

# Taking Care of Lavenders

Lavenders are hardy plants and prefer a rougher existence than we believe, and too much "attention" can often kill them off.

**Soil & Site:** The perfect site is where they will get full sun for most of the year, and they prefer a neutral to alkaline soil, but the most important thing is that the compost is free draining. Lavenders simply will not tolerate their roots being surrounded by a heavy, clay or waterlogged medium. In soil that is heavy, dig in plenty of grit to improve the drainage, or plant it on a mound.

**Planting:** Dig a hole, fill with water and allow it to drain away. Place the plant in the hole and backfill with the soil. If planting in a pot make sure that the pot has drainage holes.

**Watering:** Established lavenders in the garden really do not need watering (like the plants in our fields) but those in pots need to be watered to ensure that they do not dry out. In the winter, potted and tender lavenders need only a little watering.

**Pruning:** This really depends on the type of lavender. The hardy *angustifolia* and *intermedia* types should be pruned just after flowering. They can be cut hard, ensuring that you leave small shoots below where they are cut. These will grow into a mound of new foliage (and possibly a second, weaker flowering). Do not prune in the spring as you will cut off bud forming shoots. *Stoechas* can be dead-headed through the summer and pruned in early summer after flowering. Do not prune after September or you will cut off bud forming shoots. The more tender lavenders (*dentata*, *pterostoechas* and *allardii*) flower continuously throughout the year, dead-head as necessary and prune regularly to keep to shape.

While we endeavour to sell plants in good condition, we do not sell our plants with a guarantee. We do not accept any liability for any problems after purchase, but we will listen to any complaint and respond according to the circumstances. Any refund is restricted to the purchase value of the plant. However, we very much hope that our plants will thrive under your ownership and give you pleasure for many years to come.

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