



**Great Basin Lavender Association**  
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### **Lavender Planting Instructions:**

1. Soil: The soil pH should be 6.0 to 8.0. Our soil here in Nevada is usually within that range.
2. Water Drainage: Dig a planting hole and fill it with water. The water should completely drain from the hole in one hour. If it does not, change locations or, if your soil does not drain because of excessive clay, build a mound by doing the following:
  - i. Mix 1/3 native soil, 1/3 good potting soil and 1/3 river rock pebbles. ½ inch to ¾ inch size river rock pebbles should be sufficient.
  - ii. Make a mound with the mixture. The mound should be 1 foot to 18 inches high.
  - iii. Plant the lavender on top of the mound.
  - iv. Water the mound from the bottom and allow the water to soak up the mound.
3. Fertilizers: Do not use harsh fertilizers. Lavender grows very well in our soil with a minimum of additives.
  - i. When you prepare the hole, mix a little slow-release fertilizer (Ozmacote) and ¼ of a cup Dolomite Lime in the soil and at the bottom of the hole.

Once established, lavender is a drought tolerant plant. After it is initially planted, it should be watered every day for two or so weeks until you can see it is growing. Once it starts growing, watering should continue a couple of times a week for the next month or so until the plant is established.

### **The major reason for lavender failure is over-watering!**

4. Once established, if the soil is damp 2 or 3 inches under the plant, it does not need water. Just use common sense when watering. In the winter, little or no water is required. *Lavendula Angustifolias* die back and look dead in the winter but come back to life each spring. *Lavendula Intermedias* go dormant but stay mostly green for the winter.
5. It is best to cut the flowers for sachets or bouquets when the first 2 rows of blooms appear from the buds at the end of the flower spike. Cut all the spikes at once and hang them upside down in a cool dark place to dry. After about a month, you can strip the buds for sachets or leave them on the spikes for dried bouquets.
6. After the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, cut each plant back at least 1/3 in the fall.
7. Lavender does moderately well when planted in pots. Make sure the pot is large enough as lavender has an extensive root system. For planting, use a mix of your local soil and a good nonacidic potting mix. Make sure this mix drains well and do not let the plants dry out. Lavender needs at least 6 hours of sun a day. Lavender does NOT do well as an inside houseplant.