

**SUBGENUS: PENSTEMON**

**SECTION: *Ericopsis***

**Subsection: *Linarioides***

**CULTIVATION OF EACH SPECIES**

**Table 11**

[subgenus]	PENSTEMON	
[section]	<i>Ambigui</i>   <i>Baccharifolii</i>   <i>Chamaeleon</i>   <i>Coerulei</i>   <i>Cristati</i>   <i>Ericopsis</i> (16)   <i>Fasciculus</i>   <i>Peltanthera</i>	
	<i>Penstemon</i>	
[subsection]		<i>Caespitosi</i> (12)   <i>Ericopsis</i> (1)   <i>Linarioides</i> (3)

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PENSTEMONS IN SECTION *ERICOPSIS***

Species in the *Ericopsis* section usually are dwarf, subshrubs, and evergreen. The hallmark of the Section *Ericopsis* is their narrow linear leaves which somewhat resemble heath.. The corollas, which almost always are blue, have staminodes that are golden-bearded. Most are dryland plants that require low moisture, but high sunlight.



*Penstemon linarioides*



*Penstemon linarioides*



*Penstemon linarioides* seedling

**Species****Subsection *Linarioides****P. californicus**P. discolor**P. linarioides***Table 11. *Penstemon Ericopsis Linarioides*****Key**Column 1 SPECIES: species name; plant height when in bloom; color(s) of flower; fill in lavender  =popular; parenthesis = not reported in cultivation

Column 3 CULTIVATION SUGGESTIONS:

Row 1 SIZE OF FLOWER: **very large**= >1 ½“ **large**=1-1 3/8” **medium**= ½ - 1” **small**= < ½“

Row 2 GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Row 3: DISPLAY SUGGESTIONS

Row 4: WHERE SPECIES HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CULTIVATED OUT OF NATIVE HABITAT



full sun



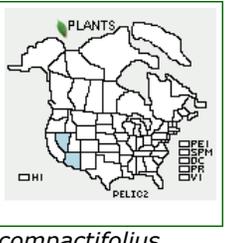
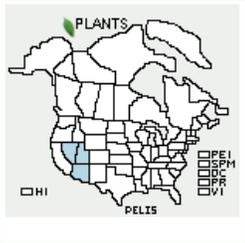
partial shade

*Penstemon californicus*With kind permission: Rocky Mountain Rare Plants  
Bob Skowran

Species	Bloom Season in Native Habitat	Cultivation Suggestions	Cultivation Needs			Elevation and Habitat	Distribution	Reported cold hardiness in cultivation
			Garden Soil	Moisture	Sun			
<i>californicus</i> 6"	May-June	<b>medium flower</b> low mound; flower a vivid color with white hairy throat tiny, narrow, silver leaves long blooming, self sows; rebloom if sheered did not survive OH winter; in VA lived 2-3 years but display was poor <b>rock garden</b> cultivated in: VA, se. WA, CA, NM, CO Seeds offered by a CO seed company	poor to moderately good; stony, sandy	low water requirement	exposure south facing, steep and dry	4,000-7500' stony, sandy soil; stony slopes; chapparal, pinyon/juniper	Riverside County CA and n Baja California, Mexico	to 0°F at least
<i>discolor</i> 1'	June-Aug	<b>small flower</b> lives ~5yrs; subshrub grayish leaves rock garden; attractive placed next to dark rock cultivated in: the northeast and elsewhere				6000-7000'	mountain near Tucson AZ	

**quite rare**

Most penstemons are visited by several bee species including honeybees and bumblebees. While hummingbirds prefer red penstemons, they commonly are seen at most penstemon species.

<p><i>linarioides</i></p> <p>3-12" x 5-10" wide</p> <p>blue or lavender</p> <p>EASY</p>	<p>May-Aug</p>	<p><b>medium flower</b></p> <p>popular; neat, subshrub, attractive all year; hardy, long lived; grey-blue-green leaves; stems may be decumbent to erect (curving base, erect tip); golden-bearded staminode; a reliable and beautiful garden plant</p> <p>subspecies:</p> <p><i>coloradoensis</i> 16" x 14" wide; erect stems; pale blue to medium-blue; one of the best forms</p> <p><i>compactifolius</i> 9" x 28" wide; short arching stems; blue to lavender flowers</p> <p><i>sileri</i> 12" x 15 wide; decumbent spikes, blue flowers</p> <p>rock garden</p> <p>cultivated in: w. WA, MT, NE, MN, CT, NY, VA</p>			 	<p>4500-10,000'</p> <p>sagebrush, pinyon/juniper to ponderosa forests</p>	<p>Four Corners, s. and nw. NM, s. AZ; sw CO</p>  <p><i>coloradoensis</i></p>  <p><i>compactifolius</i></p>  <p><i>sileri</i></p>	<p>zone 5</p> <p>-20°F in Denver</p>
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- For additional photos:
1. this site "Library" tab
  2. <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/spgm-1.4.4/gal/Penstemon/index.php?name=Penstemon%20-%2034k>
  3. <http://plants.usda.gov/gallery.html>