

LAVENDER

Resources: Natl. Sustainable Ag Info Service: <http://ww2.attra.ncat.org/index.php/lavender.html>

Varieties: Culinary: L. angustifolia 'Avice Hill' or 'Munstead'
L. x intermedia 'Provence'
Flowers: L. x intermedia 'Grosso' (dark blue/purple)
L. x intermedia 'Super' (light blue)
L. x intermedia 'Provence'
L. angustifolia 'Avice Hill'
Oil: L. x intermedia 'Grosso' (lavandin)
L. angustifolia 'Maillette'

Lots of varieties. The main commercial varieties grown in US are 'Grosso' & 'Provence' but may be hard to find. For flowers you want long stems and long heads. Lots of other flower colors available but may be better suited as landscape plants than cut or dried flowers. Visit some lavender farms in Sonoma or Napa (listed in ATTRA publication) or Copia to decide on varieties for your uses.

Soil: Best on sandy loam with a pH of 6-8.

Water: In spring – good irrigation needed to establish new plants and increase stem length, volatile oil content, and number of spikes. Drip irrigation is the best option to avoid wetting foliage & flowers.

Fertilizer: Only modest amounts needed in spring to increase stem length for cut flowers and again after flowering. Less needed for mature plants or those produced for oil. A preplant addition of compost dug into planting beds can help with fertility & water holding capacity. An annual organic mulch can help to control weeds and add nutrition. A readily released organic N fertilizer may still be needed in spring & summer for flowers.

Spacing: Depending on variety: 30-40" apart for individual plants; 12-24" apart for hedgerows

Plant: Fall or Spring

Harvest: June for 'Grosso' & 'Provence'; may extend harvest from May-July with other varieties (see Napa Valley Lavendar Co.)
For dried flowers: cut when the first 2 flowers on spike have opened to retain buds or cut when more flowers are open if you want to lose dried buds for sachet or culinary use. Rubber band bunches together and hang in a dust-free, dark, well ventilated place to dry. Once dry – leave hanging or box & store in a cool, dry, low-light area.
For fresh flowers: - cut when buds are closed or when 1/4-1/3 of spikes are open. Change the water daily to keep fresh.
For Oil: cut when 1/2 the flowers on the spike have withered.

Pruning: Cut back after harvest to keep plants compact so they don't split out.