



Dwarf Hairy Penstemon

Penstemon hirsutus 'Pygmaeus'

Plant Height: 4 inches

Flower Height: 6 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ☐ ☒

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Other Names: Beardtongue

Description:

A lovely dwarf 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

Dwarf Hairy Penstemon has masses of beautiful racemes of lavender tubular flowers with white throats and white tips rising above the foliage in late spring, 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

Dwarf Hairy Penstemon is an herbaceous perennial with a mounded form. 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.

Dwarf Hairy Penstemon is recommended for the following landscape applications;

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



Dwarf Hairy Penstemon flowers
 Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Planting & Growing

Dwarf Hairy Penstemon will grow to be only 4 inches tall at maturity extending to 6 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. 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 is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Dwarf Hairy 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 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.