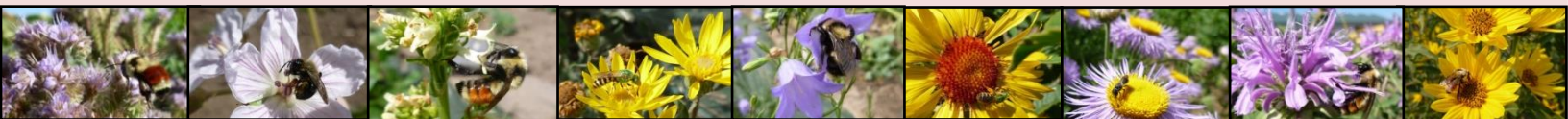


# Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation

## Fact Sheet: Yellow Penstemon, Beardtongue

Scientific name: *Penstemon confertus* Douglas ex Lindl.



Yellow penstemon was one of nine plant species used in research evaluating native perennial wildflower plantings for supporting wild bees and improving crop pollination on farmlands in Montana.

**Family:** Scrophulariaceae

**Life cycle:** perennial

**Growth habit:** forb/herb, subshrub

**Flower color:** cream to pale yellow

**Flower shape:** dense whorls of tubular flowers on stems

**Foliage:** bright green, lance-shaped leaves; mat-forming

**Height:** 1-2 feet

**Bloom period:** June-July

**Habitat:** Grows in a variety of environments throughout its range including meadows, prairies, fields, open forests, woodlands, and grasslands. Found from low to mid-elevations.

**Growing conditions:** full to part sun; dry to moist, well-drained soil; prefers loamy to rocky soil; drought tolerant once established.

**Establishment:** Seed does not require pre-treatment to break dormancy. For this project, we grew plants from seed in the greenhouse and transplanted them to the field as plugs in Spring. Plants flowered some during the year they were planted, and abundantly so the following two years. Overwintering success was high on all farms. Seed collecting was easy and seed matured almost simultaneously. Plants readily self-seeded.

**For more information on native plants:** Visit the USDA-NRCS PLANTS database or the Montana Native Plant Society website.

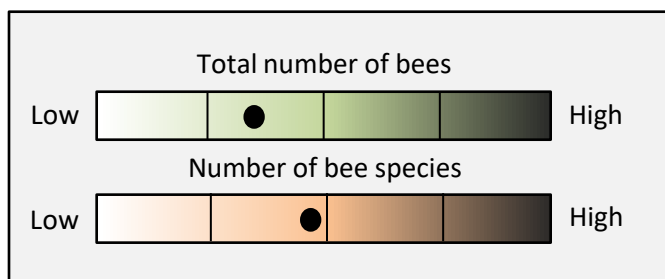


Photo: C.M. Delphia

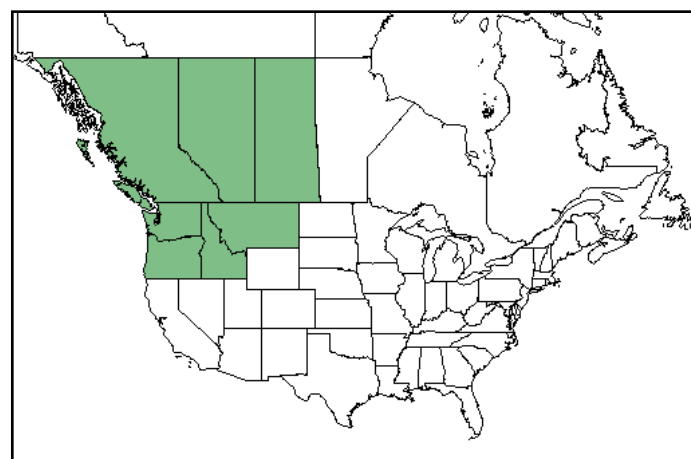


Photo: C.M. Delphia

**Bee visitation:** Bumble bees, digger bees, green sweat bees, banded sweat bees, small dark sweat bees, resin bees, mason bees, leafcutting bees, masked bees, small mining bees, and cuckoo bees.



Relative attractiveness of *P. confertus* across farms over 2 years.



*Penstemon confertus* distribution from USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database