



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Parry Penstemon or Jarritos

Penstemon parryi

DESCRIPTION: Parry Penstemon or Jarritos, is the most common native *Penstemon* in the desert around Tucson. It can be found in washes and canyons. The spikes of bell-shaped flowers appear anywhere from January until April, depending on the weather. The flower color can range from white to deep maroon. This is a favorite of the many species of hummingbirds that call Tucson their home. Hawkmoths, bumble bees, and carpenter bees are also attracted to it. Like most *Penstemons*, this is a short-lived perennial, living 2-5 years. Parry Penstemon seeds readily and volunteers are common.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, rock garden, flowers, enhanced desert revegetation.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: This species is hardy to at least 22°F. However, if it is sending up flower spikes, or in bloom, its sensitivity to freeze is much greater.



Sun tolerance: It does best in full sun. Powdery mildew can be a problem if it is grown in too much shade, or in a damp locale.



Watering and feeding: Occasional watering may be necessary to help it persist through the hot, dry times of the year. If winter rains are weak, water Parry Penstemon from November until blooms cease.



Soil requirements: Most soils will do, but it performs better and lives longer in sandier soils.



Pruning: Pruning consists of cutting off finished flower stalks.