

**SUBGENERA: *PENSTEMON***

**Section: *Penstemon***

**Subsection: *Deusti***

**CULTIVATION OF EACH SPECIES**

**Table 21**

[subgenus] **PENSTEMON**

[section] *Ambigui* *Baccharifolii* *Chamaeleon* *Coerulei* *Cristati* *Ericopsis* *Fasciculus* *Peltanthera* *Penstemon*

*Arenarii* (2) *Deusti* (3) *Gairdneriani* (2) *Harbouriani* (1) *Humiles* (19) *Multiflori* (1) *Penstemon* (17) *Proceri* (16) *Tubaeiflori* (1)

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF PENSTEMONS IN SECTION *PENSTEMON***

Many good garden subjects in this section. Plants are relatively tall, leafy, and herbaceous or, occasionally sub-shrubby. . They are leafy and have small flowers.



*Penstemon deustus*



**Species**  
*deustus, sudans, tracyi*



*Penstemon tracyi*



*Penstemon deustus*

**Table 21. *Penstemon Penstemon Deusti***

**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

Species	Bloom Season in Native Habitat	Cultivation Characteristics	Cultivation Needs			Elevation and Habitat	Distribution	Reported cold hardiness in cultivation
			Garden Soil	Moisture	Sun			
<p><i>deustus</i></p> <p>4-16” variable colors: ivory, cream, yellow, dirty white</p>	~June-July	<p><b>small to medium flower</b> handsome in the garden</p> <p>woody base ; multiple stems; flowers have much reduced upper lip, sometimes brownish; has maroon guide lines inside corolla, both upper and lower lips</p> <p>interesting foliage, toothed leaves;</p> <p>long-lived; semi-erect</p> <p><u>varieties:</u>  <i>pedicillatus</i> neat small neat clump, small flowers CA, OR, NV UT  <i>suffrutescens</i> short; CA, OR  <i>variabilis</i> tall; OR, WA</p> <p><b>raised bed, large rock garden, winter covered troughs in w OR</b></p> <p>cultivated in: across the country</p>	<p>poor, lean, gravelly soil; coarse or medium texture;</p> <p>pH 6.0-8.0;</p> <p>root depth 14”</p>	<p>drought tolerant</p> <p>10-18” rainfall</p>	☀	<p>2600-9000’</p> <p>arid, rocky locations; volcanic areas</p>	<p>e. CA, e. OR to c. WA, east to NV, UT, WY, MT</p> 	to -33°F

<i>sudans</i>	June-July	<b>medium flower</b>	lean, lava scree, low humous content	10-15"	☀	3950-5600'	Lassen County ne. CA, adjacent NV	very cold tolerant
28" white to cream		several stout stems, bloom stalks can have up to 18 separate verticillasters (clusters of flowers around a stem node) with violet guidelines and rose throat;  rounded leaves are sharply toothed;  closely related to <i>P. deustus</i> and can be cultivated in the same manner <b>border</b> (though photos do not make it look like an attractive garden subject) cultivated in:				open rocky places, rocky igneous soils, in sagebrush scrub, yellow pine and montane forests; snow in these areas; dry summers		probably zones 4-5
<i>tracyi</i>	July-August	<b>small flower</b>	scree-like soil...lean and porous ... rocky-gravelly-sandy	dislikes winter wet; provide occasional summer water; CA mountains receive most of their moisture in spring and fall	☀	7000'	Trinity County, CA	probably zones 4-5
4" pink  <b>rare</b>		flowers tightly clustered, surrounding the stalk  flat basal rosette and small stem leaves that are leathery; forms mats 3-5" high; basal and bloom stalk leaves rounded (ovate) <b>raised container away from larger competing plants</b> cultivated in: CA, VA, Scotland, Sweden				rock crevices; exposed outcrops		

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.



*Penstemon tracyi* Courtesy of © 2005 Dianne Frstrom

for more photos go to:

1. this website, Library tab
2. <http://plants.usda.gov/gallery.html>
3. <http://botu07.bio.uu.nl/spgm-1.4.4/gal/Penstemon/index.php?name=Penstemon%20-%2034k>