

How to



GROW LAVENDER

Lavender is one of the most widely cultivated plants. They have a long flowering period and are tough and easy, making them a best seller. With the 'Mediterranean' look being so popular they will no doubt remain a favourite for some time to come.

Most lavender used in the home garden belongs to one of two groups: the stoechas species known as Mediterranean lavenders or the angustifolia species, known as English or Spica lavenders. There are a few lavenders that belong to neither group such as pinnata, pedunculata and dentata or French lavender. English lavenders are best for small border edges, stoechas for medium sized hedge and the dentata for a tall hedge or background.

Palmer's handy tip: Lavenders are ideal in containers, for the flower border or used for a hedge. Lavenders also look stunning as standards for a more formal look.



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Planting



Lavender is very easy to grow when given the conditions it enjoys. Lavender prefers full sunlight – so plant where it will receive light for the majority of the day. Lavenders do not tolerate waterlogged environments; they need a well-drained site to develop into healthy plants. Restrict watering your lavender plants to the hot summer months. Sand can be added to improve drainage or planting on a mound will help. Alternatively plant in containers and position around the garden or deck. Lavenders can be planted at any time, as long as the roots are kept moist while the plant is establishing.



Varieties

	HEIGHT	SPREAD
Lavendula angustifolia	1m	1m
Lavendula ang. munstead	40-60cm	40-60cm
Lavendula ang. hidcote	30-40cm	30-40cm
Lavendula ang. rosea	70-80cm	70-80cm
Lavendula ang. lavender lady	25-35cm	25-35cm
Lavendula ang. foveaux storm	40-60cm	40-60cm
Lavendula dentata	1.2m	1.2m
Lavendula dentata monet	60cm	60cm
Lavendula stoechas	50-80cm	80-100cm
Lavendula stoechas avonview	50cm	60cm
Lavendula stoechas butterfly	60cm	60cm
Lavendula stoechas helmsdale	60cm	60cm
Lavendula stoechas major	60cm	60cm
Lavendula stoechas marshwood	50cm	50cm
Lavendula pendunculata	60-80cm	80-100cm
Lavendula pendunculata pippa	80cm	80cm
Lavendula pendunculata pukehou	1m	1m
Lavendula pinnata sidonie	1.2m	1.2m
Lavendula with love	70-80cm	70-80cm
Lavendula ruffles series	50-70cm	50-70cm
Lavendula winter lace series	80-100cm	80-100cm
Lavendula the princess	70-80cm	70-80cm
Lavendula leigh series	various	various

Palmers' Handy Tip: Bees love lavender flowers and when visiting they will also pollinate other plants in your garden. The best thing you can do to help save the kiwi bees is to plant more lavender!



Pruning

To ensure that plants are kept bushy and to promote flowering, it is essential to prune lavenders regularly. It also prevents the plant becoming 'woody'. Lavenders are best trimmed and pruned after flowering has finished, with a main annual cut back in summer so that new growth has time to harden off before winter. Remove the spent lower spikes and trim to shape. Prune back by a third as soon as they finish flowering to encourage new growth.



COLOUR	FLOWERING PERIOD	TYPE
Purple/blue	Spring to summer	English
Purple/blue	Spring to summer	English
Dark purple	Spring to summer	English
Pale pink	Spring to summer	English
Lavender blue	Spring to summer	English
Rich velvet purple	Spring to summer	English
Lavender mauve	All year	French
Lavender blue	All year	French
Purple	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Deep violet purple	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Lilac	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Dark plum/purple	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Deep purple	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Pale purple	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Light purple	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Purple	Spring to mid summer	Mediterranean
Vibrant purple	Spring to mid summer	New Zealand
Vivid violet blue	All year	
Clear pink	All year	New Zealand
Various colours	Spring to summer	Australian
Various colours	Winter to summer	Mediterranean
Vivid deep pink	Spring to summer	Australian
Various colours	Spring to summer	New Zealand



Fertilising



Place a slow release fertiliser in the hole when initially planting the lavender. Feed with an all-purpose fertiliser in early spring and again in late summer.

Pests and diseases

Lavender suffers from few pests or diseases although root-rot is a common health problem. This can be prevented by improving the drainage situation.

The Spittle Bug is one of the few insects that take to the lavender plant. It is often found in early summer and although the foamy spots look unsightly, they cause no real damage. The Spittle Bug can be hosed off with a strong stream from a hose or even removed by hand.

The Garden Weevil chews at the stems of the mature heads of the lavender, resulting in the heads becoming withered. The Garden Weevil is extremely difficult to manage organically and therefore a contact pesticide is suggested, however pyrethrum oil may reduce the effects.



This 'how to guide' has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions that you may have. Because this guide is of a general nature, neither Palmers nor its staff are responsible for the application of the information, as the contents may need to be modified for individual projects and site applications.

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