

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO.  
and  
THE IDAHO AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION  
ABERDEEN, IDAHO

**NOTICE OF RELEASE OF A SELECTION OF ALPINE PENSTEMON,  
(*PENSTEMON VENUSTUS*) FROM THE CLEARWATER RIVER AREA,  
IDAHO.**

The Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station announce the release of a selected ecotype of Alpine penstemon (*Penstemon venustus*).

As a "Selected" release, this plant will not be given a name, but will be referred to as "the Clearwater selection" of Alpine penstemon to document its original collection location.

**Species:** *Penstemon venustus*  
**Common Name:** Alpine Penstemon  
**Plant Symbol:** PEVE  
**Accession Numbers:** 9008487

**Origin:** Collected 1974, in the Clearwater River area, Idaho.

**Method of Selection:** Selected from a collection of 119 penstemons assembled and evaluated at the Aberdeen Plant Materials Center from 1981 to 1985. There were 3 *Penstemon venustus* accessions in the collection. 9008487 Alpine Penstemon was selected for its beauty, hardiness, seed production, natural range of adaptability, and the fact that it does not require extensive stratification. This selection shows great promise for use throughout the natural range of *Penstemon venustus*.

**Description:** *Penstemon venustus* is a perennial, cool-season forb. It is a half-shrub, 3-8 decimeters tall with a strong taproot and a woody base. The leaves are oblong and sharply serrate. The flowers are borne in one or more narrow terminal panicles. The flowers are bright lavender to purple or purple-violet.

**Anticipated Conservation Use:** The potential uses of 9008487 Alpine Penstemon are erosion control and beautification. Its heavy taproot and woody base make 9008487 an excellent plant for soil stabilization. The heavy basal leaf mass and showy purple flowers make the penstemon a perfect forb for the beautification of many different sites.

**Potential Area of Adaptation:** Its natural habitat is at elevations from 4,000 to 9,000 feet and a precipitation zone from 14 inches to 20+ inches. Alpine Penstemon can survive in full sunlight and on open rocky slopes of mountains, valleys and foothills. It does not like areas with poor drainage.

**Potential Soil Adaptation:** Shallow rocky, loams, sandy loams, gravelly loams, well-drained to moderately well-drained soils.

**Where seed will be Maintained:** A Breeders seed block will be maintained at the Aberdeen PMC.