

# Figwort

*Penstemon* Also known as: **Penstemon**

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This description is for *Figwort (Penstemon)*:

**Figwort: look past the name, this plant in no way resembles figs, or warts or warty figs.**

Penstemon is a genus of North American and East Asian flowering plants with spikes of unusual flower heads that look like an open mouth. The lower petal is hairy and it is this that gives it the common name of beard-tongue. The species of this genus range in height from just 10cm to over 3 metres. Native Americans used the root of this plant as a remedy for toothache. It's a popular garden plant and there are literally hundreds of hybrid varieties in a huge range of colours. They're native to both desert and alpine regions and so are very hardy in most climates.



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Plant	Environment	Usage
<b>Known dangers?</b> no	<b>Acidity</b> Acidic Neutral Alkaline	<b>Standard category</b> Flowers & bulbs Perennials
<b>Height [m]</b> 2	<b>Hardiness zone</b> Z3-9	<b>Grown for</b> Attractive Flowers
<b>Spread [m]</b> 0.65	<b>Heat zone</b> H8-1	<b>Creative category</b> Kid Approved For Beginners Colours Show-offs Roses & classics Tough survivors
<b>Dominant flower colour</b> Red	<b>Winter temperatures [°C]</b> -40 - -1	<b>Garden type</b> Cottage garden
<b>Flower Fragrance</b> No, neutral please	<b>Heat days</b> 0 - 120	<b>Garden spaces</b> Flower beds Borders
<b>Flowering seasons</b> Early spring Mid spring Late spring Early summer Mid summer	<b>Moisture</b> well-drained well-drained but frequently watered	<b>Gardening expertise</b> beginner
<b>Foliage in spring</b> Variegated	<b>Soil type</b> sandy chalky loams	<b>Time to reach full size</b> 2 to 5 years
<b>Foliage in summer</b> Variegated	<b>Sun requirements</b> Full sun Partial shade	
<b>Foliage in Autumn</b> Variegated	<b>Exposure</b> Exposed Sheltered	
<b>Foliage in winter</b> Variegated		
<b>Propagation methods</b> semi-ripe cuttings softwood cuttings seed division		
<b>Growth habit</b> Upright		