

## The Language of Lavender

This glossary is intended to help you understand specific words or phrases used by lavender growers and enthusiasts.

**Buds:** usually refers to flower buds from plants within the *Lavandula angustifolia* or *Lavandula x intermedia* species, dried and cleaned (to varying degrees).

**Common type:** generic designations of lavender plants such as “English lavender” (*Lavandula angustifolia*), “French lavender” (*Lavandula x intermedia*), or “Spanish lavender” (*Lavandula stoechas*). These terms do *not* imply a specific cultivar.

**Culinary lavender:** any variety in the *Lavandula* genus that produces a fragrance that is amenable to culinary applications. The term is generally used in reference to buds, oils, and extracts.

**Distillation:** physical process of isolating plant essential oil from the source material by mobilizing it into a gaseous phase, and then re-condensing the oil in collection chambers. In the case of lavender, steam distillation is the most common specific method used.

**Essential oil:** complex mixture of volatile organic compounds produced by a plant, often responsible for its characteristic fragrance.

**Hydrosol:** condensed water phase product of steam distillation, containing some fragrance compounds from the source material.

**Lavandin:** common-use term for the hybrid species of lavender *Lavandula x intermedia*, characterized generally by larger plant size, higher oil production, and greater content of camphorous compounds in comparison to *Lavandula angustifolia*.

**Lavandula:** the plant genus under which all lavender types are categorized.

**Potpourri:** a mixture of dried buds, petals, leaves, spices, and herbs placed in a bowl or sack, and used to perfume rooms and closed spaces like drawers and closets.

**Specified variety:** a named cultivar within a specific species of *Lavandula*, such as *Lavandula x intermedia* “Grosso”.

**U-cut:** the cutting of lavender flower stalks by the person wanting to purchase bunches or bouquets; literally “you cut”.

**We-cut:** the cutting of lavender flower stalks for bunches or bouquets by a representative of the grower.

## TERMS FOR PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS



Eye pillow



Lavender bundle or bouquet



Neck wrap



Sachet



Wand



Wreath