Hairy Beard Tongue

Penstemon hirsutus



Hairy Beard Tongue flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 24 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 14 inches

Spacing: 10 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Beardtongue

Description:

A lovely variety that mounds medium green foliage; deep purple fuzzy stems uphold glorious lavender blooms with white throats and tips that are great for visual impact; plants are vigorous and very drought tolerant

Ornamental Features

Hairy Beard Tongue has masses of beautiful racemes of lavender tubular flowers with purple throats and white tips rising above the foliage in early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its narrow leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The deep purple stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Hairy Beard Tongue 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 butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Hairy Beard Tongue is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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

Planting & Growing

Hairy Beard Tongue 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. It can be propagated by cuttings.

Hairy 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.