LOVE OF LAVENDER

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Kathy Pearson
Growing Lavender

“Each Lavender has a different personality, much like wine.”

Lavender at Stonegate Farm
Location:

- Full sun - 6+ hours a day
Soil Conditions:

• Slightly alkaline, gritty or sandy loam
• Soil pH 6.5 to 7.5
• Add lime to increase pH level
• Well drained
• Cannot tolerate “wet feet”
• For heavier/clay-based soils, grow in mounds or raised beds
• Air circulation around plants is a must
Watering:

• Planting new plants/or transplanting watering is vital

• Adequate water minimizes stress

• Regular water until established

• Over watering can leave plant susceptible to root rot and other fungal and bacterial diseases

• Avoid overhead watering, trickle or drip irrigation better choice

• Quite drought tolerant once established
Fertilizer:

- Do NOT use fertilizer
- Use compost
- Worm castings are an excellent organic source of nutrients
Pruning:

• Begin pruning when plants are young
• Prune in autumn to have spring flowers
• *L. stoechas* - reduce by 1/2, the rest by 1/3
• Shape as you harvest
• Cut to leaf node
• Do not cut into old wood
Propagation:

- Plant varieties do not necessarily come true from seeds
- Cuttings
  - softwood in the spring
  - semi hardwood in the fall
- Cuttings and layering most successful
Longevity:

• Dependent on soil types - lighter soils longer
• May live 10+ years
• Woody centers can be avoided by annual pruning
• Do not hesitate to replace when old and woody
Diseases and Pests:

- Not a problem in El Dorado County - if properly planted
- Spittle bugs are a possibility
- Rabbits!
Harvesting:

• Best in morning after dew evaporation

• Use of spike determines harvesting regime:
  - If the entire spike is to remain intact, cut when the first two flowers have opened.
  - For oil - when 1/2 of the flowers have withered.

• Dry in dark place with good ventilation
GUS’S DILEMA
GOODWIN’S CREEK
GOODWIN’S CREEK
Recommended Lavender For Your Garden

*L. angustifolia*  
*L. intermedia*  
*L. stoechas*

These are the best three types grown in the Northwest
L. angustifolia

- Aka L. spica; L. vera; L. officinalis; English lavender, true lavender, sweet lavender
  Native to the Mediterranean

Description
- hardiest of all lavenders
- fruity, spicy delicate scent
- broadest color range of all the species
- mostly grey-green, narrow leaves
L. angustifolia

Alba
- white to pink flowers
- reblooms
- medicinal and culinary

Hidcote
- dark purple flowers
- small silver leaves
- good dried for crafts
- slow growing
- very fragrant
**L. angustifolia**

Irene Doyle
- light blue flowers
- reblooms
- aka: Two Seasons
- suitable for containers

**Loddon Blue**
- dark blue
- foliage highly aromatic
L. angustifolia

Melissa
- light pink
- good for hedging
- culinary, mild and delicate flavor

Munstead
- medium blue
- excellent for drying
- suitable for containers
**L. angustifolia**

**Royal Velvet**
- dark blue flowers
- very long flower stems
- dries well and keeps its color

**Twinkle Purple**
- dark violet-blue flowers
- long flower spikes
- broad grey-green leaves
- good dried for potpourri and wands
- culinary
- one of the oldest varieties
**L. intermedia**

- aka Lavandin, English lavender
- Naturally occurring and cultivated hybrids of *L. latifolia* and *L. angustifolia*
- Retains its fragrance for many years once dried

**Description**
- Lavandins needs to be propagated from cuttings, as they are sterile
- abundance of flowers on long stems
- bushy habit
**L. intermedia**

Fred Boutin
- lavender flowers
- suitable for containers
- culinary
- flowers used in potpourris

Grappenhall
- purple-blue flowers
- vigorous large shrub
- long flower spikes
- culinary
**L. intermedia**

**Grosso**
- dark purple flowers
- Grosso is the world’s largest oil producing plant (Grade 2)
- good fresh or dried
- good for wands, sachets and potpourris

**Hidcote Giant**
- dark blue flowers
- vigorous
- very fragrant
**L. intermedia**

**Impress Purple**
- truest purple flowers
- good fresh or dried
- strongly perfumed variety

**Old English**
- medium blue-violet flowers
- cottage garden favorite
- medicinal and culinary
- very long stems and flower spikes
**L. intermedia**

Provence
- lavender-blue flowers
- good source for lavender oil
- popular for culinary, perfumes, potpourris, sachets and wands

Seal
- tall violet blue flowers
- good for hedging
- excellent for cutting and drying
- medicinal and culinary
L. stoechas

aka: French Lavender
Spanish Lavender
Italian Lavender
Butterfly Lavender
Spigo
Nardo
**L. stoechas**

**Description**
- grows 18+ inches tall
- strong aroma that is lost when dried
- excellent garden specimen
- long blooming period, flowering thru summer
- compressed barrel shaped flower, topped by colorful bracts (wings or ears)
**L. stoechas**

**Alba**
- white flowering form w/ vertical green stripes
- flowers not for human consumption

**Avonview**
- dark blue flowers and purple violet ears
- bushy habit, dense green-grey foliage
- ideal for pots, hedging and cottage gardens
**L. stoechas**

Dark Eyes
- dark purple-red flowers
- eucalyptus fragrance
- nicknamed butterfly lavender

Hemsdale
- deep burgundy to maroon flowers
- very aromatic foliage
**L. stoechas**

**Kew Red**
- ruby red flowers w/ pink ears
- aromatic foliage
- flower stems shorter than most varieties

**Marshwood**
- large purple-pink flowers and ears, fuzzy texture
- foliage bright green
- suitable for containers
**L. stoechas**

Otto Quast
- large purple flower heads
  w/ dark purple ears
- profuse bloomer
- attracts birds and butterflies

**Papillon**
- dark purple-blue w/ pink ears
- reblooms
- makes outstanding hedge
“When I am old I shall have a lavender bush and sprinkle the blooms upon my sheets and under my pillow, steep it into tea and press its spikes among the pages of my books.”

author unknown