



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Palmer Penstemon

Penstemon palmeri

DESCRIPTION: This herbaceous perennial forms a clump a foot or so across. Spikes of white flowers with lavender markings appear any time from March until in May. The wide, bell-shaped flowers are the ideal shape for bees to pollinate, although hummingbirds may also visit them. As with most *Penstemons*, this plant lives up to 5 years and may reseed. This species is often found in canyon and open, rocky sites from 3500-6500' elevation. The native range of Palmer Penstemon is south-western Utah, through western Arizona, to southeastern California.

RECOMMENDED USE: Flowers, rock garden, container.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Palmer Penstemon is hardy to around 20°F, although new flower spikes may be more tender.



Sun tolerance: It does well in full sun to light shade.



Watering and feeding: Water usage is low to moderate, depending on the time of year and the soil type. It is a winter/spring grower, so water generously then, and do not overwater during the summer dormant period. Feed with a low nitrogen, high phosphorus fertilizer in early winter.



Soil requirements: Any soil that drains.



Pruning: Prune back old flower stalks as they begin to dry. Sometimes, additional flowering can be encouraged by cutting flower stalks off as soon as the last flower blooms, preventing energy from going into seed production.