



LAVENDER OWNER'S MANUAL

CONGRATULATIONS! IF YOU PURCHASED A LAVENDER PLANT FROM DR. LAVENDER, YOU HAVE JUST TAKEN OWNERSHIP OF AN AWARD WINNING VARIETY THAT HAS SPENT ITS ENTIRE GROWING PERIOD OUTDOORS. THAT'S CORRECT. THIS IS NOT A GREENHOUSE OR "SPA LAVENDER PLANT." YOUR PLANT HAS ENDURED EXTREME NORTHWEST WEATHER CONDITIONS INCLUDING RAIN, WIND, DROUGHT, SNOW AND FROST DURING ITS EARLY LIFE. IT DOES NOT NEED TO BE HARDENED OFF. YOUR PLANT HAS BEEN SELECTED AND "FIELD TESTED" ON OUR FARM IN SEQUIM, WASHINGTON AS A VARIETY THAT WILL GROW IN YOUR NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE. AS A RESULT, YOUR LAVENDER PLANT WILL EXHIBIT VIGOROUS VEGETATIVE GROWTH AND PRODUCE BOUNTIFUL SUMMER FLOWER BLOOMS FOR MANY GROWING SEASONS.

WHAT ARE THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LAVENDER?

LAVENDER IS DESCRIBED AS A WOODY OR BUSHY PERENNIAL, WHICH MEANS IT LIVES THROUGHOUT THE FOUR SEASONS AND EXHIBITS A DORMANCY STAGE IN THE WINTER AND A REPRODUCTIVE (FLOWERING) STAGE IN THE SUMMER. LAVENDER DEVELOPS STIFF AND WOODY STEMS TO SUPPORT GREENER VEGETATIVE STEMS AND SLENDER LEAVES. OVER SEVERAL GROWING SEASONS LAVENDER WILL GROW TO A MATURE SIZE, TYPICALLY RANGING FROM 2 TO 4 FEET IN DIAMETER AND 2 TO 3 FEET HIGH. LAVENDER IS DISTINGUISHED FROM OTHER WOODY PERENNIALS AS PRODUCING A SPIKE POINTING SKYWARD THAT EXHIBITS A DELICATE FLORAL ARRANGEMENT WITH UNIVERSAL APPEAL IN MANY PAST AND PRESENT CULTURES. WITH PROPER CARE, LAVENDER WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT ADDITION TO YOUR GARDEN FOR MANY SEASONS.

LAVENDER IS ONE OF THE MOST "GARDEN FRIENDLY" PLANTS FOR THE GARDENER WHO HAS LESS THAN A "GREEN THUMB", HAS LIMITED TIME TO GARDEN OR HAS A GARDEN SPACE WITH CERTAIN CHALLENGES SUCH AS STEEPNESS OR ROCKINESS. LAVENDER REQUIRES NO FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES OR CHEMICALS TO MAINTAIN ITS VIGOR. NO INSECTS OR ANIMALS PREFER THEM AS A FOOD SOURCE. THEY DO NOT REQUIRE REGULAR WATERING. THEY CAN SURVIVE ON MOTHER NATURE'S RAINS. THEY PROVIDE A YEAR ROUND PRESENCE IN THE LANDSCAPE WHICH INCLUDES VARIOUS COLORS AND CONTINUED FRAGRANCE. THEY FILL UP LARGE AND SMALL SPACES, EASILY COVER HILL SIDES AND FIT IN HARD TO GARDEN AREAS. THEY ARE NOT PICKY ABOUT SOIL TYPES OR AVAILABLE NUTRIENTS. THEY ARE PERFECT FOR LANDSCAPES IN VACATION HOMES, COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AND AROUND RENTAL UNITS WHERE GARDENING CHORES ARE INFREQUENT. LAVENDER IS THE PERFECT ADDITION TO A NEWLY DESIGNED LANDSCAPE WHERE TRADITIONAL, NATURAL OR MODERN DESIGNS ARE PREFERRED.

LAVENDER IS USEFUL FOR CREATING LABYRINTHS, SCULPTED PLANT DESIGNS, TRIMMED HEDGES AND SPECIAL PLACES FOR MEDITATION AND ATTRACTING BEES AND OTHER BENEFICIAL INSECTS.

SMALLER LAVENDER VARIETIES MAY BE USED IN CONTAINERS, SMALL ROCK GARDENS AND ALONG PATHWAYS. LARGER VARIETIES MAY BE USED AS BARRIERS, LARGE HEDGES, BOUNDARY MARKERS AND FOUNDATION SPECIMENS TO CREATE A FOCAL POINT IN THE LANDSCAPE OR TO DIRECT VISITORS TO ENTRANCEWAYS.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE INVOLVED AS BUYERS AND SELLERS IN A COMPETITIVE REAL ESTATE MARKET, LAVENDER PROVIDES INSTANT CURB AND VISUAL APPEAL, FITS IN NICELY WITH THE NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE, ALWAYS PROVIDES A FRESH FRAGRANCE, IS NON-DEMANDING WHEN OTHER MATTERS ARE MORE PRESSING AND IS REASONABLY PRICED TO PURCHASE AND

INSTALL ESPECIALLY IF WATERING SYSTEMS ARE NOT DESIRED. LAVENDER ALSO MAKES A GREAT WELCOMING GIFT TO THE BUYER OF A NEWLY PURCHASED HOME.

OVERALL, LAVENDER IS TYPICALLY SELF RELIANT AND PROVIDES A PERFECT MATCH FOR THE GARDENER OR PROPERTY OWNER WHO HAS LESS THAN A GREEN THUMB, LIMITED TIME TO SPEND ON PLANT MAINTENANCE AND INTENDS TO BE WATER-WISE.

SELECTING LAVENDER FOR YOUR GARDEN

KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE ARE MANY SPECIES, SUB-SPECIES AND VARIETIES OF LAVENDER THAT THRIVE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD. THERE IS JUST A SELECT NUMBER OF THESE SPECIES AND SUB SPECIES, FROM A MUCH LARGER GENUS KNOWN AS LAVANDULA, THAT ARE SUITED FOR OUR NORTHWEST CLIMATE. JUST BECAUSE THE PLANT LABEL SIMPLY IDENTIFIES THE PLANT AS LAVENDER OR LAVANDULA DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN YOU HAVE SELECTED THE RIGHT PLANT FOR THE CORRECT GROWING AREA.

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE DOZENS OF VARIETIES FROM WITHIN THE THREE MAIN SPECIES OF LAVENDER THAT DO VERY WELL IN OUR NORTHWEST LANDSCAPES. THE BEST METHOD TO DETERMINE WHAT GROWS BEST IN YOUR REGION IS TO VISIT A LAVENDER FARM OR DEMONSTRATION GARDEN IN YOUR GROWING AREA WHERE LAVENDER IS ACTUALLY **THRIVING!** BE CAUTIOUS WHEN EXAMINING VARIETIES FROM OUTSIDE OF YOUR GROWING AREA THAT HAVE FEATHERY OR DELICATE FOLIAGE AND MULTIPLE FLOWER HEADS. ALTHOUGH BEAUTIFUL AND FRAGRANT, THESE VARIETIES THRIVE IN PARTS OF THE WORLD THAT MAY NOT BE SIMILAR TO OUR GROWING REGIONS. MOST NOTABLY, THEY DO NOT TOLERATE EVEN OUR MODERATE WINTERS.

BE BOTH INQUISITIVE AND CAUTIOUS WHEN SELECTING OVER-THE-COUNTER AND MASS PROPAGATED VARIETIES PRODUCED IN MUCH WARMER CLIMATES THAN OURS. YOUR SELECTION OF LAVENDER SHOULD BE MAINLY BASED FROM WHAT YOU OBSERVE THRIVING IN YOU GROWING REGION, AND FROM WHAT YOU LEARN FROM THE ALL-IMPORTANT LABEL ON THE PLANT CONTAINER.

THE THREE MAIN SPECIES OF LAVENDER FOR OUR LANDSCAPE

GENERALLY, THE THREE SPECIES OF LAVENDER THAT YOU SEE IN MOST GARDENS, CULTIVATED AT LAVENDER FARMS AND INCORPORATED IN COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPES IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ARE THE **STOECHAS**, ALSO KNOWN AS SPANISH LAVENDER, THE **ANGUSTIFOLIA** AND THE **INTERMEDIA**. STAY WITH THESE THREE SPECIES, INITIALLY, FOR YOUR GARDENING SELECTIONS AS YOU LEARN MORE ABOUT CULTIVATING LAVENDER. EXPRESSED IN BOTANICAL TERMS, THESE SPECIES ARE PRESENTED AS FOLLOWS: *Lavandula stoechas*; *Lavandula angustifolia* and *Lavandula x intermedia*. *Lavandula* may be abbreviated by *L*. FOLLOWING THESE IMPORTANT IDENTIFIERS IS THE VARIETY NAME OR PATENTED NAME SUCH AS ‘GROSSO’, ‘SUPER’, ‘MUNSTEAD’, ‘ROYAL VELVET’, ‘MELISSA’ OR ‘PROVENCE’.

EACH OF THESE THREE SPECIES HAS UNIQUE GROWING CHARACTERISTICS. THEY VISUALLY EXPRESS THEMSELVES DIFFERENTLY IN THE GARDEN AND LANDSCAPE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT IS NECESSARY TO SELECT A SPECIES THAT GROWS IN YOUR REGION. THESE THREE SPECIES ARE TYPICAL LAVENDER SPECIES FOUND IN OUR GROWING REGION.

EACH PLANT LABEL IDENTIFYING LAVENDER SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THESE SPECIES DISPLAYED RIGHT AFTER THE GENUS NAME LAVANDULA. THE COMMON PLANT VARIETY NAME COMPRISES THE THIRD ENTRY ON THE LABEL. A WELL ORGANIZED AND ACCURATE LABEL SHOULD PROPERLY READ – *Lavandula x intermedia* ‘GROSSO’; *Lavandula angustifolia* ‘MUNSTEAD’; OR *Lavandula stoechas* ‘OTTO QUAST.’ REMEMBER, THE INTERMEDIA, ANGUSTIFOLIA AND STOECHAS (SPANISH) ARE IMPORTANT IDENTIFIERS WHEN DETERMINING THE EFFECTS AND APPEARANCE YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE IN YOUR GARDEN. IN ADDITION, IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL USE FOR THE FRESH OR DRIED FLOWERS, THE DRIED BUDS OR THE DISTILLED OILS, PLANT SELECTION BECOMES VERY IMPORTANT.

GENUINE NURSERY STOCK SHOULD CONTAIN LABELS THAT FOLLOW ACCEPTED HORTICULTURE TERMS; TYPICALLY WITH NOMENCLATURE IN LATIN. A REPUTABLE GROWER AND SELLER, USING INDUSTRY STANDARDS, SHOULD PROVIDE A LAVENDER PLANT THAT HAS A KNOWN PARENTAGE FROM WHICH YOU CAN MAKE GARDENING DECISIONS. COMMON USAGE OF NAMES AND DESCRIPTORS SUCH AS 'FRENCH', 'COMMON', 'ENGLISH', 'LAVENDER', 'HIDCOTE' OR 'SPIKE' IS NOT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION AND MAY BE MISLEADING. IN ADDITION, DO NOT BE MISLEAD BY THE USAGE OF SINGULAR VARIETY NAMES WITHOUT THE SPECIES NAME ATTACHED. AS AN EXAMPLE, THE VARIETIES 'HIDCOTE' AND 'ALBA' (WHITE) ARE ASSOCIATED WITH BOTH THE INTERMEDIA AND ANGUSTIFOLIA SPECIES. THERE IS A VARIETY KNOWN AS 'OLD ENGLISH' WHICH COMES FROM THE INTERMEDIA SPECIES.

WHEN VISITING A FARM OR FORMAL LAVENDER GARDEN, VIEW AND CONTEMPLATE THE SIZE OF THE PLANT AND HOW IT MIGHT FIT IN YOUR LANDSCAPE. MOST PLANTS GROW TO ABOUT 2-3 FEET TALL AND AT LEAST THAT WIDE AT MATURITY WHEN IN FULL BLOOM. IT MAY TAKE 2-3 GROWING SEASONS TO REACH A MATURE HEIGHT. THERE ARE VARIETIES THAT REMAIN SMALL AND COMPACT, AND THOSE THAT CAN GROW TO THE SIZE OF LARGE HEDGES FOR ESTATE GARDENS.

NEXT, DETERMINE THE SHAPE AND PROFILE THAT YOU WANT DISPLAYED IN YOUR LANDSCAPE. LAVENDER PLANTS CAN PRESENT A BUSHY AND INFORMAL EFFECT (STOECHAS/SPANISH VARIETIES), A CASCADING FOUNTAIN EFFECT FULL OF CONCENTRATED COLOR (ANGUSTIFOLIA), OR STAND UPRIGHT AND APPEAR STATELY AND CLASSIC (INTERMEDIA VARIETIES).

STOECHAS SPECIES

THE STOECHAS/SPANISH VARIETIES POSSESS THE DISTINCTIVE BULB-LIKE FLOWER HEAD WITH THE PERCHED WINGS. THIS IS A POPULAR LANDSCAPE PLANT THAT PRODUCES BLOOMS AND MUCH DESIRED COLOR AS EARLY AS LATE FEBRUARY OR EARLY MARCH AND CONTINUES BLOOMING DURING THE SUMMER AND INTO LATE FALL. THE FOLIAGE IS SOMEWHAT BUSHY AND PROVIDES FAVORABLE GROUND COVER. THIS TYPE OF LAVENDER PROVIDES THE MOST DIVERSITY IN COLOR SELECTION OTHER THAN PURE LAVENDER OR PURPLE. THESE COLORS INCLUDE RED, PINK, BLUE, WHITE, YELLOW AND A COMBINATION OF THESE COLORS. THESE VARIETIES GROW ESPECIALLY WELL ON SLOPES, HILLSIDES, ALONG GARDEN PATHS AND AT THE BASE OF CONCRETE STAIRCASES ADJOINING SIDEWALKS AND COMMON WALKWAYS. YOUNG AND TENDER STOECHAS SPECIMENS ARE TYPICALLY THE FIRST OF THE THREE SPECIES TO PERISH OR SUFFER DAMAGE TO SECTIONS OF THE PLANT DURING LONG COLD SPELLS. BUT DO NOT BE DISSUADED. HEALTHY AND ESTABLISHED STOECHAS PLANTS ARE GENERALLY WEATHER-PROOF. FOR STARTERS CONSIDER THE VARIETY, 'OTTO QUAST', 'QUASTI' OR 'OTTO QUASTI'. IT IS A SIGNATURE LANDSCAPE PLANT. IT IS BUSHY AND BLUE AND IS A FAVORITE IN THE WIND SWEEP COMMUNITY OF PORT TOWNSEND, WASHINGTON.

ANGUSTIFOLIA SPECIES

THE ANGUSTIFOLIA VARIETIES PROVIDE AN ABUNDANCE OF BLOOMS AND ARE DESCRIBED AS THE SWEETEST SMELLING LAVENDER WHEN IN FULL BLOOM. THE ANGUSTIFOLIA HAS THE DISTINCT CHARACTERISTIC OF RESEMBLING A FOUNTAIN, FLOWING OVER WITH A PROFUSION OF PURPLE, BLUE, OR PINK BUDS AND FLOWERS. THE FLOWER STEMS ARE THIN AND SHORT IN LENGTH WHICH GIVES THE FLOWERS A DOMINANT EFFECT. THE FLOWER HEADS APPEAR PUFFY AND BLUNTED WHEN IN BLOOM. AS THE FLOWER HEADS MATURE, THEY TEND TO WEIGH DOWN AND BEND THE SUPPLE STALKS PROVIDING THE FOUNTAIN EFFECT. ANGUSTIFOLIA VARIETIES BLOOM DURING LATE SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER. THEY PROVIDE A SECOND, BUT LIGHTER, BLOOM LATER IN THE SEASON. ANGUSTIFOLIA VARIETIES ARE FAVORED FOR THEIR SWEET AND DELICATE LAVENDER FRAGRANCE AND VERSATILITY WHEN USED IN MAKING SACHETS, TEAS AND CULINARY RECIPES. THEY ARE THE SPECIES OF CHOICE FOR MAKING FINE PERFUME-QUALITY OILS.

INTERMEDIA SPECIES

THE INTERMEDIA VARIETIES MAKE A BOLD AND DOMINANT STATEMENT IN THE LANDSCAPE. CERTAIN VARIETIES CAN GROW QUITE LARGE. THEY ARE MOST ASSOCIATED WITH THE CLASSIC AND ESTATE GARDENS FOUND IN EUROPE AND ON THE LAVENDER FARMS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST. THE INTERMEDIA HAS A STATELY APPEARANCE WITH STIFF AND THICK FLOWER STALKS REACHING SKYWARD. THE FLOWER HEADS AT THE BUD STAGE ARE POINTED, RESEMBLING A SPEAR HEAD. THE INTERMEDIA PRODUCES BLOSSOMS IN BLUE, PURPLE AND WHITE. DURING DORMANCY AND EARLY SPRING, THE INTERMEDIA VARIETIES FILL THE GARDEN WITH AN ABUNDANCE OF A GRAY-GREEN FOLIAGE TEXTURE AND PROVIDE A LAVENDER FRAGRANCE EVEN DURING THE WINTER. THESE VARIETIES CAN PROVIDE AN EVERGREEN HEDGE EFFECT IN THE LANDSCAPE BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE BLOOM CYCLES. THE INTERMEDIA VARIETIES ARE FAVORED SOURCES FOR DRIED FLORAL BOUQUETS AND FOR PRODUCING AN ABUNDANCE OF FLOWER BUDS AND VEGETATIVE MATERIAL FOR OIL DISTILLATION. THE INTERMEDIA CONTAINS IN ITS OIL MAKE UP A SUBSTANCE KNOWN AS CAMPHOR. CAMPHOR HAS A DISTINCT BUT NON-OFFENSIVE FRAGRANCE THAT SETS THE INTERMEDIA APART FROM THE MORE SUBTLE AND FLOWERY SCENT OF THE ANGUSTIFOLIA. ALL OF THE THREE SPECIES PRODUCE INVITING FRAGRANCES, ESPECIALLY DURING A BREEZY SUMMER AFTERNOON.

ONCE SIZE, SHAPE AND COLOR ARE DETERMINED, PLANT SELECTION CAN ALSO BE MADE ACCORDING TO THE SHAPE OF THE LEAVES (THIN/BROAD), LEAF COLOR (LIME GREEN, OLIVE GREEN OR SILVER) POSITIONING OF THE BUD CLUSTERS ON THE FLOWERING STALK (CONCENTRATED OR SPACED APART), AND FRAGRANCE (FLORAL, SPICY, PERFUME OR BOLD). INSPECTING PLANTS DURING MOST OF THEIR GROWTH CYCLES WILL ASSIST IN YOUR CHOICE.

PLANT INSTALLATION

WOODY PERENNIALS SUCH AS ROSES, ROSEMARY AND TREES ARE TYPICALLY PLANTED WHEN THE PLANT IS IN THE DORMANT STAGE WHICH OCCURS IN LATE FALL AND LASTS THROUGH EARLY SPRING. LAVENDER CAN BE TREATED IN THIS MANNER. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO TEND TO THE PLANT'S WATERING NEEDS DURING THE DRY SUMMER MONTHS, INSTALLING A PLANT WITH A FULLY DEVELOPED ROOT BALL WILL GIVE THE PLANT 4 TO 6 MONTHS TO ESTABLISH ITSELF BEFORE THE DORMANCY SEASON OCCURS. BY GETTING THIS HEAD START, YOU WILL HAVE AVOIDED GARDENING IN DREARY AND WET WEATHER AND BOOSTED THE PLANT'S ABILITY TO "EXPLODE" WITH GROWTH WHEN THE GARDEN WARMS UP IN THE SPRING.

SUITABLE PLANTING CONDITIONS EXIST WHEN THE SOIL DRAINS AND DOES NOT PUDDLE AND REMAIN STICKY. THE WEATHER SHOULD BE LEANING TOWARD A TREND FAVORING COOL AND MODERATE TEMPERATURES. SOIL TEMPERATURE ABOVE 50 DEGREE F. IS MOST DESIRABLE BUT NOT TYPICAL IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST UNTIL LATE SPRING. PLANTING LAVENDER IN THE SPRING AND FALL IS POSSIBLE IF THE SOIL IS TILLABLE. STAY OUT OF THE GARDEN IF YOUR CULTIVATION ACTIVITIES ARE MAKING A MUDDY MESS AND YOU ARE COMPRESSING THE SOIL. IRRIGATION NEEDS MUST BE MET TO RETAIN MOISTURE AROUND YOUNG OR TRANSPLANTED ROOTS UNTIL THE FALL, WINTER AND SPRING RAINS TAKE OVER. ONCE ESTABLISHED, IRRIGATION SHOULD BE INFREQUENT. FOR YOUNG PLANTS, ALLOW THE SOIL TO DRAIN AND GO DRY BETWEEN WATERING. DON'T FEEL COMPELLED TO KEEP THE ROOT BALL CONSTANTLY WET AND SOGGY. ALLOW THE AIR POCKETS IN THE SOIL TO RE-ESTABLISH.

PLANTING ANY LAVENDER DURING AN EXTREMELY HOT OR ARID PERIOD, SUCH AS IN AUGUST, REQUIRES CAREFUL IRRIGATION PRACTICES. THIS IS THE PERIOD OF THE SEASON WHEN TOO MUCH WATER CAN CREATE A "STEAMY SOIL" CONDITION AND DISRUPT THE TRANSPIRATION PROCESS IN THE PLANT. A LETHAL CONDITION MAY OCCUR BY HINDERING THE PLANT'S ABILITY TO MOVE FLUIDS AND NUTRIENTS THROUGH ITS CELL TISSUE.

DURING THE FIRST GROWING SEASON YOUR PLANT IS FOCUSING ITS EFFORTS ON BUILDING A GOOD ROOT SYSTEM AND SOME TOP FOLIAGE. YOUR PLANT WILL PRODUCE SEVERAL FLOWER SPIKES TO SHOW OFF ITS BEAUTY. SNIP THEM OFF AT THE BASE OF THE SPIKE (STEM) WHERE IT

LEADS TO A PAIR OF LEAVES AND ENJOY THE BLOOMS. DURING ITS FIRST GROWING SEASON THE PLANT NEEDS TO REDIRECT ITS ENERGY TO THE ROOTS AND FOLIAGE, AND NOT REPRODUCTION. DURING THE FOLLOWING SEASONS, THE PLANT WILL NOTICEABLY INCREASE IN SIZE AND PRODUCE BOUNTIFUL BLOOMS.

LAVENDER WILL SURVIVE IN MOST SOIL CONDITIONS FAVORING A NEUTRAL TO ALKALINE STATE. OUR LAVENDER VARIETIES GROW WELL IN MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATES. SURPRISINGLY THE WESTERN REGIONS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ENJOY A SEMI-MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE. THIS MEANS THAT WINTERS ARE MILD, A LARGE BODY OF COASTAL WATERS MAINTAINS MODERATE TEMPERATURES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND SUMMERS ARE DRY AND FREE OF HUMIDITY. MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY MAINTAIN ONE OR TWO OF THESE GROWING CONDITIONS, BUT NOT ALL THREE. PERSISTENT PERIODS OF HIGH AND LOW TEMPERATURES (100 F. & 20 F.), SOGGY AND UNTHAWED SOILS AND HIGH HUMIDITY DURING THE GROWING SEASON EXCLUDE LAVENDER FROM THRIVING IN THESE CONDITIONS. TYPICALLY, A MEDITERRANEAN GROWING REGION IS IDENTIFIED AND FURTHER DESCRIBED AS ZONE 5 BY THE SUNSET WESTERN GARDEN BOOK, AND ZONE 8 OR 8A BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. THERE ARE SITUATIONS IN WHICH PERSISTENT GARDENERS HAVE EITHER LOCATED OR CREATED SUITABLE MICRO-CLIMATES IN THEIR RESPECTIVE GROWING REGIONS FOR LAVENDER TO GROW QUITE WELL.

SPACING OF THE PLANT IS DEPENDENT ON ITS MATURE SIZE. GENERALLY, SPACING THE ANGUSTIFOLIA AND STOECHAS VARIETIES 2 TO 3 FEET APART IS BEST. THE INTERMEDIA VARIETIES ARE TYPICALLY SPACED A MINIMUM OF 3 TO 4 FEET APART. PROPER SPACING IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE EVENTUALLY THE FLOWER STALKS WITH BLOOMS WILL REACH OUT FROM THE EDGE OF THE FOLIAGE IN A CIRCULAR PATTERN OF UP TO 2 FEET IN LENGTH FROM THE MOUNDED PLANT. PROMOTING SUN AND GOOD AIR CIRCULATION ARE BENEFICIAL TO PRODUCING ROBUST BLOOMS AND FOR MAINTAINING THE HEALTH OF THE PLANT.

FOR THESE REASONS, CREATE THESE FAVORED GROWING PRACTICES. PROVIDE YOUR LAVENDER PLANT WITH 5 OR MORE HOURS OF SUNLIGHT EACH DAY DURING THE GROWING SEASON. PLACE THE PLANT IN AN AREA THAT ALLOWS FOR A SOUTHERN OR NEAR-SOUTHERN EXPOSURE. FAVOR MORNING SUN LIGHT TO LATE AFTERNOON SUNSETS. PROVIDE GOOD SOIL DRAINAGE THAT DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO MUDDY, MUCKY AND COLD SITUATIONS FOR THE ROOTS. LAVENDER CAN TOLERATE WET WEATHER AS LONG AS WATER DOES NOT LINGER ON THE GROUND SURFACE. ANY VISIBLE WATER AROUND LAVENDER MUST BE ENCOURAGED TO PASS THROUGH THE SOIL. MIXING COURSE GRAVELLY-SAND AND COMPOST WITH THE SOIL WORKS WELL TO OPEN UP TIGHT SOIL. PLACING THE LAVENDER ON A MOUND ALSO ASSISTS WITH DRAINAGE AND PROVIDES SOME PROMINENCE AND DISTINCTION TO THE PLANT IN THE GARDEN. MIXING FINE SAND SUCH AS BEACH SAND OR PLAYGROUND SAND IS TOO FINE AND WILL CREATE A CEMENT-LIKE TEXTURE IN THE SOIL. GRAVITY IS LAVENDER'S BEST ALLY. PLACE LAVENDER WHERE THE FORCES OF GRAVITY CLEAR THE SURFACE OF THE LANDSCAPE OF LINGERING WATER.

LAVENDER ALSO RESPONDS WELL TO MOVING AIR. THE TOP FOLIAGE STAYS DRIER AND FUNGAL AND MOLD DEVELOPMENT IS DISCOURAGED. ARRANGE YOUR PLANTS IN THE GARDEN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR FRAGRANCE DELIVERED BY THE SUMMER BREEZE AND LOCAL WIND PATTERNS.

DO NOT PLANT LAVENDER UNDER A TREE, ROOF EAVE OR ALONG A NORTH FACING WALL. DO NOT PLANT LAVENDER IN GRASSY AREAS WHERE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ARE FREQUENTLY USED. INSTALLING SPECIAL SOAKER HOSES OR DRIP SYSTEMS ARE NOT REQUIRED IN LAVENDER GARDENING UNLESS THIS IS THE PREFERRED METHOD USED TO ADDRESS SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE GARDEN. WATERING LAVENDER OVERHEAD IS OKAY IF SUN PERSISTS TO DRY THE LEAVES. DO NOT INCLUDE LAVENDER IN THE WATERING SCHEDULE OF YOUR OTHER GARDEN PLANTS THAT REQUIRE REGULAR WATERING SUCH AS VEGETABLES OR LAWNS. LAVENDER PLACED OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER OF VEGETABLE GARDENS IS VERY ATTRACTIVE AND INVITES POLLINATORS.

CONTAINER GROWN LAVENDER REQUIRES SPECIAL CARE CONCERNING MOISTURE NEEDS AND ROOT SPACE. LAVENDER DOES BEST IN THE GROUND. LAVENDER CAN BE SUBJECTED TO MANY TROUBLESOME GROWING CONDITIONS IN CONTAINERS. AS A GENERAL RULE, LAVENDER WILL SURVIVE BUT WON'T **THRIVE** AS IT WOULD IN THE GROUND. THERE ARE TWO VARIETIES OF LAVENDER THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR CONTAINER GARDENING, *Lavandula angustifolia*, 'BLUE CUSHION' AND *Lavandula angustifolia*, 'THUMBELINA LEIGH.'

LAVENDER **DOES NOT** REQUIRE THE APPLICATION OF ANY CHEMICALS OR PESTICIDES TO COMBAT INSECT PROBLEMS OR DISEASE TO MAINTAIN ITS VIGOR. IT IS BEST TO REMOVE WEEDS AND GARDEN DEBRIS AROUND YOUR LAVENDER PLANTS BY HAND. WEEDS, IF ALLOWED TO PERSIST AND TAKE HOLD, WILL ROB THE PLANT OF WATER AND NUTRIENTS AND DISTORT THE SHAPE OF THE PLANT AND BLOOMS. ROTTEN WEEDS AND DEBRIS WILL INTRODUCE UNWANTED MOISTURE, FUNGUS AND PATHOGENS TO THE ROOT BASE OF THE PLANT. OVERSPRAY AND DRIFTING FROM THE APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES AND CHEMICALS TO KILL WEEDS CAN DAMAGE LAVENDER FOLIAGE AND TAINT FLOWERS FOR PERSONAL USE. SYSTEMIC CHEMICAL PESTICIDES DESIGNED TO ENTER THE ROOTS, STEMS AND FOLIAGE OF PLANTS SHOULD NOT BE APPLIED OR USED AROUND LAVENDER.

YOUNG LAVENDER PLANTS AT PLANTING TIME CAN BENEFIT FROM A LIGHT APPLICATION OF AN ALL-PURPOSE FERTILIZER AND STEAMED BONE MEAL (1/2 CUP EACH) MIXED WITH SOIL IN THE PLANTING HOLE TO ADDRESS ANY NUTRIENT DEFICIENCIES OR IMBALANCES IN THE GARDEN SOIL. AFTER THE FIRST GROWING SEASON NO FERTILIZATION IS REQUIRED. SCRATCHING A HANDFUL OF STEAMED BONE MEAL AROUND THE ROOT BASE OF MATURE PLANTS AFTER THREE YEARS MAY BE WISE MAINTENANCE TO TREAT AND SWEETEN TROUBLED SOILS.

MULCHING WITH WOOD CHIPS SHOULD BE DONE SPARINGLY. IT IS BEST TO MONITOR THE CONCENTRATION OF MOISTURE RETENTION AROUND THE BASE OF THE PLANT IF MULCHES ARE USED. CRUSHED OYSTER SHELLS AND ROCKS INSTALLED AROUND THE BASE OF THE PLANT MAY PROVIDE A VISUAL EFFECT; HOWEVER, THEY MAY BE ABRASIVE TO THE HANDS AND BRUISING TO THE KNEES WHEN YOU PERFORM THE ALL-IMPORTANT WEEDING, HARVESTING AND PRUNING ACTIVITIES. USING WEED BARRIERS COVERED WITH MULCH OR SAND IS A PROVEN PRACTICE; HOWEVER, THERE IS A SIGNIFICANT COST AND WEEDS WILL EVENTUALLY FIND OPENINGS FROM WHICH TO GROW. MANY OF THE NEWER WEED BARRIER PRODUCTS ARE EXTREMELY DURABLE BUT NOT VISUALLY PLEASING. BE ESPECIALLY CAUTIOUS WHEN OPERATING ROTOTILLERS, LAWN MOWERS AND STRING TRIMMERS AROUND FABRIC MATERIAL. THEY CAN BIND UP AND SHRED A WHOLE ROW OF MATERIAL IN SECONDS.

PREFERABLY, THE PLANT'S ROOT BALL IN PROPERLY PREPARED CONTAINERS SHOULD NOT BE PACKED WITH SAWDUST OR WOOD CHIPS. THEY SHOULD CONTAIN READILY IDENTIFIABLE SOIL AND COMPOST. PLANTS MAY FIT TIGHTLY IN THE CONTAINER. **DO NOT PULL ON THE PLANT TO RELEASE IT FROM THE CONTAINER.** MOISTEN THE CONTENTS, IF NECESSARY, SQUEEZE THE POT AND GENTLY SLIDE IT LOOSE WHILE THE POT RESTS ON ITS SIDE.

CAREFULLY AND SLIGHTLY UNTANGLE VERY DENSE/TIGHT ROOT BALLS IN ORDER TO CREATE A MORE NATURAL ROOT PATTERN. USE CLEAN SOIL TO COVER THE ROOTS. DO NOT COVER THE CROWN OR THE MAIN STEM OF THE PLANT. DO NOT PLANT IN A DEPRESSION IN THE GROUND OR IN A SUNKEN AREA OF THE GARDEN. DO NOT PLANT LAVENDER IN A LOW SPOT OR BOWL WHERE FOG LINGERS OR COLD SPOTS ARE NOTICEABLE. WHEN THERE IS ANY DOUBT, FIND ANOTHER GROWING AREA THAT IS HIGH, DRY AND WILL RECEIVE A SUNNY SOUTHERN AND MORNING EXPOSURE. LAVENDER BENEFITS FROM BEING SLIGHTLY ELEVATED ON A MOUND TO PROVIDE GOOD DRAINAGE. UNLESS YOU INSTALL LARGER SPECIMENS THAT HAVE GROWN VIGOROUSLY FOR TWO OR THREE GROWING SEASONS, EXPECT THE PLANTS TO REMAIN SMALL, WITH NOTICEABLE SPACE BETWEEN PLANTS, FOR AT LEAST ONE FULL GROWING SEASON.

THE ALL-IMPORTANT PRUNING ALSO KNOWN AS THE HALLOWEEN HAIRCUT

PRUNING, HARVESTING AND DEAD-HEADING LAVENDER ARE THREE DISTINCTIVE GARDEN ACTIVITIES. HARVESTING BEGINS IN EARLY JULY WHEN THE TINY TRUMPET FLOWERS START TO EMERGE FROM THE PURPLE CAPSULE-LIKE BUDS. THE STOECHAS (SPANISH) VARIETIES START BLOOMING AS EARLY AS LATE FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

THE STEMS, CONTAINING THE BUDS AND FLOWERS, MAY BE DISPLAYED FRESH OR DRIED FOR FUTURE USE IN FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS. THE DRIED BUDS, STRIPPED FROM THE STEMS AND FILTERED FROM DEBRIS, HAVE MANY CUSTOMARY AND INNOVATIVE USES.

DEAD-HEADING IS ANOTHER ACTIVITY TO DESCRIBE KEEPING THE PLANT CLEAN AND PRESENTABLE DURING THE GROWING CYCLE. DEAD-HEADING IS ACCOMPLISHED BY TRIMMING AND REMOVING OVER-RIPE, DAMAGED AND FADED BLOOMS AND STEMS. OTHER THAN DEAD OR DAMAGED MATERIAL, DEAD-HEADING DOES NOT INVOLVE THE REMOVAL OF LIVING AND GROWING VEGETATIVE PLANT MATERIAL. THE STOECHAS (SPANISH) VARIETIES APPEAR TO BENEFIT FROM SOME SUMMER PRUNING OF EXTRA LONG AND RANGY STEMS. REMOVING FADED FLOWERS AND SOME WILD GROWTH ENCOURAGES REPETITIVE BLOOMING AND CREATES A TIDIER PLANT.

DO NOT EXPECT MUCH COLORFUL BLOSSOMS TO RE-APPEAR WITH THE INTERMEDIA AND ANGUSTIFOLIA VARIETIES AFTER THE MAJOR BLOOMING CYCLE HAS OCCURRED IN MID AND LATE SUMMER. HOWEVER, DO EXPECT THE FOLIAGE TO STAY GREENISH-GRAY, VIBRANT AND VERY FRAGRANT DURING THE FALL AND WINTER.

YOU CAN EXPECT YOUR LAVENDER TO MAINTAIN PROMINENT STATUS IN THE LANDSCAPE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, AND EXPRESS THE TYPICAL ATTRIBUTES OF AN EVERGREEN PLANT WITH THE ADDED BENEFIT OF A DISTINCTIVE FRAGRANCE.

PRUNING IS AN IMPORTANT GARDENING ACTIVITY THAT SHOULD BE DONE WHEN THE PLANT IS DORMANT AND NO NEW VEGETATIVE GROWTH IS FORTHCOMING. WHEN ALL GROWTH HAS STOPPED AND THE PLANT APPEARS TO GO DORMANT IN LATE FALL, SHAPE THE PLANT TO RESEMBLE A MOUND OR THE DISTINCTIVE DOME WHICH YOU OBSERVE ON MOST LAVENDER FARMS. IF YOU HARVESTED YOUR LAVENDER IN MID TO LATE SUMMER, THEN THERE MAY BE SOME BLOOMS AND DRIED SPIKES LEFT ON THE PLANT. TRIM THESE OFF AS YOU PRUNE. IF YOU DID NOT HARVEST OR DEAD-HEAD, THEN MORE MATERIAL WILL REQUIRE REMOVAL. PRUNING IN MID TO LATE OCTOBER IS AN EXCELLENT TIME TO PERFORM THE “HALLOWEEN HAIRCUT.” THE WEATHER IS STILL PLEASANT, THE SOIL IS FIRM AND HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES ARE A MONTH AWAY.

YOUR PLANT, WHEN PRUNED, SHOULD RESEMBLE A BOWL OR SLEEPING PORCUPINE. ALWAYS PRUNE SO THAT 2-3 INCHES OF GREEN GROWTH REMAIN ON THE PLANT. BY EXAMINING THE PLANT NOTICE HOW THE STEM FORMING FROM THE ROOT IS BROWN AND WOODY. FOLLOW THE WOODY STEM **UPWARD** UNTIL IT TURNS TO GREEN SOFT MATERIAL. THIS IS THE BOUNDARY LINE. STAY ABOVE THE BROWN. NO HACKING BACK! TRIM THE PLANT SO THAT 2-3 INCHES OF THIS GREEN MATERIAL **REMAIN** ON THE PLANT. THIS MATERIAL CONTAINS THE GROWTH HORMONES FOR THE NEXT SEASON’S GROWTH. REMOVE ANY MATERIAL THAT IS DAMAGED OR DISTORTS THE PLANT. USE SHARP AND CLEAN HAND HELD SHEARS. SCHEDULE THIS PRUNING EACH SEASON. IF YOU MISSED THE FALL PRUNING, PRACTICE THIS TECHNIQUE IN EARLY SPRING WHEN YOU CAN VISIT THE GARDEN. REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU HAVE HEARD OR SEEN, LAVENDER DOES NOT RESPOND FAVORABLY TO HEAVY PRUNING DEEP INTO THE BROWN WOODY GROWTH. AS YOU GET ADEPT AT PRUNING YOU WILL OBSERVE THAT THE MATURE STOECHAS VARIETIES CAN WITHSTAND A SLIGHTLY HARDER PRUNING THAN THE OTHER SPECIES. **WITH LAVENDER, IT IS EASIER TO REMEMBER “PRUNING UP, INSTEAD OF PRUNING DOWN THE PLANT.” ALWAYS LEAVE 2 TO 3 INCHES OF GREEN GROWTH ON THE PLANT.** WITH YOUNG STARTS, PRUNING IS VERY SLIGHT AND ALMOST UN-NOTICEABLE.

LAVENDER WILL RESORT TO ITS GENETIC AND NATURAL GROWTH PATTERNS MORE READILY IF NOT PRUNED EACH SEASON. USUALLY BY THE TENTH GROWING SEASON, LAVENDER WILL HAVE EVENTUALLY GROWN WOODY AND SPRAWLING MATERIAL IN THE INNER PORTION OF THE PLANT, REGARDLESS OF GOOD PRUNING PRACTICES. AN UN-PRUNED AND NEGLECTED PLANT WILL EXHIBIT THIS WOODY GROWTH, ALONG WITH SPARSE GREEN VEGETATION AND LIMITED FLOWERING AT A FASTER PACE. THE PRESENCE OF THESE SPRAWLING WOODY STEMS WILL OPEN UP THE PLANT KNOWN AS “LODGING.” SNOW AND A BUILDUP OF LEAVES AND GARDEN DEBRIS COLLECTED IN THE OPEN SPACES MAY HASTEN PLANT DAMAGE AND ROT. UNTIDY AND SPRAWLING LAVENDER IS NOT NECESSARILY UNHEALTHY OR DOOMED. IT IS GROWING NATURALLY. IT IS YOUR DECISION TO EITHER REMOVE THE PLANT OR LEAVE IT IN THE LANDSCAPE.

IN MANY CASES, THE PLANT CAN REMAIN HEALTHY FOR MANY YEARS WITH PROPER ATTENTION, EVEN WITH WIDE OPEN SPACES IN THE MIDDLE OF THE PLANT. HOWEVER, YOUR DESIRED VISUAL EFFECT IN THE GARDEN MAY BE LOST. PLANTS IN THIS CONDITION ARE NOT GOOD CANDIDATES FOR RESHAPING INTO A BUSHIER SPECIMEN. PRUNING FAR BACK INTO THE BROWN WOODY MATERIAL IS NOT PRODUCTIVE. WITH PROPER CULTIVATION YOU CAN EXPECT THE PLANT TO REMAIN VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE FOR 7-10 YEARS.

GOOD SUN EXPOSURE TO THE ENTIRE PLANT WILL PROMOTE EVEN GROWTH. A LAVENDER PLANT LEFT TO GROW NEAR A TREE OR UNDER A ROOF EAVE WILL DEVELOP LONGER BRANCHES ON ONE SIDE OF THE PLANT TO “REACH” IN THE DIRECTION OF AVAILABLE SUN LIGHT. EXTREME CLIMATE CHANGES MAY CAUSE THE DEVELOPING PLANT STEMS WITH FLOWERING BUDS TO TEMPORARILY RELAX, TWIST OR COLLAPSE. THIS IS NOT THE RESULT OF A DISEASE. DO NOT DISCOUNT ANIMALS STEPPING ON OR NESTING IN OR NEAR THE PLANTS AS A SOURCE OF PLANT DISTORTION OR DAMAGE. IN MOST CASES OUR LAVENDER PLANTS SUCCUMB TO TOO MUCH WATER, TIGHT/POOR DRAINING SOILS, OVER PRUNING AND ROTO-TILLER DAMAGE TO ROOTS.

THE LIFE SPAN OR HEALTH OF THE PLANT MAY ALSO BE AFFECTED BECAUSE OPENED BRANCHES ARE BROKEN BY SNOW OR EXPOSED TO ROT FROM THE BUILD UP OF SOGGY LEAVES, DIRT AND GARDEN DEBRIS THAT HARBOR ON THE PLANT IN THE WET WINTER AND SPRING. IT IS A GOOD GARDEN PRACTICE TO KEEP THE PLANTS FREE OF ANY DEBRIS AND REMOVE DAMAGED STEMS TO PROMOTE GOOD PLANT HEALTH AND A DESIRED VISUAL EFFECT. AGAIN “LODGED” LAVENDER PLANTS REQUIRE SPECIAL ATTENTION AND CAN NEVER BE BROUGHT BACK TO THE DENSE MOUND GARDEN FIXTURE BY PRUNING.

WATERING LAVENDER

WATERING MATURE LAVENDER PLANTS MAY OCCUR AFTER SIGNIFICANT VEGETATION OR FLOWERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED IN LATE SUMMER OR EARLY FALL, OR WHEN THE SOIL BECOMES POWDERY, HARD OR UNSEASONABLY DRY. HARVESTING AND HEAVY PRUNING REMOVE A LARGE PART OF THE PLANT'S WATER AND NUTRIENTS HELD IN THE VEGETATION. MOST COMMERCIAL GROWERS IRRIGATE DURING THE JULY AND AUGUST MONTHS WHEN HARVESTING HAS OCCURRED AND THE SOILS TEND TO BE DRY. THE PLANT BENEFITS FROM IRRIGATION IN THESE CONDITIONS BECAUSE THE GROWING SEASON IS STILL OCCURRING AND THE PLANT CONTINUES TO GROW NEW TENDER VEGETATION FOR ITS NUTRITIONAL NEEDS. REMEMBER, LAVENDER DOES NOT DISLIKE WATER; IT DISLIKES “WET FEET.” TEND TO LET THE SOIL GO DRY BETWEEN IRRIGATION CYCLES. YOUNG AND TENDER PLANTS REQUIRE VIGILANCE. THE SOIL MOISTURE AROUND TENDER PLANTS SHOULD ALWAYS FEEL LIKE A “WRUNG OUT SPONGE” UNTIL THE FALL AND WINTER RAINS HAVE APPEARED. A SOGGY SOIL IS LETHAL TO YOUNG AND TENDER PLANTS, AS IS A ROCK HARD OR POWDERY SOIL.

GENERALLY, REGULAR WATERING IS NOT REQUIRED IN LATE FALL, WINTER, SPRING AND EARLY SUMMER FOR ESTABLISHED PLANTS. GROUND MOISTURE, SEASONAL RAINS AND DEW SUSTAIN THE PLANT. HOWEVER, MAINTAINING ADEQUATE MOISTURE AROUND THE ROOT BASE OF NEWLY INSTALLED AND YOUNG PLANTS IS IMPORTANT UNTIL THE PLANT HAS ESTABLISHED ITS ROOT SYSTEM MORE FULLY AND THE FALL AND WINTER RAINS HAVE MOISTENED THE SOIL.

PROBLEMS AFFECTING LAVENDER

THE PRESENCE OF A FOAMY DROPLET ATTACHED TO THE FLOWER STEMS INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF A TINY GREEN INSECT KNOWN AS A SPITTLEBUG. IT SURVIVES BY SUCKING THE JUICES FROM THE STALK ON WHICH IT IS ATTACHED. THE FLOWER HEAD ON THAT STEM USUALLY WILL NOT FULLY DEVELOP. SPRAYING THE FOAMY DROPLET WITH A BURST OF WATER AND HAND PICKING ARE TWO METHODS FOR REMOVING THE INSECT. THE SPITTLEBUG IS A NUISANCE BUT WILL NOT PERMANENTLY OR SEVERELY DAMAGE AN OTHERWISE HEALTHY PLANT.

THERE ARE SEVERAL PLANT DISEASES THAT HARM LAVENDER; HOWEVER, THEIR PRESENCE IN OUR AMERICAN GARDENS ARE NOT PREVALENT ENOUGH TO CAUSE CONCERN.

THE MOST COMMON PROBLEM AFFECTING LAVENDER IS THE PLANT'S INABILITY TO TRANSPORT WATER AND PROCESS NUTRIENTS USING ITS ROOT SYSTEM. THIS PROBLEM OCCURS WHEN THE SOIL BECOMES OVERSATURATED AND ESSENTIAL AIR POCKETS ARE CLOGGED AND DISPLACED. THIS "GARDENER-CREATED" SITUATION ESSENTIALLY DROWNS THE ROOTS AND ELIMINATES THEIR ABILITY TO REGULATE THE MOVEMENT OF WATER AND NUTRIENTS, RESPOND TO SUNLIGHT AND TEMPERATURE, AND MAINTAIN INTERNAL PLANT PRESSURE OR TURGIDITY. OVER TIME, A SOIL BORNE PATHOGEN KNOWN AS PHYTOPHERA MAY RENDER THE TENDER ROOT HAIRS PERMANENTLY INCAPABLE OF TRANSPORTING MOISTURE AND NUTRIENTS TO THE PLANT. IT MAY TAKE 2 TO 3 SEASONS TO OBSERVE THE TOTAL DAMAGE THAT OCCURS FROM ONE OR BOTH OF THESE CONDITIONS. PORTIONS OF THE PLANT WILL DIE BACK, AND LARGER STEMS WILL BREAK FREELY FROM THE BASE OF THE PLANT. REMOVAL OF THE PLANT IS THE TYPICAL COURSE OF ACTION. REPLANTING ANY WOODY PERENNIAL IN AN AREA OF INFESTATION IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MOST LIKELY, THAT PLANTING AREA WAS NOT ORIGINALLY SUITED FOR LAVENDER GROWING.

THE ROOT SYSTEM OF LAVENDER HAS ADAPTED TO SURVIVE IN HARSH CLIMATES WITHOUT HIGH FERTILITY AND MOISTURE. THEREFORE, IT MUST BE EMPHASIZED THAT IT SHOULD BE PROTECTED FROM EXTREME SATURATION AND ENCROACHMENT BY WEEDS. CLEANLINESS AROUND THE PLANT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT. GOOD AIR CIRCULATION AND A LACK OF SOGGY LEAVES, DEAD WEEDS AND DEBRIS AROUND THE PLANT WILL DISCOURAGE THE GROWTH OF MOLDS AND FUNGUS AROUND ITS WOODY ROOT BASE. BY DEFINITION AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION, WE ARE SITUATED IN A MEDITERRANEAN GROWING REGION, BUT NOT BY MUCH. MAINTAINING GOOD DRAINAGE PRACTICES, MAXIMIZING SUN AND HEAT EXPOSURE AND RIDDING THE PLANT OF PATHOGEN AND MOISTURE LADEN DEBRIS WILL GREATLY ASSIST IN PROMOTING PLANT VIGOR.

SYMPTOMS OF PLANT STRESS

DURING THE GROWING SEASON THE LEAVES AND STEMS OF LAVENDER MAY BEND, CURL, TWIST, BECOME DISTORTED OR TURN YELLOW. IN MOST CASES, THE PLANT IS RESPONDING TO EXTREME SWINGS IN TEMPERATURE, HUMIDITY OR UNSEASONABLE RAINS. THEY WILL RECOVER. OVER SATURATING STRESSED PLANTS IN THESE CONDITIONS, ESPECIALLY DURING HUMID AND HOT PERIODS, MAY SHUT DOWN THE ROOT SYSTEM ENTIRELY AND MAY DO GREATER HARM THAN GOOD. ALWAYS STRIVE TO CREATE A GARDEN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS CLOSE TO THE PLANT'S NATIVE AREA, ONE THAT HAS FREE DRAINING SOIL, GOOD SUNLIGHT, SUMMER DRY CONDITIONS, LOW HUMIDITY AND GOOD AIR MOVEMENT.

ROAMING FORAGERS SUCH AS DEER AND ELK DO NOT LIST LAVENDER AS A FOOD OF CHOICE. DAMAGE TO PLANTS FROM THESE SPECIES IS MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR FROM HOOF TRAFFIC THAN FEEDING. HOWEVER, IF THE ANIMAL IS EXTREMELY HUNGRY IT MAY NIBBLE FROM YOUR LAVENDER GARDEN.

TENDER NEW GROWTH, IF EXPOSED TO A HARD FROST, MAY SHOW SIGNS OF DAMAGE TO A SECTION OF THE PLANT. A HEALTHY PLANT TYPICALLY RECOVERS AND IT MAY TAKE THE BETTER PART OF THE GROWING SEASON FOR THE GREEN MATERIAL TO RETURN. THE TINY LEAVES OF LAVENDER DO WITHER AND EXPERIENCE A SEASONABLE LIFE AND DEATH CYCLE

KNOWN AS NECROSIS. TOTAL DIE OFF OF ALL LEAVES WITHOUT NEW BUD AND LEAF GROWTH IN SPRING INDICATES THAT THE PLANT HAS DIED. CONFIRMATION OF PLANT DEATH CAN BE MADE BY EXAMINING THE INSIDE OF SEVERAL STEMS. IF THE STEMS LACK GREEN AND SUPPLE GROWTH AND SNAP EASILY THE PLANT HAS DIED. MOST LAVENDER VARIETIES RETAIN A GRAY-GREEN APPEARANCE DURING THE DORMANCY PERIOD. HOWEVER, SOME VARIETIES SUCH AS *Lavandula angustifolia*, 'JEAN DAVIS' EXPRESS VERY DARKENED FOLIAGE DURING PACIFIC NORTHWEST WINTERS.

HARVESTING LAVENDER

HARVESTING LAVENDER FOR DISPLAY IN A VASE OR FLORAL ARRANGEMENT IS BEST DONE WHEN THE BUDS HAVE SWOLLEN AND ARE DEEP BLUE OR PURPLE, AND SEVERAL OF THE TRUMPET FLOWERS HAVE EMERGED. HARVESTING CAN OCCUR AS THE FLOWERS CONTINUE TO BLOSSOM. IT IS BEST TO HARVEST WHEN NO MORE THAN 25-30% OF THE FLOWERS HAVE BLOSSOMED.

BOUQUETS CAN BE HARVESTED AS FRESH CUT AND DISPLAYED FOR UP TO TWO WEEKS. THEY MAY BE HUNG UPSIDE DOWN IN A DRY AND DARK SPACE FOR 7 TO 10 DAYS TO DRY. IN THIS CONDITION THE DRIED BUDS TAKE ON A STEEL BLUE TINT ALONG THE STEM AND MAY BE USED IN A DRIED FLORAL ARRANGEMENT. THE BUDS MAY BE STRIPPED FROM THE STEMS, LIGHTLY SIFTED TO REMOVE DEBRIS AND USED IN CRAFTS, SACHETS, AROMATHERAPY AND COOKING.

LAVENDER IS TRULY A PERENNIAL PLANT. IT PROVIDES A YEAR LONG PRESENCE IN THE LANDSCAPE. ITS EARLY SPRING FOLIAGE FOLLOWED BY DISTINCTIVE FLOWER SPIKES, SUMMER FLOWERS AND CONSTANT FRAGRANCE PROVIDE A LANDSCAPE MASTERPIECE, INDIVIDUALLY OR WITH OTHER PLANT VARIETIES. DURING THE WINTER DORMANCY STAGE, ITS GRAY-GREEN FOLIAGE AND DOME-LIKE STATURE PROVIDE A SUBDUED COLOR, SHAPE AND FULLNESS TO A SLEEPING GARDEN. LAVENDER'S FRESH CUT FLOWERS AND DRIED BOUQUETS PROVIDE FRAGRANCE, COLOR AND BEAUTY FROM THE OUTDOORS THAT CAN BE ENJOYED INDOORS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

FOR THE CREATIVE MIND, ARTISAN AND CHEF THE ESSENTIAL OILS DISTILLED FROM LAVENDER AND THE QUALITIES OF THE DRIED BUDS PROVIDE DISTINCTIVE FRAGRANCE AND A RELAXING AND SOOTHING EFFECT ON THE BODY AND SOUL. LAVENDER'S USEFULNESS AND DIVERSITY ARE FURTHER EXPRESSED WHEN INCORPORATED IN SACHETS, PILLOWS, POTPOURRI, BATH SALTS, WEARING APPAREL, MASSAGE OILS, TEAS, CULINARY RECIPES, CHRISTMAS WREATHS, LAVENDER WANDS AND FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS.

About the Author: Dr. Lavender is the pseudonym of Paul Jendrucko, a local lavender grower in Sequim, Washington, and co-owner of the Sequim Lavender Company with his wife Mary. Dr. Lavender is not a medical practitioner; he is just a guy who likes lavender. "The Doctor is always in" to answer your questions about lavender. Mary is always eager to offer gift giving advice for people and pets using our lavender products and the #1 pleaser in pet fashion, our DogdotCalm Lavender Dog Bandana. Fetch us at dogdotcalm@yahoo.com & 360.582.1907.

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