



May/June 2024 Newsletter

Lavender Northwest Invites You To Enjoy Lavender All Year Round!



*L. ang. 'French Fields' at Park Place Perennials, Oregon
PC: Julie Park*

May/June 2024

Lavender season is just about upon us -- only a few more weeks until the first farms in the Pacific NW start harvesting their English lavenders. After that, it's off to the races, as we harvest both English lavenders and French lavandins for dried bouquets, buds, and oil. Be sure to take a look below for links with information about how to contact your local farms -- there are lots of u-pick options, events, and festivals heading your way!

Early Blooming English Lavenders (*Lavandula angustifolia* cultivars)

*Chris Mulder
Barn Owl Nursery*

Some of the hardiest and most popular lavenders, and by far the largest group of lavenders, are the *Lavandula angustifolia* cultivars, also known as "English" or "true" lavenders. There are over 100 named cultivars of

Featured Lavenders Early Blooming English Lavender

*Chris Mulder
Barn Owl Nursery*



PC: Wayward Winds Lavender

'Folgate' *Lavandula angustifolia* cv.

Flower Color: Violet-Blue
Stem Length: 10-12 inches
Plant Height: 20-24 inches
Origin: Before 1933,
Folgate Nursery, Chilvers
family in Norfolk, England

Folgate is one of the first English lavenders to bloom early in many locations in the Pacific Northwest. It is known to be particularly hardy in colder climates.

The plant forms a neat, compact green-grey mound and can be grown as a border or low hedge in the landscape.

The flowers are very

lavender in this group alone! Some of these lavenders will start blooming by the first or second week in June in the Pacific NW. A few of them will bloom again later in the summer and early autumn months. Within this large group of lavenders, there is a wide range of plant sizes. Their flower colors range from the whole spectrum of light violet-blue to dark purple-blue. You will also find light pink and white flowering cultivars.

There are English lavenders that will fit any size garden and many of the smallest cultivars can be grown successfully in large containers. With so many cultivars to choose from, it is possible to grow and enjoy a wide selection of lavenders with different flower colors and bloom times from early June through early autumn throughout the Pacific NW.

Most English lavender cultivars will thrive, if they are planted in full sun, in soil that drains well and given enough space to allow the plants to dry out between rain. English lavenders can be enjoyed in the garden for many years if given ideal growing conditions and if they are pruned well at least once each year. Some *L. angustifolia* cultivars are known to survive outdoors in regions that have extreme winter and summer temperatures, if given extra care.

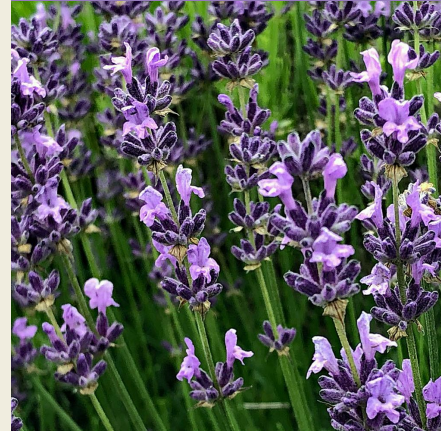
There is a lot to consider when choosing lavender plants for your unique garden space and landscape. One of the best ways to decide which lavenders are best suited for your USDA growing zone, is to visit different local lavender farms and nurseries in your region. The best months to visit lavender farms are usually May through August, especially during their lavender bloom season. See established lavender plants in different landscapes and fields and discover how lavender can be planted alone or combined with other annual and perennial plants, especially with plants that are drought tolerant and like the same growing conditions as lavender.

In the Pacific NW, usually the first English lavender cultivars that start blooming in early June are *Lavandula angustifolia*: 'Croxtton's Wild', 'Folgate', 'French Fields', 'Irene Doyle/Two Seasons', 'Munstead', 'Nana', and 'Tucker's Early Purple'.

To see different English lavenders blooming, keep in mind where each lavender farm is located and how our changing climate and the microclimates in different regions will affect lavender bloom time each year. No matter which cultivar of lavender is planted, the bloom time will be influenced by the weather, the location, and the elevation where the plants are grown. Different lavender cultivars start blooming at different times in June and some may still be blooming in July. Lavender farmers that grow a lot of the English lavender cultivars usually see their peak lavender bloom sometime in June. Some farmers might harvest most of their lavender flowers for fresh and dried bouquets and offer u-pick opportunities throughout the month.

There are so many different, hardy lavender plants available in the Pacific NW. Be sure to check LNW

fragrant and appear to be an iridescent periwinkle-blue. They make lovely fresh and dried bouquets. The fresh and dried buds are used as culinary lavender to flavor foods and beverages. The dried buds are used for crafts and to fill sachets.



PC: Michael Lemmers, Oregon

'French Fields' *Lavandula angustifolia*

This cultivar was introduced in the Pacific NW by Andy & Melissa Van Hevelingen in Oregon.

'French Fields' is one of the first English lavenders to bloom early in June in the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

Read more about this PNW original [on our website](#).

Organic Spittle Bug Treatments

members' profiles on the Lavender NW website for more information. Find lavender farms and lavender farmers to visit at farmers' markets and events that are located in your region. www.lavender-nw.org

Strawberries in Lemon Lavender Syrup

Recipe adapted from food.com



photo by Pam Baker

Ingredients

- 1 lb fresh strawberries
- 6 tablespoons water
- 1/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 3 tablespoons dried lavender flowers
- whipped cream

Directions

Rinse and drain strawberries. Hull and cut into halves or quarters into a big bowl and set aside.

In a small saucepan over low heat, combine water, lemon juice, sugar and lavender and simmer, stirring



PC: Woodlands.co.uk

In the late spring and early summer, around the same time as the lavender stems and flower spikes begin to form and grow tall, and when the lavender plants begin to show a little color, you probably will notice what looks like globs of foamy white spit or spittle clinging to the plants! It is quite common on lavender plants that are grown outside to be affected by the annual pests called Spittle bugs, or Froghoppers in the U.K.

Learn more about this insect as well as some organic treatments **on our website.**

LNW Lavender Farms Starting to Show Color



'Buena Vista' at Down by the

occasionally, for about 3 minutes or until sugar is dissolved and lavender is infused. Remove from heat and strain the syrup, discarding the blossoms.

Pour the strained syrup over the strawberries and toss gently to mix. Serve berries and syrup right away in nice glass bowls or stemmed glasses. Garnish with whipped cream.

You can prepare the syrup in advance and let it cool. Toss with berries just before serving. Enjoy!

Makes 4 servings.

Featured Farmer: 3 Strands Farm Molalla, Oregon



Like many people, Mary Bails had dreams of leaving her corporate financial position and doing something that involved less stress. Little did she know that a joke with her co-workers, a visit to a lavender farm and the encouragement and help of her husband, Shane, would lead to the beginning of a new adventure. If you haven't been to their farm in Molalla then let us tell you a bit about them. 3 Strands Farm has approximately 700 plants made up of 'Hidcote', 'Miss Katherine', 'Celestial Star', & 'Royal Velvet'. Although Mary doesn't have a favorite at the moment, she is always evaluating and

*River Lavender,
Wenatchee, WA.
PC: Beth Hammerberg*



*'Miss Katherine' at Scoggins
Valley Farm, Gaston, OR.
PC: Terri Powell*



*'Grosso' Lavandin at Lake
Holm Lavender,
Auburn, WA.
PC: Jackie Szarka*

Be On The Lookout for Bud Break!

Once the fields begin to show their beautiful colors, the next thing to look for is bud break -- the first flowers that emerge from the buds.

It won't be long now!

contemplating what it might become.

Read more...



PC: RavenCroft

LNW Member Announcements and Events

SAVE THE DATES!

JUNE 5, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Zoom OSU Education - Cultivating Lavender
[Information and registration](#)

AUGUST 22, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
LNW Video Member Meeting
Lavender Season Recap and Discussion

OCTOBER 4 - 6
PNW Regional Lavender Conference and LNW Member Meeting
Bend, Oregon

Find Lavender Northwest Members, Events, and Products

There are several places on the Lavender Northwest website where you will find information about our members' lavender farms and businesses in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

When you go to the new Lavender Northwest website, you will discover many of the outstanding lavender resources in our Pacific Northwest region and all that our LNW members offer.

You can start your search by clicking **[Access Lavender](#)** and then going to:

[Find a Member](#) - see LNW Professional Members' Profiles

[Lavender Happenings](#) - see the Events our members attend or offer on their farms

[Lavender Marketplace](#) - see Members' Products and the Services they offer.

You will find our members' websites and their online stores, the farms and stores that are open to the public, farms that offer u-pick lavender, lavender plants, essential oils, and many more local, culinary, and fragrant lavender products. Some of our members are wholesale providers, culinary specialists, and product creators!

Attention All LNW Members: We Need You!

Volunteers are needed to help in LNW work groups.

Please email **info@lavender-nw.org** to volunteer.

We will contact you with more information and a link to join the online work group

meetings.

Become a Member
Have you thought about being a member of Lavender Northwest?
[Join Us!](#)

Visit our website for more information: lavender-nw.org

Stay Connected!

Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

Do you have a recipe or photo you'd like to share? Please send it our way. We'd love to include them in the newsletter!

Contact: [Pam Baker](#)

And finally, Dear Readers...

**"A flower's appeal is in its contradictions -
so delicate in form yet strong in fragrance,
so small in size yet big in beauty,
so short in life yet long on effect."
~ Terri Guillemets**



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