

Lavender

Lavandula angustifolia · Lamiaceae

DIFFICULTY Easy

TYPE Evergreen perennial shrub

MATURITY 1–2 years to good flowering



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Low, drought tolerant once established



SOIL PH
6.5–7.5



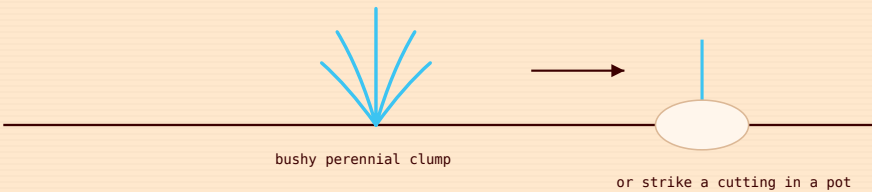
SPACING
0.5–1m



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Prune hard, or lose the shape

Lavender's fragrant flower spikes are traditionally dried for sachets and potpourri, but the plant turns woody and sparse within a couple of seasons without a proper annual prune — cut back hard after flowering to keep it dense rather than leggy.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant from a nursery pot, or strike cuttings.
SOIL	Free-draining, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Plant in spring or autumn.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Water moderately while establishing; drought tolerant once settled in.
- Prune hard after flowering to prevent woodiness.
- Mulch lightly with gravel or sand, kept clear of the base.
- Replace plants every 4–5 years once they get very woody.

04 Problems

- **Root rot** — from poor drainage; ensure it's not sitting wet.
- **High humidity** — dislikes humid conditions; space well for airflow.
- **Woody, sparse growth** — lack of pruning; trim annually after flowering.
- **Spider mite** — hot, dry weather; occasional hose down.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Ready when the lower flowers on each spike have just opened, usually late spring to summer.
METHOD	Cut whole flower spikes with several centimetres of stem attached.
CURING	Air-dry hanging upside down in small bunches, out of direct sun.
STORAGE	Dried flowers keep for a year or more in an airtight container.
PRESERVING	See Dehydrating for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Brassicas Roses Other Mediterranean herbs	Few restrictions	Not applicable — long-lived shrub.