

How to Grow Lavender Vera



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Lavender Vera is also known as English Lavender and is thought to be the original. There are many varieties of lavender now with various scents and growing habits. Some lavenders are used medicinally and others in perfumes, air fresheners, soaps and decorations. Depending on the species, you can grow lavender plants in gardening zones 5 through 10, Lavender Vera being in the cold hardy range. These perennial bushes are very difficult and time consuming to start from seed, so have some patience. People pay A LOT OF MONEY for very little seed, so take care in opening the envelope, to the actual handling of this seed.



Initial Prep

If you have the standard lavender, *lavandula angustifolia* (*lavandula vera*) you'll probably have to grow it like an annual as it will eventually wear itself out not being able to go dormant for the winter. Just plant the seeds barely covered in moist potting soil and keep evenly moist about 75 F (24C). They should germinate in 3 or 4 weeks. Once they have germinated place them outdoors in a protected area where they will be in the shade and protected from rain, wind, etc. for about 10 days and then they can be exposed to direct sunlight but you'll still have to protect the seedlings from wind and drain until they have grown large enough and then you can plant in full sun, following the next set of steps.



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Step 1

Choose a location that is in full sun and is slightly higher than most of the landscape. This will help with drainage, as these bushes do not like soggy soil. It will also help with air circulation, as English Lavender does not do well in heat and humidity. Space plants 12 to 18 inches apart.

Step 2

Create a hole for the Lavender plant twice as wide as the container it's in and a couple inches deeper. Mix the dugout soil with compost to a ratio of 1:1. Compost not only helps with the nutrients in the soil but because of its uneven consistency, helps with drainage.

Step 3

Gently knock off the soil and spread out the roots as you remove it from the container. Plant the Lavender in the hole at the same depth as it was in the container with the amended soil. Water it in well to compact the soil around the plants roots. This will cause the soil to settle and you will need to add some more to bring it to the level of the surrounding ground.

Step 4

Water when the top of the soil starts to dry out. Lavender will tolerate being slightly dry better than being overly wet, so don't over water.



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Step 5

Mulch around the plant with pine needle mulch. This will keep the weeds down and supply the bush with nitrogen which will promote nice green, thick foliage. Keep the mulch a couple of inches away from the crown of the plant. Without proper air circulation, the crown will rot and the plant will die.

Step 6

Harvest the first blooms to encourage another show of flowers. Cutting the flower stalks should be done when the weather is dry and cool. Mid-morning or or early evening are the best times.

Step 7

Prune the bush back to keep it neat looking after harvesting the second bloom of flowers. After the third or fourth year, the plant will need to be replaced with a younger one.