

## **Penstemon 'Blackbeard'** (Penstemon digitalis x calycosus)

2.5-3' x 2' upright narrow clump-forming robust perennial.  
Blackbeard' is a cultivar developed by Walters Gardens.

CT native; found in moist forest gaps,  
bottomlands, fields.

Lovely loose panicles of many 1.25" lilac-purple bell flowers with white flaring tubes, held high above foliage on sturdy upright dark purple stems, for several weeks.  
May to June.

Dramatic dark eggplant-purple-leaved low mounds of foliage emerges in spring on new growth, holding up well through summer heat.

Shiny dark burgundy seed capsules are formed by July and remain through the fall, above foliage tinged red with the first frost. After, flower stems set seed and die back, leaving behind a basal clump of shiny broad semi-evergreen burgundy leaves.

Colorful foliage and upright nature persist all season long.

Sun to part sun, sun preferred.  
Dry to medium, well-drained, soil.  
Tolerates clay. Tolerates drought, heat and humidity.  
Very cold hardy.  
Easy to grow.

Use in perennial borders, naturalized gardens, meadows, rock gardens. Good cut flowers.

Special value to long-tongued native bees: including Bumblebees, Miner Bees, Mason Bees. attracts Honeybees.  
Attracts Butterflies, Moths (including the Sphinx Moth).  
Flower nectar and tubular shape very attractive to Hummingbirds.  
Songbirds sometimes eat ripe seeds from the flower stems.

