

HEART LEAVED PENSTEMON

KECKIELLA CORDIFOLIA



ALSO KNOWN AS CLIMBING PENSTEMON, THIS DROUGHT-TOLERANT CALIFORNIA NATIVE SUB-SHRUB, WHICH IS NO LONGER CONSIDERED A PENSTEMON BOTANICALLY, IS NATIVE TO DRY SLOPES AND CHAPARRAL, WHERE THE DELICATE TRACERY OF ITS FORM CAN BE RECOGNIZED IMMEDIATELY. THE ABUNDANT TUBULAR RED-ORANGE BLOSSOMS ARE, NEEDLESS TO SAY, A HUMMINGBIRD FAVORITE WHEN THEY APPEAR IN EARLY TO MID SUMMER. GIVEN SOME SUPPORT, HEART LEAVED PENSTEMON CAN REACH 6' HIGH AND RESEMBLES A VINE. LEFT TO SPRAWL ON ITS OWN, IT FORMS A TUMBLING MASS OF SEMI-EVERGREEN LEAVES (WHERE WINTERS ARE MILD) AND 2" LONG BLOSSOMS. PLANT IN PARTIAL SHADE IN HOT SUMMER AREAS LIKE OURS IN THE FOOTHILLS. LOVELY ON SLOPES WHERE ITS REACHING FORM AND DROUGHT-TOLERANCE COME IN HANDY. DROUGHT-TOLERANT BUT WILL GO SUMMER DORMANT, AS MANY CALIFORNIA NATIVES WILL, IF GROWN COMPLETELY DRY. CUT BACK IN WINTER FOR BEST APPEARANCE.

PART SUN TO PART SHADE

ZONES 7-11

