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Grand Mesa Beard Tongue

Penstemon mensarum



Grand Mesa Beard Tongue flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 18 inches

Spacing: 8 inches

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: 4

Description:

An outstanding variety with a tidy habit; brilliant blue flowers rising above green foliage makes a blazing visual impact when massed in the garden, along walkways, or in borders

Ornamental Features

Grand Mesa Beard Tongue has masses of beautiful spikes of sky blue tubular flowers with violet overtones 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 green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Grand Mesa Beard Tongue is an herbaceous perennial 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 butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Grand Mesa Beard Tongue is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Mass Planting
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting

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Planting & Growing

Grand Mesa Beard Tongue will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 18 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 8 inches apart. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

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 not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Grand Mesa Beard Tongue is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.

