



Holly Sawleaf Bush Beard Tongue

Penstemon fruticosus 'Holly'

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 18 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 6b

Other Names: Beardtongue, Shrubby Penstemon, var. serratus

Description:

A vigorous plant with a compact, woody, bushy habit and holly-like leaves; produces a profusion of purple-lavender blooms with striped white throats; an excellent complement to other perennials; great for border fronts, along walkways, or in containers



Holly Sawleaf Bush Beard Tongue
flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Holly Sawleaf Bush Beard Tongue has masses of beautiful spikes of purple tubular flowers with lavender overtones and white throats rising above the foliage from late spring to early summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive serrated narrow leaves remain bluish-green in colour throughout the year. The brick red stems can be quite attractive.

Landscape Attributes

Holly Sawleaf Bush Beard Tongue is a multi-stemmed evergreen perennial with a mounded form. Its relatively fine texture sets it apart from other garden plants with less refined foliage.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should only be pruned after flowering to avoid removing any of the current season's flowers. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Holly Sawleaf Bush Beard Tongue is recommended for the following landscape applications;



- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Holly Sawleaf Bush Beard Tongue will grow to be about 10 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 18 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain low and dense right to the ground. Although it is technically a woody plant, this fast-growing plant can be expected to behave as a perennial in our climate if planted outdoors over the winter, usually regrowing from its base (crown) the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by cuttings; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.

Holly Sawleaf Bush Beard Tongue is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. It is often used as a 'filler' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination, providing a mass of flowers and foliage against which the thriller plants stand out. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden. Be aware that in our climate, most plants cannot be expected to survive the winter if left in containers outdoors, and this plant is no exception. Contact our experts for more information on how to protect it over the winter months.

This plant is not reliably hardy in our region, and certain restrictions may apply; contact the store for more information.