



# ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

## PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Canyon Penstemon

*Penstemon pseudospectabilis*

**DESCRIPTION:** This herbaceous perennial forms a clump a foot or so across. Spikes of lavender flowers appear any time from March until in late May. Its 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 2000-7000' elevation. The native range of Canyon Penstemon is south-eastern California to New Mexico, and northern Sonora, Mexico.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Flowers, rock garden, container.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Canyon Penstemon is hardy to around 24°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:** Best in well-drained soil.



**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.