

Firecracker Penstemon in the Landscape

By: Heidi Kratsch, Extension Ornamental Horticulture Specialist
Graham Hunter, Research Associate, Center for Water-Efficient Landscaping

Penstemon eatonii

Firecracker Penstemon

Description

The bright red tubular flower of the Firecracker Penstemon has made it a favorite of many Penstemon enthusiasts. It is found throughout Southern Utah and much of the Intermountain West. Its red flower color also makes it a favorite nectar source for hummingbirds. It blooms from early to late summer.



Cultural Requirements:

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| • Native habitat | Many different habitats. |
| • Soil | Thrives in poor, dry, sandy loam soils |
| • Cold Tolerance | Zones 4 - 5 |
| • Drought Tolerance | High |
| • Salt Tolerance | Medium to High |
| • Sun/Shade Preference | full sun |
| • Propagation | seed |
| • Maintenance | Requires good drainage, and low organic, low fertility soils |
| • Problems | Avoid organic mulches, must have good drainage |

Landscape Value:

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| • Use in the Landscape | Borders, accents, rock gardens |
| • Foliage | Basal leaves are ovate, upper leaves are opposite and lanceolate and slightly curled |
| • Inflorescence | Showy, indeterminate growth, will |

rebloom if spent flower stalks are trimmed off

				Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct
• Color										

- Fruit (seedheads) Capsule
- Form Clumping, few to several stems
- Texture Somewhat coarse, spiky texture
- Ultimate Size 10-40 inches
- Rate of Growth Med to fast
- Plant Community Most communities from subalpine to salt desert shrub
- Availability Medium
- Cultivars Var. Richfield released in 1994

Additional Photos:



USU Herbarium



Unlabeled photos: Graham Hunter

Bibliography

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