



Large Flowered Beard Tongue

Penstemon cobaea

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 30 inches

Spacing: 24 inches

Sunlight: ☉ ☿

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: Showy Beardtongue, Dew Flower, Prairie Beardtongue

Description:

An attractive variety producing white to violet flowers that are quite large, rising above lance shaped green foliage; makes a beautiful visual impact when massed in the garden, along walkways, or in borders

Ornamental Features

Large Flowered Beard Tongue has masses of beautiful spikes of white tubular flowers with violet overtones rising above the foliage in late spring, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season. The burgundy stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Large Flowered Beard Tongue is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Large Flowered Beard Tongue is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



*Large Flowered Beard Tongue
flowers*

Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Planting & Growing

Large Flowered Beard Tongue will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 24 inches apart. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of our region. It can be propagated by division.

Large Flowered Beard Tongue is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.