



***Penstemon hirsutus* – Hairy Penstemon**

COMMON NAME: Hairy penstemon, hairy beardtongue

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Penstemon hirsutus* – *Penstemon* comes from the Greek for the five petals and *hirsutus* means *hairy*.

FLOWER: Pale purple to blue with white at the bottom edge. Long thin tubes with five petals and a protruding lower lip.

BLOOMING PERIOD: mid to late summer

SIZE: 1 to 2 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Forms a low mound of dark green leathery leaves that turn bronze-red in winter. Lower stems are bristly and often reddish.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Fair amount of sun on rocky, stony, well drained sites. Often found in cliff cracks or on dry rocky slopes. Also oak woodlands.

NATURAL RANGE: East of the Mississippi, but not the deep south. Also in Ontario and Quebec. In Wisconsin it is listed as a plant of special concern because it is rare in the wild. It is most likely to be found on the Great Lakes shoreline where there is a limestone base (Door County).

SPECIAL FEATURES: The flowers attract bumble bees, butterflies and hummingbirds.

SUGGESTED CARE: Works well in a garden