

Lavandula species, hybrids and cultivars !

There are 36 species of *Lavandula* in six sections, however most commercial forms come from 12 species or hybrid species in only four sections: *Lavandula*, *Stoechas*, *Dentata* and *Pterostoechas*.

The *Lavandula* (was *Spica*) Section,

These are generally known as the 'English Lavenders'.

Lavandula angustifolia (The True Lavender). A hardy plant that will tolerate several degrees of frost as well as moderate drought conditions. It flowers early December through to mid January. The flowers are short, on non branching stems and low in camphor. This is the plant most widely used for grade one oil production.

Lavandula lantifolia (The Spike Lavender) Hardy to most frosts and mild droughts. Heavily branched flower stems. Flowers long and tapering with a strong camphor content. Flowers in mid to late autumn.

Lavandula x intermedia (Lavandin). The most widely grown form of 'English Lavender' It is a hybrid between *L.angustifolia* and *L.lantifolia*. One form, *L.x intermedia* 'Grosso' is the world's largest oil producing plant (Grade two). It is a hardy 'species' that is tolerant to heavy frosts. The flowers are borne between January and May depending on the cultivar with extensive variation in color and size. Also very good for drying and pot-pourri.

Lavandula lanata (The Woolly Lavender) a medium sized drought hardy shrub with silvery grey foliage. The flowers are long and dark and occur in late summer/autumn.

The *Stoechas* Section,

These are known as the Italian Lavenders (French in Europe):

Lavandula stoechas (The Italian Lavender) A shorter growing form. Less frost tolerant than the English forms. They are characterised by the large bracts or ears atop the generally dark purple flowers that occur

from mid spring to mid autumn. Some cultivars will flower right through the year. *L.stoechas* and the sub species freely cross, set seed and generate a great number of cultivars.

Lavandula viridis (The Green Lavender) A tall sprawling shrub with lemon pine scented foliage. The flowers are similar to those of the *Stoechas* section but are green. There are one or two cultivars available. Tolerates light frosts.

The *Dentata* Section,

These are known as the French Lavenders:

Lavandula dentata (French Lavender) An attractive free flowering form that is tolerant to light frosts. Leaves are green and dentated. The flowers, generally on short stems, occur over most of the year. There are several distinct forms with dentated leaves The main one being *Lavandula dentata candicans* which has a tighter habit and grey foliage.

The *Pterostoechas* Section

This section encompasses only three species that are in general cultivation. They are collectively referred to as the Fern Leaf Lavenders, for obvious reasons. They are frost sensitive and therefore more popular in NSW WA and Qld.

Lavandula canariensis (The Canary Island Lavender) is medium sized shrub with light green, lacey foliage. Long, dark purple flowers all year.

Lavandula pinnata (The Pinnate Lavender) is an upright shrub with grey branched foliage. Flowers all year with long flowers on triple stems.

Lavandula multifida Medium sized shrub with grey branched foliage. The leaves are slightly hairy. The flowers are long and appear all year on long wispy stems.

Intersectional Hybrids

Lavandula x allardii and *Lavandula x heterophylla*. *L. allardii* is a cross between *L.lanata* and *L.dentata*. The foliage is dentated. The plant is a tall long lived shrub with year round flowers that are good for drying. *Lavandula heterophylla* is a cross between *L. dentata* and *L.angustifolia*. It is large shrub with long, purple flowers for most of the year. The foliage is both dentated and non dentated.



DELIGHTFUL
PLANTS

LAVENDER CULTURAL NOTES 2003



*Then nature said. 'A lovelier flower
On earth was never sown;'*

Wordsworth



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Di's Delightful Plants & The World of Lavender.

Welcome to the wonderful world of Lavenders. If you already grow lavenders in your garden then you should find some delightful new forms included in this catalogue. If you are new to this most versatile of garden plants then you have rewarding growing ahead of you. This catalogue is filled with descriptive information to enable you to select and grow your lavenders.

Di's Delightful Plants was established in 1992 to make available many of the world's delightful, but little known plants. It is the retail arm of Australia's largest lavender and perennial propagation nursery and current holder of the OPCA Lavender, Rosemary & Diascia Collections.

The company travels extensively each year collecting new and old forms of lavender that are not available in Australia. They have a close affiliation with lavender growers and breeders in the UK, Holland and New Zealand. During the nineties they released onto the Australian market *Lavandula* 'Avonview', *Lavandula* 'Seal', *Lavandula* 'Grosso', 'Mt Lofty Lavender', *Lavandula* 'Winter Purple', *Lavandula* 'Snowball' *Lavandula* 'Hazel', *Lavandula* 'Avice Hill' *Lavandula* 'Kew Red' and '*Lavandula* Pippa White'. They are members of The Australian Lavender Growers Association (TALGA), The Perennial Plant Association of America, and are an accredited nursery member of the Nursery Industry Association of Australia. In early 1997 they achieved world's best practice by obtaining international quality certification to the standard ISO9002. For those interested in commercial

production they have a booklet available called: '*Lavenders—Turning a Hobby into a Business*'. Details are available on request.

The Genus; *Lavandula*

The genus *Lavandula* belongs to the family Labiatae. The genus consists of 30-40 species, mostly from the mediteranean. The name comes from the latin word *lavare* - meaning to wash. The first lavender described was *Lavandula stoechas*. Lavenders then became an important part of any 'first aid kit' up until the start of this century.

The folklore of lavender is extensive, especially amongst the European royalty of past centuries. Queen Elizabeth I decreed that there would always be a jar of lavender conserve on the royal dining table. King Charles VI of France was said to have had his silk cushions stuffed with lavender to aid 'brain maladies', and King Louis XIV used to always have a sprig of lavender in his pockets.

Recently, Charles Sturt University conducted a full review of the current research on lavender and lavender products. Their first priority was to see how many of the old folklore stories had any scientific basis. They were surprised to find that nearly all of them had some legitimate standing. Yes lavender does aid as a muscle relaxant, anti-depressant, anti-stress treatment, mild anesthetic for insect bites and more.

Cultural Notes

SOIL: Lavenders require well drained neutral to alkaline soil. Although they will grow in slightly acidic soils if there is ample Calcium available. If you have acidic soils then add some dolomite lime. Annual application of Dolomite will also improve growth and flowering. If the soils are heavy then build the beds up by 150 - 200 mm. Also add some coarse sand to the soil. A topping of crushed quartz will aid drainage and reflect light to the underside of the leaves.

SITE: Lavenders require a minimum of afternoon sun and prefer full sun all day. The north or western side of the garden is best. Do not try to grow them in the shade, or on the high side of a sloped garden.

FEEDING: They require little feeding for average growth. However an annual application of blood and bone after flowering and an application of dolomite lime and potash in spring will aid flowering and result in stronger and healthier plants.

PRUNING: Prune off the dead flower stalks just below the top set of leaves. A light tip prune in early spring will help to keep the plant compact.

HEDGING: Lavenders make excellent hedges. A rough rule of thumb is to plant them the distance apart that you want the height of the hedge to be. Also put ten percent extra plants elsewhere in the garden in pots, tubs or in the ground. Prune these when you prune the hedge. This gives you some replacements should any plants in the hedge die.