



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Firecracker Penstemon

Penstemon eatonii

DESCRIPTION: Firecracker Penstemon is a herbaceous short-lived perennial (3 to 6 years). Most leaves are arranged in a low rosette next to the ground. In the late spring, vertical flower stalks rise up 1' to 4'. The red tubular flowers make it one of the showier *Penstemons*. Native to southwest desert mountains. Firecracker Penstemon, This *Penstemon* sets seed readily, although volunteers are not so common unless soil and weather conditions are just right. Pollination is by hummingbirds, but hawkmoths, bumble bees, and carpenter bees are also attracted to it.

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

CULTURE:



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



Sun tolerance: It does best with at least half-day sun, but tolerates a fair amount of shade.



Watering and feeding: Give some water in spring and fall. Occasional watering is necessary to help it persist through the hot, dry times of the year. If winter rains are weak, water it from November until blooms cease.



Soil requirements: It needs good drainage. It may live in most soils, but it performs better and lives longer in sandier soils.



Pruning: Cut off finished flower stalks after fruit ripen. Additional flowers can be encouraged by not allowing seed pods to form.