



## Sunset Crater Penstemon

*Penstemon clutei*

Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4a

Other Names: Beardtongue

### Description:

A rare, Arizona native variety that is adaptable and very drought tolerant; glorious spikes of pink blooms for most of the summer, above attractive, serrated blue-green leaves; perfect for xeric gardens or naturalizing; re-seeds readily, forming colonies

### Ornamental Features

Sunset Crater Penstemon has masses of beautiful spikes of hot pink tubular flowers with white throats and dark red stripes rising above the foliage from early to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive serrated pointy leaves emerge light green in spring, turning bluish-green in color with hints of silver throughout the season.

### Landscape Attributes

Sunset Crater Penstemon is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. 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, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Self-Seeding



*Sunset Crater Penstemon flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Sunset Crater Penstemon flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Sunset Crater Penstemon is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

### **Planting & Growing**

Sunset Crater Penstemon will grow to be about 30 inches tall at maturity, 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 5 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 pH, but grows best in poor soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America..

Sunset Crater 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. 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.