

## Richardson's Penstemon (*Penstemon richardsonii*)



As we reach mid-summer many of our wildflowers have finished blooming and are starting to go to seed. The pollenating insects and hummingbirds are still looking for nectar to get them into the fall. The Richardson's Penstemon is a plant that helps during this time, blossoming between mid-summer and the first major frost.

This penstemon is easy to identify with its bright pink-to-lavender blooms that occur toward the end of the summer season. Another characteristic, and one that gives rise to a second common name of Cutleaf penstemon, is the deeply-toothed or cleft leaf structure. The plant is shrubby, growing to several feet in height and is somewhat leggy in appearance. It is found most often in rocky dry areas and is considered a xeriscape plant

Bend is near the southern boundary of its natural habitat. Plants on the site can be found by the main driveway entry, but because it reseeds readily should spread to other areas in the coming years.