

SUBGENERA: *PENSTEMON*
SECTION: *Peltanthera*
Subsection: *Petiolati*

CULTIVATION OF EACH SPECIES
Table 19

[subgenus]	PENSTEMON
[section]	 <i>Ambigui</i> <i>Baccharifolii</i> <i>Chamaeleon</i> <i>Coerulei</i> <i>Cristati</i> <i>Ericopsis</i> <i>Fasciculus</i> <i>Peltanthera</i> (29) <i>Penstemon</i>
[subsection]	 <i>Centranthifolii</i> (10) <i>Havardiani</i> (3) <i>Peltanthera</i> (15) <i>Petiolati</i> (1)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PENSTEMONS IN THIS SECTION

Large and tall, spectacularly beautiful. Many spires of pink to bright red flowers. Leaves in shades of gray or blue-green, leathery, and have a succulent look. All inhabit desert states of the southwest or parts of northern Mexico. Very drought tolerant. Easy to grow in poor soil; need bright sun.

Location northern Mexico north into desert part of the Intermountain Region, s. CA, e. to TX.

Habitat



Foliage herbaceous or suffrutescent (almost a shrub)

Penstemon petiolatus

Shape stems are wand-like

Leaves evergreen, grey or blue-green color, glaucous (leaf surface covered with a fine, waxy powder), glabrous (smooth, hairless) thick, leathery; sometimes serrated (toothed edges); look succulent; often connate-perfoliate (joined at the base and surrounding a stem, as a pair of leaves; stem appears to have “pierced: through the leaf pair) ; stems and leaves of seedlings can be quite attractive in the winter, turning various colors of pink



Plant in bloom

Penstemon petiolatus

Corolla (flower) pink to bright red
color bright pink to bright red
size usually tall
shape



Inflorescence (arrangement of flowers along flowering stalk; all the flowers on the stalk): wand like
height
shape

Penstemon petiolatus

Calyx (sepals on underside of flower, collectively; outermost part of the flower)

Cultivation needs southern desert penstemons, or any penstemon blooming in February, March, or April need warm weather prior to bloom date and order to have enough growth to bloom; thus for those growing these species under cover, the cover should not be removed prematurely

Ease of cultivation easy in poor soils where it is dry most of the time

Moisture very drought tolerant; if over watered, will droop.

Sun need bright sun.

Heat tolerance yes

Cold tolerance tolerate fairly cold temperatures.

Shade

Soil poor soil with low organic content.

Drainage

Climate preference

Longevity short lived, but “must-have penstemons” (Lindgren, D. and Wilde, E. “Growing Penstemons Species, Cultivars and Hybrids”

Cuttings

Interbreeding natural hybrids within subsection *Peltanthera* are common

Display recommendations Dryland garden or border

Pollinated by hummingbirds, bees, wasps (*Pseudomasarid* ssp), and sphinx moths

Species
petiolatus

Species	Bloom Season in Native Habitat	Cultivation Suggestions	Cultivation Needs			Elevation and Habitat	Distribution	Reported cold hardiness in cultivation
			Garden Soil	Moisture	Sun			
<p><i>petiolatus</i></p> <p>6-9" x 14" wide >6" wide</p> <p>magenta pink</p>	<p>May-July</p>	<p>medium flower</p> <p>one of the most brilliantly colored penstemons: floriferous; well liked</p> <p>low shrub with handsome, serrated, glaucous (waxy) blue foliage; foliage attractive all year</p> <p>hot, dry rock garden</p> <p>cultivated: Denver area, n. NM</p>	<p>porous; sandy-gravely</p>	<p>hot and dry</p>	<p>some protection from winter sun, e.g. via shrub or rock</p>	<p>2000-5800'</p> <p>limestone cliffs; very hot, dry exposed sites; Known from an area near the intersection of the Nevada, Utah, and Arizona state borders. Eastern Mohave Desert endemic; through its range, this species can be found in Joshua tree, blackbrush, creosote bush, indigo bush, and pinyon-juniper communities.</p>	<p>sw. UT, NV</p> 	<p>zone 7</p> <p>tolerates sub 0°F for several years</p>