



## Mexican Blue Penstemon

*Penstemon amphotellae*

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 7a

Other Names: Cochise Beardtongue

### Description:

A fast growing variety with a low, sprawling form; spikes of large, light blue flowers in late spring, over fine textured, light green leaves; great for beds, borders, or containers; will re-seed in the landscape

### Ornamental Features

Mexican Blue Penstemon has masses of beautiful spikes of blue tubular flowers with white throats and violet streaks rising above the foliage from late spring to late summer, which emerge from distinctive purple flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain light green in color throughout the season.

### Landscape Attributes

Mexican Blue Penstemon is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

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.

Mexican Blue Penstemon is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



*Mexican Blue Penstemon flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

### **Planting & Growing**

Mexican Blue Penstemon will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 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 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. 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 species is not originally from North America..

Mexican Blue Penstemon is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers against which the larger thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.