



## LAVENDER GROWING TIPS

---

**PREPARING TO GROW LAVENDER IN A YARD OR GARDEN** / Plant lavender in well-drained, slightly alkaline soil with a pH between 6.7 and 7.3. Add either builder's sand and rocks—or a combination of the two—to the soil before planting. This will increase drainage, which is vital because lavender will not tolerate excessive soil moisture or humidity. To further improve drainage, plant lavender in a raised bed or on a hillside or in a small mound.

**PLANTING LAVENDER** / Carefully knock the plant from its pot, spread the roots, and place the plant in a hole that accommodates the spread roots. Mix in a teaspoon of compost or other rich organic matter into the soil mix below the roots. This will slowly release organics that promote both root and leaf growth. Roots should not be placed directly on the fertilizer, but on a mix of soil and fertilizer. When watering the new plant for the first time and thereafter for the first 4–6 weeks, water only the top 2 inches of soil. You may need to water a little more or a little less, depending on rain and humidity; if the soil is very dry, give the plant more of a soaking. Water in the morning and evening only and allow the soil to dry before watering again. Do not over-water.

**CARING FOR LAVENDER IN THE SPRING** / When cutting the blooms, trim in a way that thins the plant a bit, leaving it open for better air circulation. Prune the plant in the early spring to 2/3 its size, leaving a couple of inches of green above the woody stems. While this may seem drastic, cutting this far down will stimulate new growth. Lavender responds very well to being shaped because plants that are not pruned may have a tendency to fall open in the middle and sprawl. Heavy, wet soil, especially in winter, can smother and kill the plants.

**CARING FOR LAVENDER IN THE AUTUMN** / In early autumn, cut the green of the lavender back, until about one or two inches of green remain. This will promote fuller growth for the next season, and the plant will look better throughout the winter. Do not cut into the wood because it's difficult for the older wood to produce new shoots. It's best for the plant if the pruning tool used is sharp and clean. Use a sickle or hand shears.

When moving plants, estimate the lavender plant's fully mature size and then add a bit more to make room for the blooms. It's a good idea to mulch heavily with sand or pea gravel and to aggressively prune to leave about 2 inches of last year's growth. It's also a good idea to spray with a compost tea to remove any fungus that may have developed.

**HARVESTING LAVENDER FLOWERS** / When the lavender plant has blossomed, the flowers can be picked for many uses. To avoid mold problems, harvest the lavender under dry conditions. It's best to harvest in the late morning after the dew evaporates, or in the early afternoon when the temperature starts to go down. Oil loss will be very noticeable if harvesting occurs during the heat of the day. For a fresh bouquet, pick the blossoms when half of the flowers on the blossom head have opened. Flowers will keep their perfume for months if they are harvested just before they are entirely open. To dry the flowers, gather a bunch of stems and hang them upside-down in a dark, well-ventilated place to preserve color and keep the stems from molding.

**PRUNING** / Lavender needs to be pruned in the early years. If pruning is not done in the first two years, the plant will become woody, resulting in fewer stems and flowers. After planting in the first year, remove the new growth, including the flower stems. Prune the plant into a ball shape. In the second year, prune the new growth early in the season to encourage flowering. In the fall of the second year, prune again to remove the flowers and continue to train the plant for shaping. Harvesting in the third year is sufficient pruning.



## LAVENDER GROWING TIPS

---

**TRANSPLANTING LAVENDER** / Lavender plants that are gangly and have long, thin “legs” probably are not getting enough sunlight. The best time to transplant is in very early spring and in late autumn. Do not transplant when the ground is frozen. The plants need 30 days before the first frost for root development in the new soil. Water the plants well before moving them to a new position and trim off any flowers. Transplants usually will not flower much the year they are transplanted, so keep trimming off any flower spikes for a larger, fuller plant the following year.

**SOLUTIONS FOR SPRAWLING LAVENDER** / Insufficient pruning leads to lavender sprawl. The weight of the yearly growth and the blooms causes the plant to fall open and break in the middle. Plants need to be pruned at least once a year. Prune the plant back in small increments. In spring, cut the foliage back by one-third to get the new growth going. When the foliage grows back in, cut it back by one-third again. This will stimulate new growth at the base of the plant. If new growth comes up at the base, prune the plant back to JUST above the new growth.

---

**GROWING LAVENDER IN CONTAINERS** / While growing Lavender in containers can be done, it is a little tricky. First get a really, big pot; a lavender’s root system is a lot bigger than the plant. Lavender plants need about eight hours of sun. Drainage, water, pruning, and feeding are extremely important when growing in a container:

**Drainage:** Make sure the pot has really good drainage holes. Put about one-half to one inch of loose gravel at the bottom of the pot to ensure the water will not clog up in the container. It’s best if a good soilless mix for potting material is used. A mixture of peat, vermiculite and perlite is one of the best, but well-aerated, “fluffy” soil is fine.

**Water:** During the summer, lavender in a container is going to need more water than lavender in the ground. If the lavender gets dehydrated it may be difficult to bring it back to its former glory. So: not too wet and not too dry. Try to water the lavender at the base of the plant, rather than getting the foliage wet.

**Pruning:** Following the same methods described.

**Feeding:** Probably the easiest is to mix in some time-release fertilizer in the spring. It’s a good idea to repot then, so it’s a good time to fertilize, too.

Still Have Questions?

Email us at [support@appalachianbotanical.com](mailto:support@appalachianbotanical.com) and we’ll be happy to try to help!

**Appalachianbotanical.com**

We’re growing opportunity in the Mountain State

**APPALACHIAN BOTANICAL CO.** / 1889 Daniel Boone Pkwy, Foster, WV 25081 / +1 304.956.4015