



# Tips for Growing Lavender

## in the Pacific Northwest

These tips do not apply to every growing situation or climate in Oregon.

1. Plant lavenders in full sun so that they receive six to eight hours of sun a day.
2. To provide excellent drainage, plant in gritty or sandy loam. It is also important to grow lavenders on mounds, in raised beds, or on slopes, to help with drainage.
3. Plant lavenders, (*L. angustifolia*) cultivars 3-4 feet apart and lavandins, (*L. x intermedia*) cultivars 4-5 feet apart to promote good air circulation.
4. Water plants well for the first season so they become established. Lavenders are drought tolerant, but occasionally, during dry, windy days in the summer they may require more water to stay healthy. They prefer a drip system or water at the base of the plant. Soaker hoses work well for lavender planted in rows.
5. Depending on the variety of lavender, plants should be hard pruned in the late summer or early spring. Light pruning can be done throughout the year to discourage leggy growth.
6. Fertilize with low nitrogen fertilizer when planting in the spring, before watering or before it rains. You may also add a light application of lime. Work it into the soil before planting lavender.
7. Mulch for weed control. Some growers use fabric cloth, others use a light colored mulch, placed away from the base of the plants, while others hand weed. This also helps to keep lavenders dry at the base, especially when we receive a lot of rain.
8. Grow tender lavenders in pots and protect them during the coldest months each year. Some of the dwarf lavenders will grow well in their own containers and can remain outside all year. Lavenders grown in containers will require more water, fertilizer and pruning. Use pots with several large drain holes and potting soil that will drain quickly.