Parry Penstemon or Jarritos  
*Penstemon parryi*

**DESCRIPTION:** Parry Penstemon or Jarritos, is the most common native *Penstemon* in the desert around Tucson. It can be found in washes and canyons. The spikes of bell-shaped flowers appear anywhere from January until April, depending on the weather. The flower color can range from white to deep maroon. This is a favorite of the many species of hummingbirds that call Tucson their home. Hawkmoths, bumble bees, and carpenter bees are also attracted to it. Like most *Penstemons*, this is a short-lived perennial, living 2-5 years. Parry Penstemon seeds readily and volunteers are common.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Accent, rock garden, flowers, enhanced desert revegetation.

**CULTURE:**

- **Hardiness:** This species is hardy to at least 22°F. However, if it is sending up flower spikes, or in bloom, its sensitivity to freeze is much greater.

- **Sun tolerance:** It does best in full sun. Powdery mildew can be a problem if it is grown in too much shade, or in a damp locale.

- **Watering and feeding:** Occasional watering may be necessary to help it persist through the hot, dry times of the year. If winter rains are weak, water Parry Penstemon from November until blooms cease.

- **Soil requirements:** Most soils will do, but it performs better and lives longer in sandier soils.

- **Pruning:** Pruning consists of cutting off finished flower stalks.