

Lavender

Genus: Laminacea

Species: *Lavendula angustifolia* (officinalis), *Lavendula stoechas* (Spanish L.), *Lavendula dentate* (French L.),
Lavendula multifida (Egyptian L.)

The lavender plant genus originated in Asia. They were found in Micronesia, the Mediterranean, S/W Asia, Arabia Western Iran and S/E India. The genus includes annuals, herbaceous, woody plants and small shrubs. Lavenders are planted in gardens worldwide and they cross-pollinate very easily, therefore there are countless variations. We can divide them in three main categories:

Non English Lavenders: Yellow Lavender, Spanish Lavender, French lavender, These species flower early to mid-spring.

English Lavenders: Lavender angustifolias “Vera”, L. a. “Munstead”, L. a. “Hidcote”, L. a. “Jean Davis”. These species flower mid to late spring and can have a 2nd bloom in early summer.

Lavandinis: *Lavendula x intermedia* (= *L. angustifolia* x *L. latifolia*). Cultivars are “Grappenhall”, “Provence Grosso”, “Dutch Mill”, “Abrialii”, and “Seal”. These lavenders bloom late spring to mid-summer.

Here in the UP we do best with growing English Lavenders. They are hardy for Zone 5. The Lavender Plant loves dry sandy soils, good drainage and lots of sunshine! They do not tolerate high humidity very well. Lavender is extremely drought resistant. Lavender prefers a PH of 6.5 to 8.00. Plant the lavender in spring after danger of frost or in fall two month before first frost. The plant will reach its mature size in about three years.

If you want to use the lavender for its fragrance harvest the buds before the blooms open. The bud will be a purple/greyish color. Cut when it turns more vivid purple. Cutting in the cool morning is best.

Prune plant after blooming or in early fall, cut back 1/3 to 1/2 of total height of plant. Do not cut into the old wood and make sure to always leave foliage on the plant. Pruning is necessary to extend the life of the plant.

To multiply Lavender, it is best to take cuttings.

Lavender is used medicinally, culinary and for decorating.



Non English Lavenders



English Lavenders



Lavandinis