



## Firecracker Penstemon

*Penstemon eatonii*

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 3 feet

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: Firecracker Beardtongue, Eaton's Penstemon

### Description:

An outstanding variety with tall, arching stems; stunning red flowers, rising above dark green foliage, makes an explosive visual impact when massed in the garden, along walkways, or in borders

### Ornamental Features

Firecracker Penstemon has masses of beautiful spikes of red tubular flowers rising above the foliage from late spring to mid summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its narrow leaves remain dark green in color throughout the season.

### Landscape Attributes

Firecracker Penstemon is an herbaceous annual 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, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Firecracker Penstemon is recommended for the following landscape applications;



*Firecracker Penstemon flowers*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



*Firecracker Penstemon in bloom*  
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

### **Planting & Growing**

Firecracker Penstemon will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 3 feet tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Although it's not a true annual, this plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

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 somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of our region. It can be propagated by division.