

Penstemon parryi Parry's beardtongue

Why Observe?

Species marked for inclusion in the *Nature's Notebook* monitoring program have been identified by scientists or natural resource managers as ecologically important for the Sonoran Desert region. Many Sonoran Desert species have not been observed nor studied as closely as other species in the United States. They are the standard bearer of the Sonoran Desert Region.

Tips for Identification

Long spikes of pink, tubular flowers line the upper portion of this perennial's 2-3 ft. stems. The flowers occur in clusters at the ends of short, paired stalks. Several erect, sparsely leaved stems with pinkish-lavender, bilaterally symmetrical flowers in a long, open, interrupted cluster. In favorable situations this penstemon produces 4 ft. stems. The paired leaves are pale green and arrow-shaped.

This handsome species is commonly included in highway seeding mixes, which has expanded its range. Along highways it may provide spectacular splashes of color against grasses still brown from winter.

Wildflower.org

Be aware there is variation from individual to individual within a species, so your plant may not look exactly like the one pictured. If you are uncertain whether or not a phenophase is occurring, report a "?" for its status until it becomes clear what you are observing after subsequent visits.



Noelle Johnson
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Image Needed

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Initial growth

New growth of the plant is visible after a period of no growth (winter or drought), either from above-ground buds with green tips, or new green or white shoots breaking through the soil surface. Growth is considered "initial" on each bud or shoot until the first leaf has fully unfolded. For seedlings, "initial" growth includes the presence of the one or two small, round or elongated leaves (cotyledons) before the first true leaf has unfolded.



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Leaves

One or more live, fully unfolded leaves are visible on the plant. For seedlings, consider only true leaves and do not count the one or two small, round or elongated leaves (cotyledons) that are found on the stem almost immediately after the seedling germinates. Do not include fully dried or dead leaves.

Flowers or flower buds

One or more fresh open or unopened flowers or flower buds are visible on the plant. Include flower buds or inflorescences that are swelling or expanding, but do not include those that are tightly closed and not actively growing (dormant). Also do not include wilted or dried flowers.



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Open flowers

One or more open, fresh flowers are visible on the plant. Flowers are considered "open" when the reproductive parts (male stamens or female pistils) are visible between or within unfolded or open flower parts (petals, floral tubes or sepals). Do not include wilted or dried flowers.

Fruits

One or more fruits are visible on the plant. For *Penstemon parryi*, the fruit is a small capsule that changes from green to tan or light brown and splits open to expose the seeds. Do not include empty capsules that have already dropped all of their seeds.



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Ripe fruits

One or more ripe fruits are visible on the plant. For *Penstemon parryi*, a fruit is considered ripe when it has turned tan or light brown and has split open to expose the seeds. Do not include empty capsules that have already dropped all of their seeds.

Phenophases not pictured: Recent fruit or seed drop