

Penstemon digitalis Foxglove Beardtongue

Penstemon digitalis (Foxglove Beardtongue) is an elegant upright, rhizomatous perennial known for its buoyant, white flowers that float above an early summer perennials and grasses. In early spring, glossy bright green foliage emerges in basal rosettes edged in maroon. Flowering panicles begin to open above smooth green stems 3-4' above the ground in June when most gardens are sleepily transitioning from spring to summer. The pure white flowers attract bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds, although the primary pollinators are bumble and other large bees. Following a long blooming period, flowers transition to sturdy, bronzed seed heads that persist through winter. The fall color demands attention with a striking blend of lime, orange, and scarlet foliage. This species thrives in well-drained, loamy soils in full sun, but is a relatively easy-going plant that tolerates many soil types and part sun, making it a beautiful woodland edge plant. The root system has short rhizomes, which often produce new plantlets around the base.

Botanical Name: Penstemon digitalis

Common Name: Foxglove Beardtongue

Family: Plantaginaceae

Nativity: Great Lakes Native

USDA Zone: 3-8

Light Type: Full Sun to Part Shade

Soil Type: Clay, Loam, Sand

Soil Preferences: Loam, well-drained

Soil Moisture: Dry, Medium

Typical height (ft): 3-4'

Typical width (ft): 1.5-2'

Foliage: Dark Green

Bloom Time: June, July

Bloom: White

Ecological features: Food resources for bees, butterflies and birds and larval butterflies

Tolerance of: Drought, Heat, Salt, Deer

Additional notes: The tubular flowers attract long-tongued bees such as bumblebees and mason bees, as well as hummingbirds.

Companion plants: Bluestar (*Amsonia* spp.), Blue False Indigo (*Baptisia australis*), New Jersey Tea (*Ceanothus americanus*), Blazing Star (*Liatris aspera*), Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), Ohio Spiderwort (*Tradescantia ohiensis*), Blue-eyed Grass (*Sisyrinchium albidum*) or Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

For more information see:

<http://www.newmoonnursery.com/plant/Penstemon-digitalis>

<https://www.midwestgroundcovers.com/plant/Penstemon-digitalis-NGN>

<https://www.americanmeadows.com/wildflower-seeds/penstemon-flower-seeds/penstemon-digitalis-beardtongue-seeds>

https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/fx_penstemonx.htm

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Penstemon_digitalis

Images of Penstemon digitalis



Penstemon_digitalis_IMG_1977.jpg
plant form with upright flowers



Penstemon digitalis.jpg
closer look of the flower head



Penstemon digitalis 8zz.jpg
plant form - fall interest



Penstemon digitalis_1.jpg
basal rosette



Penstemon digitalis_2.jpg
plant form

Image choices for narrative:

Penstemon digitalis2.jpg
plant form with upright flowers

Penstemon digitalis1.jpg
closer look of the flower head