

Cultivation Information and How to Grow Lavender Plants

Botanical Name – The lavender plant goes by the scientific name, *Lavendula* spp.

Hardiness Zone – Lavender is hardy in zones 5-10, depending on variety.

Bloom Time and Color – The lavender plant will produce long-lasting, [fragrant flowers](#) in the summer months. The purple-blue blooms, for which lavender is named, will grow on sturdy stalks up to 4' tall depending on the variety. Lavender flower pollen is mildly allergenic to some people, although this is rare. Bees and butterflies find the aromatic blooms attractive.

Plant Category Type – Lavender is an herbaceous perennial plant, though some varieties are treated as annuals.

Foliage – The foliage of the lavender plant is semi-evergreen and has a fine texture, making it an excellent choice to blend with other plants in a mixed border combination planting. Lavender has silvery-green foliage that is also aromatic.

Growth Habit – Lavender has an upright, bushy growth habit and is usually as wide as it is tall.

Using Lavender Plants in the Garden

Preferred Conditions – Lavender thrives in well-drained soil and full sun. It can handle periods of semi-drought once fully established, making it a nice herb choice for a “water-wise” garden or in arid areas. Lavender tolerates sandy soil conditions as long as the drainage is good.

Maintenance – Very little pruning is needed to keep lavender looking good. Still, the woody-stemmed plant will benefit from gentle shaping, which can be done in the spring. In many herb gardens, lavender is the neglected “wild child” and manages to flourish with this type of care. In fact, in the book *Southern Herb Growing*, the authors make this comment regarding care of the variety *Lavender angustifolia*: “We recommend planting them in the driest area you have, in full sun, and neglecting them a lot.”

Propagation Methods – Lavender can be started from seed indoors and brought outside when it has more than one true stem. It is also propagated through cuttings or layering.

Companion Plants – Choose companion plants for lavender, whose shape and structure contrast nicely, such as Allium or Butterfly Weed. Other popular plants to partner with lavenders are scented plants such as [Roses](#), [Rosemary](#), or Daylillies.

Uses in the Garden – With its outstanding fragrance, beautiful blooms, and pleasant silhouette, lavender can be used as a specimen plant, in a large container, or in a variety of other garden situations. A favorite in herb gardens, kitchen, cottage, English heirloom, and cut flower gardens, you can also use it anywhere you want to add some scent along a pathway or near an entrance way. Effective in mass plantings or as a low hedge, as well.