

Lovely Lavenders



4 Main Types, over 40 varieties

- Spanish
 - *Lavandula stoechas*
- English or True Lavender
 - *Lavandula angustifolia*
- Lavandins or “English”
 - *Lavandula x intermedia*
- French Lavender
 - *Lavandula dentata*
 - Zones 8-11, annual in our area



Spanish Lavender

- Zone 7-9, not as hardy
- The first to bloom in the spring
- Most “floriferous”, with showy, barrel-shaped flowers
- Each small pineapple-shaped head sprouts several long bracts of either purple, periwinkle or even yellow bracts
- Prune after blooming
- Will have a second bloom time later in the summer.
- Not preferred in kitchen, has “piney” fragrance
- Good landscape plant, needle-shaped foliage is gray-green.



Cultivars include “Otto Quast”, red “Kew Red”, blue/white “Blueberry Ice” and pink “Tickled Pink”

English Lavender



- Zones 5-9, hardiest
- Preferred for aroma & culinary uses
- Has flower spike with tiny flowers, shorter stemmed
- The foliage is greener and denser than any of the Spanish lavenders
- Shear off the flowers and stems after bloom to help keep a compact shape
- New flowers only form on new growth, so keeping the woody stalks to a minimum is important

English Lavender Cultivars

- “Munstead” tolerates summer heat the best of all of the English Lavenders
- “Hidcote” is famous for its dark purple flower. Smaller than Munstead, prefers cooler climate, may die during hot months. Like most of these 'English' Lavenders, Hidcote is not as drought or heat tolerant as the Lavandins.



Lavandins

- The Lavandins, or English Lavender Hybrids bloom last, longer stemmed.
- Flowers tend to turn grayish when drying.
- The most well know varieties in this group are Provence and Grosso.
- Grosso is grown for the oil that is used by the cosmetic industry.
- Provence has a sweeter scent, and is used in many lavender products.



Planting Tips



- Need good drainage! Use compost mixed well with the soil when you plant. The uneven particles from the compost create better soil aeration, which gives the roots a good place to absorb nutrients without drowning them.
- Water regularly until established. Plant in full sun – at least 6 hours a day of direct sunlight
- Planting several varieties of lavenders will give your garden a long blooming season
- Plant known varieties
- Mulch with rock, not wood chips

A close-up photograph of several lavender flower spikes in full bloom, showing the characteristic small, purple, tubular flowers. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the same flowers.

How to prune lavender

- Lavender is a woody subshrub, and pruning techniques should reflect this. Do not prune in spring until new growth appears, and leave plants alone for the winter.
- If pruned in June/July (at the height of color and before it fades with heat) another crop will grow and be ready by September/October. Can prune again in fall.
- Plants may be sheared back and shaped after flowering, but do not cut low into old wood. If older plants become unsightly, cut back by a third every three years.
- When pruning, shear the wands just slightly down into the mass of the plant to avoid the plants becoming leggy/woody over time.

Harvesting Tips



- Flower spikes have the strongest scent just as the flowers begin to open.
- Cut long stems and gather in bunches to dry out of the sun, low light.
- Hang or spread stems on a screen or sheet so air circulates easily.

Your Experience?

- Plants live 5-10 years?
- [Pruning Lavender](#)