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SUITABILITY
The natural range of Rocky Mountain penstemon is central and northern New Mexico, Colorado, southern Wyoming, Utah, and northeastern Arizona (Figure 2). It is found on rocky to sandy loam soils at elevations of 6,000 to 11,000 feet (1,830 to 3,355 m). Under cultivation, as in gardens or lawns, it can be grown at lower elevations.

ESTABLISHMENT AND PROPAGATION
‘Bandera’ is easily established from seed, and seedling vigor is generally good. Plant the seed at a depth of ¼ to ½ inch (6 to 12 mm) during the fall or early winter. The soil must be kept moist after planting for natural stratification (moist, cold treatment) to occur. ‘Bandera’ can also be established from sprigs obtained by dividing the base of older plants. Sprigs need some roots and a few leaves for best results. Basal portions of the stems also layer, or root, readily in moist soil.

Few disease or insect problems have been noted. However, Fusarium wilt has been observed on ‘Bandera’ growing on irrigated sandy loam, though not on clay or clay loam soil. Occasionally, scale insects attack plants that have low vigor.

AVAILABILITY
For information on seed sources or on the management and use of ‘Bandera’ Rocky Mountain penstemon, contact your local county Extension office or the USDA-NRCS.

Figure 2. Area of adaptation of ‘Bandera’ Rocky Mountain penstemon.