

## Foxglove Beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Foxglove Beardtongue is a relatively short-lived perennial that produces white flowers carried on short spikes in late spring through early summer. The plant is widely distributed in eastern North America including south-central Ontario and southern Quebec although some authorities believe it was originally indigenous only to areas in the Mississippi Basin.



Photo credit: Laura Beukeboom-Rodger



### Plant Type:

Clump forming perennial plant with semi-evergreen foliage. It can be propagated by seed, cuttings or divisions. Individual plants may only survive for 2-4 years but they readily re-seed, sometimes quite aggressively.



### Light

**Conditions:** Full sun, part shade. Terrific for the dappled shade of woodland gardens.



### Soil and Moisture:

Average to dry moisture; adaptable to various soil types.



### Size/Height:

Leaf rosettes remain under 10 cm (4 in); flower spikes rise to 30-90cm (1-3 ft).



### Flowers/Fruit:

Flowers are white and the plant flowers most prolifically in June in our region.



### Wildlife Benefits:

Host for many bees, butterflies and moths and is of special value to the pollen specialist Beardtongue Scrapper Bee (*Osmia distincta*).



### Of Interest:

Despite its common name, it is not in the same family as the toxic European Foxgloves. There are several natives with purple-hued foliage and flowers.