing

Super Star Beard Tongue will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 10 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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 highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Super Star 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. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.