Lavandula angustifolia

English Lavender

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Hort 5051
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Taxonomy

- **Scientific Name:** *Lavandula angustifolia*
- **Synonyms:** *Lavendula vera, Lavendula spica, Lavendula officinalis*
- **Common Names:** English Lavendar, True Lavendar, Common Lavendar
- **Family:** Lamiaceae
Geographic Distribution

- Continents: North America, Europe, Australia
- Countries: US, France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Turkey
- Latitude: 30-40 degrees North
- Altitude: 3000 ft
- Climate: hot, dry, alkaline soil, sunny
- Non-invasive
Native Habitats

- Mountains of Southern Europe in the Mediterranean basin
- Chalky, rocky, sandy soil
Taxonomic Discription

- Habit: perennial shrub with grayish-blue evergreen-like foliage, and long spike flowers (pink, white, blue, violet)
- Roots: fibrous, spreading
- Bloom: July-September
- Many USES!
  - ornamental, craft, medicinal, culinary
Taxonomic Description

- **Ornamental**
  - boarders, hedges, edging

- **Craft**
  - cut flowers, dried flowers, potpourri, wreaths

- **Culinary**
  - tea, vinegar, jam, ice cream, main dish
Taxonomic Description

- Medicinal
  - Essential oils, perfumes, lotions, soaps
  - Effective sedative for relaxing nervous system, and soothing burns/wounds
  - Powerful antiseptic used to kill bacteria
  - Can also treat headaches, palsy, toothaches, coughs, digestive system, etc
Cultivars

‘Nana Alba’ : white flower - ornamental

‘Rosea’: pink flower – best for bouquets and used to enhance food with its mild flavor

‘Irene Doyle’: blue flower- flowers twice and has great essential oil properties

‘Munstead’: purple flower – prized for a great dried flower and sweet rich taste it brings to food
Propagation

- Seed: not true to type, very slow growth

- Vegetative: more consistent better results
  - take soft wood cuttings from non-flowering stems at 70 degrees F
Crop Ideotype

- Brightly colored spike inflorescence
- Pungent scent
- Dries easily
- Essential oil potential
Market Niche

- Target sales date: none specific, year round. Spring-Fall in northern climate
- Competition: other herbs, or other cultivars used for a specific quality
- Major Crop: has potential, is already very popular
- Limitations/problems: none really, except if more cultivars keep being produced competition will get high

- Identifiable to public: ‘Grosso’- yes
  ‘MLC Lavender Select’, ‘A-New Mexico’ – no
- How soon available: 5-10 years to determine how to make it flower in this cold environment (zone 4)
Anticipated Cultural Requirements

- Winter Hardiness (USDA Zones): 5-10 (aiming for zone 4)
- Heat/Drought tolerant: very tolerant, can grow in harsh conditions
- Temperature: Day: 60-65 degrees F, Night: 55 degrees F
- Light: Full sun, long days to help flowering
- Good Ventilation

- Nutrition: low, but if needed use organic chicken manure and bone meal. High concentrations lead to poor essential oil content
- Soil: well-drained, sandy, neutral-alkaline
- PGRs: none
- Container size: 4”-6”
- Disease: verticillium wilt, Phytophthora/Armillaria root rot, and Botrytis
Production Schedule

- Estimated Weeks:
  - cutting to root: 3-4 weeks
  - FBI/FBD: 25-30 weeks
  - shipping: 25 weeks

- Estimated treatments:
  - 1000 ppm IBA on cuttings
  - vernalization (35 degrees F) during the winter months to produce strong growth

- Target sales date: year round, but May-September for the northern ornamentals
Needs Assessment for Genetic Improvement

- Research on photoperiod for the cold hardy cultivars
- Improvement for flowering
- Improvement on production for a faster growth rate to maturity
Works Cited