

Lakeshore Garden Centres

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Sweet Lavender



Sweet Lavender

Lavandula x heterophylla

Height: 5 feet

Spread: 5 feet

Spacing: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Other Names: *Lavandula dentata x angustifolia*

Description:

A very upright, linear-foliaged shrub, presenting dark violet-blue flower spikes that rise above the green foliage; exceptionally tough, hardy and heat tolerant; ideal for borders, cottage gardens, and containers; not a culinary variety

Ornamental Features

Sweet Lavender has masses of beautiful spikes of fragrant violet flowers with blue overtones rising above the foliage from late winter to late fall, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive fragrant needle-like leaves are grayish green in colour. The foliage often turns coppery-bronze in fall.

Landscape Attributes

Sweet Lavender is a dense multi-stemmed annual with an upright spreading habit of growth. It brings an extremely fine and delicate texture to the garden composition and should be used to full effect.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and can be pruned at anytime. It is a good choice for attracting bees and butterflies to your yard, but is not particularly attractive to deer who tend to leave it alone in favor of tastier treats. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Sweet Lavender is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Hedges/Screening
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- General Garden Use
- Container Planting



Sweet Lavender flower buds
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Sweet Lavender in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

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Planting & Growing

Sweet Lavender will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 5 feet. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 4 feet apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. Although it's not a true annual, this slow-growing plant can be expected to behave as an annual in our climate if left outdoors over the winter, usually needing replacement the following year. As such, gardeners should take into consideration that it will perform differently than it would in its native habitat.

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. To help this plant achieve its best flowering performance, periodically apply a flower-boosting fertilizer from early spring through into the active growing season. It is not particular as to soil type, but has a definite preference for alkaline soils, and is able to handle environmental salt. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.

Sweet Lavender is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.