

Friends of the Arboretum Native Plant Sale



***Penstemon pallidus* – Pale Penstemon**

COMMON NAME: Pale Penstemon, Pale Beardtongue

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Penstemon pallidus* – comes from the Greek. *Penstemon* refers to the five petals of the flowers. *Pallidus* means *pale*.

FLOWER: White, tubular about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long

BLOOMING PERIOD: late April, May, June, July

SIZE: 2 to 2½ feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Penstemon flowers are slightly tubular with five petals. Two petals at the top and three at the bottom with one protruding. The beardtongue name comes of this. It seems to respond well to occasional fires

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Sun to partial shade where the soil is reasonably dry, sandy or with gravel, also railroad beds and abandoned fields;

NATURAL RANGE: Most of the eastern part of the US.

SPECIAL FEATURES: The stems and leaves are slightly hairy. It is a daintier plant than the other penstemon species.

SUGGESTED CARE: Be sure it is planted in well drained soil.