

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Penstemon grandiflorus* – Large Penstemon**

COMMON NAME: Large Penstemon, Large Beardtongue

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Penstemon grandiflorus* - comes from the Greek and refers to the five petals of the flowers

FLOWER: Magenta to pink tubular flowers about 2 inches long with 2 to 4 blossoms on the stem.

BLOOMING PERIOD: June to July

SIZE: 10 – 40 inches tall

BEHAVIOR: This plant attracts hummingbirds, bees, and is deer resistant.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Dry, sandy or gravelly prairies, gravel pits in full sun.

NATURAL RANGE: Central states east of the Rockies from Texas to the Canadian border. It is not found in much of Wisconsin, favoring the drier, sandier counties. It is considered an endangered species in some states.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The large penstemon has distinctive blue gray, blue green foliage. Opposite waxy-looking leaves that are spoon shaped to egg shaped and clasping at the stem. The tubular flowers have five lobes: 2 upper and 3 lower.

SUGGESTED CARE: Be sure it is planted where it does not get a lot of water and where the soil is sandy.