"Favorite Flowers of the Chesapeake Master Gardeners"
***Penstemon* 'Dark Towers' by Brenda Orton**

Common name: beardtongue
Family: Plantaginaceae

This lovely plant is an herbaceous perennial to be planted in full sun. It is easily grown in average, dry to medium, well drained soils. Penstemon is a genus of about 250 species, which are primarily native to North America. It grows in USDA zones 3-8.

'Dark Towers' is a clump forming penstemon typically growing from 1.5-3' tall by 18-23" wide, blooming from May to June.

It is noted for its pink flowers and dark wine-red foliage. It is similar to Penstemon digitalis 'Husker Red' but differs by having darker red foliage and is slightly taller in height.

I try to have as many different plants as possible, thus providing bee friendly areas and creating mini pollinator sections around my entire lot, thereby attracting numerous hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees. This hybrid of 'Husker Red' fits the bill.

Photo by Brenda Orton
Reference: Missouri Botanical Garden

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