

Lavender Plant Care Information

Latin Name/Genus: Lavandula sp.

Family: Lamiaceae

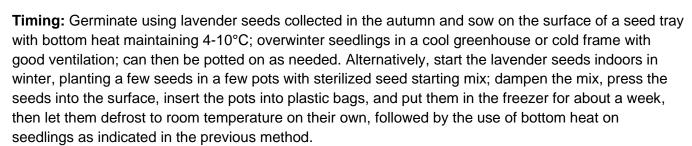
Difficulty: Moderately challenging

Season: Warm Season

Exposure: Full-sun

Zone: Hardy as perennial to Zone 5 (grows as annual in cooler

climates)



Starting: Barely cover the seed, and avoid using a plastic lid or covering, as this will keep the soil more moist than needed; lavender seeds should germinate in 14-21 days as long as the soil is warm. If watering is necessary, watering from below is recommended. If germination rate is low after 3-4 weeks, lower the temperature to 5-10°C for a couple of weeks, then raise it back up again. Pot up any tiny lavender seedlings, grow them in a protected greenhouse or on a windowsill, then relocate/transplant to the garden in spring.

Growing: Lavender prefers full sun and well-drained, fertile soil. Trim plants back hard in spring, just as new growth starts – but never prune back into the woody part of the stems - this should encourage even growth for the first leaves and bloom; cut back again in early autumn, but again – never the old woody part of the stems.

Nutrient Preferences: Lavender generally prefers feedings with more nitrogen than phosphorus and potassium, however it's recommended a balanced fertilizer gets worked into the soil prior to planting/transplanting.

Harvest: Gather lavender flowers just as they open - dry on open trays, or by hanging in small bunches; pick the leaves anytime to use fresh, or if dehydrating the leaves, gather before the flowering stage begins.

Companion Planting: Lavender appreciates being planted near alliums, coneflowers, daisies, echinacea, gaillardia, marigolds, oregano, roses (or any species in the *Rosaceae* family), rosemary, sage, sedum, thyme, yarrow, and zinnias; avoid planting near impatiens, mint, or any incompatible plants like camellias and hostas (whose sun/watering requirements don't pair well).

