

SUBGENUS: *PENSTEMON*

Section: *Chamaeleon*

CULTIVATION OF EACH SPECIES

Table 6

[subgenus]	PENSTEMON
[section]	<i>Ambigui</i> <i>Baccharifolii</i> <i>Chamaeleon</i> (4) <i>Coerulei</i> <i>Cristati</i> <i>Ericopsis</i> <i>Fasciculus</i> <i>Peltanthera</i>
	<i>Penstemon</i>

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBGENUS PENSTEMON

“The unifying feature is that the anther sacs are hairless and , when ripe, they split fully end to end and line up at right angles to the filament. There are a few exceptions to this rule, but the chances are that if you see four tiny gaping mouths facing you when you look at a flower then you are in subgenus Penstemon”¹



Penstemon stenophyllus

¹ Way, David and James, Peter. 2003. “The Gardener’s Guide to Growing Penstemons.” Portland. Timber Press. p 75.

Table 6
Subgenus *Penstemon*
Section *Chamaeleon*

Key

Column 1 SPECIES: _species name; plant height when in bloom; color(s) of flower; fill in lavender = easy to grow and 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 Suggestions	Cultivation Needs			Elevation and Habitat	Distribution	Reported cold hardiness in cultivation
			Garden Soil	Moisture	Sun			
<i>(dasyphyllus)</i> 6-18" blue to purple	Apr-Oct	medium flower NA	NA	NA	NA	4000-5500' grasslands with gravelly soil	se. TX NM, c. and e. AZ and Mexico 	NA
<i>(lanceolatus)</i> 20" scarlet	July-Oct	large flower NA	NA	NA	NA		near Big Bend TX, possibly in NM; Mexico	NA
<i>ramosus</i> 20" orange to deep red	June	large flower dies back to ground over winter cultivated in: se. WA					sw. NM, se. AZ 	
<i>stenophyllus</i> 3' blue-purple	after summer rains perhaps July-Sept	large flower				4000-5500' grasslands	AZ, Mexico 	

Most penstemons are visited by several bee species including honeybees and bumblebees. While hummingbirds prefer red penstemons, they are not reported in cultivation for most penstemon species.

Other photos: "Library" tab on this website; <http://plants.usda.gov/gallery.html>

commonly are seen at most