



photo: Dan Jaffe

FOXGLOVE BEARDTONGUE

Penstemon digitalis

For an amazing spring show-stopper, this native plant can't be beat. It features white to pink, two-lipped, tubular flowers atop tall stems. Attracts a huge variety of pollinators and beneficial insects.

Growing Information

Sunlight	Full sun
Soil Type	Grows in a wide variety of soil conditions, but must be well-drained
Height	3–5'
Flowering calendar	May to July

Benefits for Wildlife

Leaves	Larval host plant for 8 species of butterflies and moths
Flowers	Attracts hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, and a wide variety of beneficial insects
Fruit	No
Seeds	No

Host to 8 caterpillar species:

(common names) Chalcedony Midget; Geranium Plume Moth; Confused Haploa; American Bordered Sallow; Verbena Bud Moth; The Baltimore; Purple-Lined Sallow; Mouse-Colored Pyrophila

Benefits for People

- Low maintenance and tolerates a variety of soils—sand, loam, and clay
- The name beard tongue is derived from the small tuft of hairs found on the flower stamens
- The specific epithet digitalis comes from the Latin *digitus*, or “finger,” and refers to the gloved finger-like appearance of the flowers

Natural Habitat

- Fields, woods margins, and open woods

