

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 FIRECRACKER PENSTEMON,
(*PENSTEMON EATONII*) FROM RICHFIELD, UTAH.**

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

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

Species: *Penstemon eatonii*
Common Name: Firecracker Penstemon
Plant Symbol: PEEA
Accession Numbers: 9008469, AB-583

Origin: Received August, 1974 from Horace Andrews.
Collected 14.3 miles SE of Richfield, Sevier Co., Utah at 6600 ft elevation.

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 15 *Penstemon eatonii* accessions in the collection. 9008469 Eaton 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 eatonii*.

Description: *Penstemon eatonii* is an erect, perennial, cool-season forb. It has a fibrous root system and the stems are often decumbent or reclining. The leaves are large and slightly pubescent. The flowers are borne in racemes on several tall, upright stems. Firecracker penstemons have large bright red tubular flowers. They start blooming in mid-summer and bloom through early fall.

Anticipated Use: The potential uses of the Richfield selection of Firecracker penstemon are erosion control and beautification. Its fibrous root system and wide canopy cover make it an excellent plant for soil stabilization. The tall erect flower stems with numerous, large colorful flowers also make the penstemon a desirable forb for the beautification of many different sites.

Potential Area of Adaptation: The range of adaptation is the sagebrush, juniper, and ponderosa pine zones at 3,300 ft elev to 8,000, in 10" to 16" rainfall areas. Firecracker penstemon can survive in full sunlight, but may die out in hot, dry areas. In areas where the snow is deep enough to cover the plants, it survives cold winter temperatures found in the northern portions of its range. It does not grow well in areas with poor drainage.

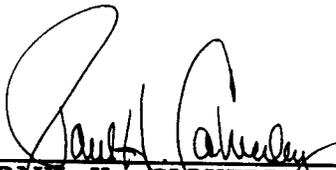
Potential Soil Adaptation: Shallow rocky, loams, sandy loams, gravelly loams, well-drained to moderately well-drained soils.

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

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Signature sheet for Release of a selection of Alpine Penstemon (*Penstemon venustus*), from the Clearwater River Area in Idaho; and Firecracker Penstemon (*Penstemon eatonii*), from Richfield, Utah.



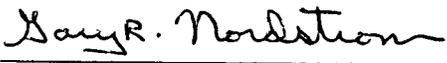
PAUL H. CALVERLEY
State Conservationist,
Soil Conservation Service

8/12/94
Date



GARY A. LEE
Director, Idaho Ag
Experiment Station, U of I

8-23-94
Date



GARY R. NORSTROM
Acting Director
Ecological Sciences
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2/28/95
Date