



LIVING AND LOVIN HERBS PODCAST

Lavender Growing Tips

Tip 1: Lavender must have full sun – 10 or more hours of daylight during the growing season.

Tip 2: Lavender is a drought tolerant plant and can thrive in areas where other plants can't.

- It prefers dry sandy well-drained soil.
- It cannot survive in moist rich organic soil.
- The soil needs to be well aerated. It does not like to have “wet feet”.
- Lavenders is susceptible to root rot and other fungal diseases.
- Some growers prefer to grow in rocky soil.

Tip 3: It prefers a ph of 6.5 – 7.

- If your ph is low add dolomite lime and a little organic compost to level the ph out.

Tip 4: Spacing – How close together should you plant your lavender?

- If you're using the plant as a garden accent, determine which lavender species you are planting.
- Lavender angustifolia's (i.e. English) need about 30 inches of room. These plants tend to be low growing but spread wide.
- Lavandin's or Lavendula. x-intermedia (the hybrids) grow high and wide. Give them 36 inches between each plant.

Tip 5: To mulch or not to mulch – that is the question?

- Lavender does not like to be crowded by weeds.
- In hotter drier climates, watering will be needed.
- Mulching is a personal decision depending on your climate and how much upkeep you want to do.
- If you live in a hotter drier climate, irrigating and mulching would probably be a good idea.



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- In mid to northern states, where everything is flowering and green, I would support mulching vs. irrigation in sandy rocky soil as the mulch also help keep the ph down.

There are other ways to maintain your lavender to keep them high and dry other than mulching.

- Plant on top of the raised mound - usually done in wetter climates.
- Put down row plastic, poke a hole in the plastic and plant your lavender. Then grow grass in-between the rows and mow when it gets high.
- Plant in landscape rock.
- Weed barrier over dirt, top-dress with landscape rock.

Tip 6: Lavenders can be tight woody shrubs and therefore, need to be pruned to keep their shape and encourage growth.

- Year 1 of planting: remove new flowers and give your plant a good haircut, using good pruning shears.
- Cutting promotes growth and helps keep the plant the shape you want or need. By year 2 your lavender will have doubled in size.

Tip 7: Year 3 and beyond, your lavender will continue to add new growth after pruning – but prune wisely!

- Pruning too severely will kill your plant.
- Never prune old wood unless its dead
- Don't prune in cold temperatures

Tip 8: Understand the type size and use of the lavender you are growing.

- English Lavenders are smaller growing and form small mounds. They are perfect for edging along walkways.
- Tall-growing lavenders such as lavindins make great hedges. At their maximum height, they sway in the wind similar to tall grasses which adds dimension to your landscape.