



Great Basin Lavender Association
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Great Basin Lavender Fact Sheet #1

1. **Suitable Varieties:**

The best lavender varieties for the Great Basin are those that grow best in our high desert climate. Look for plants from local lavender growers or local nurseries that stock plants suitable for our region. Farmers markets often have local lavender plants available. Two varieties, English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) and Lavandin (*Lavandula X intermedia*), are more tolerant to the region's temperatures and extremes.

2. **Soil Requirements:**

Lavender thrives in well-draining, sandy, or loamy soil with a pH between 6.5 and 7.5. Avoid heavy clay soils as they retain too much moisture.

3. **Sunlight:**

Lavender requires full sun, needing at least 6 to 8 hours of direct sunlight daily. Planting in an area with good air circulation can also help prevent fungal diseases.

4. **Watering:**

Newly planted lavender needs regular watering until established, about once a week. Mature plants prefer less frequent watering; water deeply but infrequently, allowing the soil to dry out between waterings.

5. **Spacing:**

Space lavender plants according to their size at full maturity, to ensure good air circulation and reduce the risk of fungal diseases. Small varieties can be spaced 12 to 24 inches apart, and larger varieties may need up to 36 inches of spacing.

6. **Pruning:**

Prune lavender annually in the spring, cutting back about one-third of the plant to encourage bushier growth and more prolific blooming. Avoid cutting into the woody stems.

7. **Mulching:**

Use gravel or small stones as mulch around lavender plants to improve drainage

and reflect heat. Avoid organic mulches that can retain moisture.

8. **Winter Protection:**

In areas with harsh winters, provide some protection by applying a light mulch of straw or pine needles around the base of the plants. Remove mulch in the spring. Consider using a frost cloth for added protection.

9. **Pests and Diseases:**

Lavender is generally pest-resistant, but it can be susceptible to root rot in poorly drained soil. Maintain proper spacing and avoid overwatering to prevent fungal diseases.

10. **Harvesting:**

Harvest lavender flowers in the morning after the dew has dried, but before the heat of the day. Cut stems when about one-third of the flower buds have opened for the best fragrance and color.

These tips should help ensure healthy lavender plants and bountiful harvest in the Great Basin.



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MISSION & HISTORY

The Great Basin Lavender Association (GBLA) began in 2023. While in its infancy, it strives to build region-wide membership and provide educational resources and activities that nurture an environment conducive to effective and efficient production of lavender.