LARGE BEARDTONGUE
*Penstemon grandiflorus* Nutt.
Plant Symbol = PEGR7

Contributed by: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center

Navajo applied a wet dressing of pounded leaves of large beardtongue to rattlesnake bites; they considered this an absolute antidote (Ibid.). A decoction of the leaves has been used in the treatment of chills and fevers (Moerman 1998).

**Status**
Please consult the Plants Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant’s current status, such as, state noxious status, and wetland indicator values.

**Description**
*Penstemon grandiflorus* is commonly found in prairies, often in sandy or loamy soils. This plant prefers acid, neutral and alkaline soils and requires well-drained soils. It grows well when planted in open dry situations (Steyermark 1963), and can grow in semi-shade or no shade.

**Distribution**: Large beardtongue ranges from Wyoming to Texas, east to Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri and Oklahoma (Steyermark 1963). For current distribution, please consult the Plant profile page for this species on the PLANTS Web site.

**Adaptation**

** Establishment**
*Penstemon grandiflorus* seeds are best sown in the fall or spring in a greenhouse (Heuser 1997). The seeds should germinate within one to four months (Ibid.). When the seedlings are large enough to handle, place them into individual pots and plant them out in their permanent positions in the late spring.

**Management**
Stem tip cuttings should be taken from the tips of healthy, non-flowering, semi-mature or mature shoots, between early summer and fall (Heuser 1997). Shoots can be cut into a number of usable
sections at almost any time during the growing period (Ibid.).

**Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)**
Somewhat available through native plant seed vendors in the Great Plains region. Contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) office for more information. Look in the phone book under “United States Government.” The Natural Resources Conservation Service will be listed under the subheading “Department of Agriculture.”

**References**


**Prepared By**
*Jammie Favorite*
formerly USDA, NRCS, National Plant Data Center
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**Species Coordinator**
*M. Kat Anderson*
USDA, NRCS, National Plant Data Center, c/o Plant Sciences Dept., Davis, California

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <http://plants.usda.gov> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>

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