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June 2023 Newsletter

Lavender Northwest Invites You To Enjoy Lavender All Year Round!



Willamette Valley Lavender, Canby, Oregon

June 2023

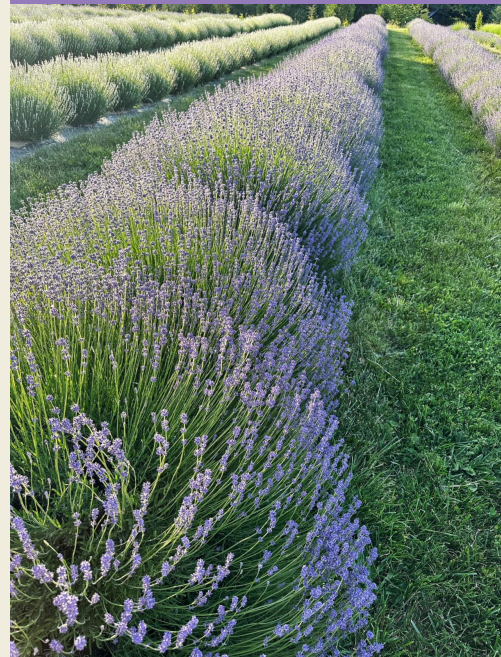
Happy Lavender Season!

Our lavender farmers are anxiously awaiting the first bloom of our *Lavandula angustifolia* cultivars. Once that happens, it's off to the races with harvesting, distilling, and managing various events and classes. We hope you can make it to a few farms this season and enjoy the beauty of lavender in bloom!

Regional Considerations: To see lavender blooming in the Pacific Northwest, keep in mind where each lavender farm is located and how the changing environment in each region will affect their bloom time. No matter what species and cultivar of lavender is planted, the bloom time will be influenced by the climate, the location and the elevation where the plants are grown. For example, a wet, cold spring can delay the bloom time, while a warm spring and heat earlier in the summer will

Follow the Bloom During Lavender Season In June

Chris Mulder
Barn Owl Nursery



(PC: Park Place Perennials)

In mid-June, the largest group of lavenders, *Lavandula angustifolia* cultivars begin blooming. This group of lavenders offers a wide range of flower colors, from white and pink, to the whole spectrum of light violet to dark purple. Many of these cultivars have very dark blue-purple buds and flowers that are used to make beautiful fresh and dried bouquets and are enjoyed for their sweet floral scent.

speed up the blooming process.

Lavender farms that grow more *L. angustifolia* cultivars will usually have their peak bloom from mid to late June. Check with the farms you plan to visit ahead of time to find out what they have in bloom in their fields and gardens.

June is also the month for Dads and Grads, so if you're looking for a gift for either or both of those, we hope you will visit our farms and online shops for some beautiful, handcrafted, unique gifts!

LNW Member Announcements

Save the Dates!

- LNW Zoom Member Meeting

August 31, 2023

- LNW In Person Meeting

October 6-8, 2023 in Sequim, WA.

Watch your emails for details later this summer.

LNW Member Marketplace:

Looking for local lavender products but don't know where to find them? Lavender Northwest has a great feature on the website! It's the online **Lavender Marketplace**, where you can find which farms sell which products. An easy way to find what you need!

Attention All LNW members:

Volunteers are needed to help in LNW work groups. Please email info@lavender-nw.org to volunteer. We will contact you to let you know where help is needed throughout the year.

Professional LNW Members:

Please update your information and add your summer lavender events and classes to the event calendar on the LNW website.

Professional LNW Members

Please watch your emails for **useful harvest logs** you can print and use to record your 2023 lavender harvest. **Contribute your harvest data and be counted in our LNW regional lavender harvest survey!**

LNW Farm Photos Needed!! We need current photos of your farm, different lavender close-ups, and field or garden photos with lavender in bloom and throughout the year, for our LNW photo library. Please send your photos to pbaker@littlelavenderfarm.com

Events & Classes

This will be a busy month at local lavender farms! Looking for festivals? U-pick? Wreath-making? Photo sessions? Painting classes? Just check our

The buds from many of these lavenders are used as culinary lavender to flavor foods and beverages. The flowers produce sweet scented essential oils that are used for aromatherapy and in a variety of lavender products.

There are over 100 *Lavandula angustifolia* cultivars available in the Pacific NW. In fact, 24 lavenders in this group were introduced in the NW! They include: 'Alpine Alba', 'Aimee Roberts', 'Betty's Blue', 'Blushing Bride', 'Bouquet', 'Buena Vista', 'Cedar Pink', 'Chelsea Pink', 'Eola', 'Fairie Pink', 'Frances', 'French Fields', 'McKenzie River Purple', 'Melissa', 'New Zealand Blue', 'No. 9', 'Opal Rain', 'Premier', 'Purple Bouquet', 'Royal Velvet', 'Sachet', 'Sharon Roberts', 'Summerland Supreme' and 'Wyckoff'.

Lavender and Weddings

It's lavender season and coincidentally it's also wedding season. The perfect match! Lavender is a beautiful addition to any wedding with its many shades of purple, white, and pink and its beautiful scent. Here are just a few ways to incorporate lavender into a wedding:

1. As the bride's and bridesmaid's bouquets
2. Pre-wedding table centerpieces
3. Seating chart decoration
4. To adorn wedding seating
5. Reception table centerpieces
6. Wedding cake topper
7. In a cocktail
8. To throw buds as the new couple depart, (instead of rice)
9. Wedding favors
10. As the venue

There are many ideas for using lavender on Pinterest as well as many great wedding planning

event calendar for up-to-date information about what's happening in your area!

You will find LNW members at farmers' markets and at booths at special events. Many LNW farmers sell their lavender products online from their websites.

Another great place to find lavender products from local farms and stores is to check our members' listings on the **Destinations Page** on the LNW website. Find LNW members' farms in Oregon, Washington, Montana and Idaho to see what they are offering this lavender season.

Cultivating Lavender – Part I: Planting

By Michael Lemmers of **RavenCroft**



(PC: **RavenCroft**)

So, you want grow lavender, but you don't know much about it?

No problem – let's start with the basics.

“Lavender” itself can be a confusing term as it is often used very loosely to designate a wide variety of species within the *Lavandula* genus. In this article, we will focus on *Lavandula angustifolia*, often called “English lavender” (but don't count on that nickname being used consistently). While there are many available cultivars, they all tend to grow as low shrubs, varying in size from dwarf to large, and displaying variable degrees of compactness. Colors of the bud casings and actual flowers range from deep to light purples and blues, as well as pinks and whites, and even sage-green hues on some buds. Besides their showy, ornamental value on display during late spring and summer bloom periods, these plants score points for decorative, culinary, fragrance, and even medicinal utility.

websites. Below are just a few photos found on Pinterest for inspiration!



Location, location, location

This infamous real estate mantra has value when thinking about where to grow lavender. Originating in the Mediterranean region of the world, this plant is adapted to a warm, relatively dry climate, with abundant sun exposure. Once established, it has a reasonably good tolerance for limited drought. In fact, owing to lavender's susceptibility to root rot and fungal diseases, water-logging the root zones is a reliable way to decimate your lavender plants! In relatively wet regions, it is critical for water to run off and not stagnate around the plants. An ideal site for lavender would be a south-facing slope with full sun exposure. Winters can present some added challenges to lavender survival, beyond excess water exposure. Frost is generally well-tolerated, but deep freezes will affect some cultivars adversely. Another injurious winter threat comes in the form of prolonged dry winds. In the United States, one can usually find cultivars of *Lavandula angustifolia* that will thrive in USDA hardiness zones 5 through 9.

Substrate

Lavender's Mediterranean origins have hard-wired its preference for well-drained, relatively nutrient-poor soil that is more alkaline than most forest-region soils in the US. While it will grow in less-than-ideal soils, lavender will benefit from loosening up heavy clay with compost, and from dislodging some of the proton load in acidic soils by using agricultural lime preparations. A soil test will go a long way toward identifying specific deficiencies that may need to be corrected in order to support strong growth of lavender, particularly some of the essential micronutrients. Of course, lavender is no different than any other plant in terms of needing nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium sources, but it doesn't like to be pushed hard with applied fertilizers. In general, modest applications of balanced fertilizer formulations (such as NPK 10-10-10) can be beneficial to lavender in particularly nutrient-deficient settings, which include lavender growing in pots.

Water

Given a suitable place to grow, *Lavandula angustifolia* plants will develop deep and wide root systems that ultimately provide a good deal of resistance to drought-stress. Immature plants, however, will need sufficient water support until they become established over one or two growing seasons. To encourage vegetative and root development in the initial stage of lavender growth (summer seasons 1 and sometimes 2), cutting off any flower spikes as they appear is frequently advised. Once established, lavender plants will



Lavender Ice Cubes



PC: Norwood Lavender Farm

Here's an easy way to make your summer drinks a little more festive! All you need is an ice tray that makes long ice cubes (the kind you use for water bottles), and some fresh or dried sprigs of lavender.

To get the clearest ice possible, boil the water first and let it cool. Add lavender sprigs to the ice trays, pour the cooled water over sprigs, freeze, and soon you will have beautiful lavender ice cubes!

Simple Strawberry Lavender Spritzer

*Recipe and photo by
acouplecooks.com*

adapt to prevailing summer dry spells, but may benefit from watering during particularly hot and dry periods. As mentioned above, prolonged exposure to water-logged soil must be meticulously avoided.

Now that we've got some of the basics covered, gather up some lavender starts and get planting!

To read **Part II** of this article just visit the LNW website blog, where we'll take on topics pertaining to the care for your new plants once they become established.

Check out the Lavender NW website blog posts for more information written by LNW members.

Ask LNW: "What's that white stuff on my lavender plant?"

By Chris Mulder, Barn Owl Nursery



PC: Roxanne Packham

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. These insects are Cercopidae, and they are rarely a problem, since they are not a serious threat to lavender plants. However, they may cause the foliage on your plants to be slightly distorted. They also take away from the beautiful sight of the lavender blooming in your field or garden. The



This sparkling lavender lemon spritzer is tangy and refreshing, scented with fresh lavender and garnished with juicy fresh strawberries.

Ingredients

- 3 large sprigs fresh lavender, plus additional for garnish
- Zest of 1/2 lemon
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup water
- 10 cups sparkling water
- 10 strawberries

Instructions

In a small pot, combine the lavender, zest of 1/2 lemon, sugar, and water. Simmer for 15 minutes, making sure that it does not boil. Cool, then pour into a sealable container and refrigerate until serving. (stores refrigerated for 1 to 2 weeks).

To assemble each drink: combine 1 to 2 tablespoons lavender syrup with 1 cup sparkling water. Garnish with sliced strawberries and a small sprig of lavender.

Natural Sunburn Spray

Recipe by *The Herbal Academy*

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon fractionated coconut oil
- 30 drops lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) essential oil
- 10 drops peppermint

little green insects inside the 'spit' can also be a little messy when you are harvesting your lavender by hand. You may have to shake off the 'spit' and the insects that are hiding within it.

Here are some organic choices for dealing with these pests.

Ignore them and they will slowly disappear in two or three weeks, causing minimal damage.

Spray them off the plants with a light stream of water. However, if you are harvesting your lavender to dry, you will have to wait until the water has dried off the flower spikes and stems before you bundle the lavender and hang it to dry.

If this pest becomes a real problem, then plants can be washed regularly with a water jet or drenched with soft soap so that it penetrates the 'spit' and reaches the insect inside.

For the soft soap method: Dissolve 3 tablespoons of Fels Naptha bar soap, in one gallon of hot water. Mix well. Allow it to cool before placing in a spray bottle. Spray the affected areas on your plants, as needed.

(*Mentha x piperita*)
essential oil

- 3 tablespoons aloe (*Aloe vera*) leaf gel
- 3 tablespoons steam-distilled hydrosol, such as rose (*Rosa* spp.), calendula (*Calendula officinalis*), or witch hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
- 1 tablespoon herb-infused or plain apple cider vinegar
- 4 ounce glass bottle with spray top

Directions

Combine the coconut oil and essential oils in the bottle and stir or shake to mix well. For adults, use up to 40 drops of essential oil to make a 2% dilution. For children, omit peppermint essential oil and reduce lavender essential oil to 20 drops for a 1% **dilution**. Add aloe gel, hydrosol or witch hazel, and vinegar and stir or shake to mix well.

Label and store in the refrigerator for 2-3 weeks before making a fresh batch. Shake well before each use, and spray evenly over skin.

Featured Farmer: Scoggins Valley Farm

Cultivating Success with Lavender

Gaston, Oregon





Terri Powell, the owner of Scoggins Valley Farm, has found her true calling in lavender farming. In a quest to generate income from her property, Terri explored various options and discovered that lavender resonated with her on a personal level while also offering significant financial potential. In this interview, she shares her journey into lavender farming, her favorite lavender varieties, marketing strategies, growing tips, and even a few innovative culinary uses for her lavender.

Terri's venture into lavender farming began in the spring of 2022 when she decided to return to her farming roots. Previously, Terri had experience farming row crops in the '90s, and she wanted to reignite her passion for agriculture. Lavender emerged as the perfect choice as it not only allowed her to reconnect with farming but also offered the opportunity to create a thriving market for end-users.

Scoggins Valley Farm currently cultivates 800 lavender plants, consisting of 10 different cultivars, all with a sweet flavor profile. Terri's favorite variety is Buena Vista, cherished for its abundant flowers and resilient nature. The primary focus of the farm is culinary lavender, with Terri aiming to market lavender honey ice cream and her original lavender cotton candy. She also enjoys experimenting with dried lavender buds as a spice, particularly in meat dishes in place of or with rosemary, and creating lavender simple syrups that enhance a variety of treats like cocktails, ice cream, iced tea, or even hot chocolate. One of Terri's favorite recipe books is *The Art of Cooking with Lavender* by Nancy Baggett. She was fortunate enough to meet the author at the US Lavender pre-conference workshop and was inspired to try new uses like lavender simple syrup or honey lavender BBQ sauce.

Scoggins Valley Farm actively engages in community outreach. Terri passionately shares her knowledge and love for lavender with everyone she meets, which has led to unexpected business opportunities. For instance, she now supplies lavender buds to a local restaurant, enabling them to create their own lavender-infused syrups. Additionally, she sells lavender plants at farmers' markets, where the community's enthusiastic response confirms the demand for high-quality lavender products. Terri has also developed a comprehensive care sheet to support new lavender growers in her local community.

Terri emphasizes the significance of learning from local lavender growers to ensure success in cultivation. Each region has unique climate conditions, and the wisdom shared by experienced lavender farmers proves invaluable. Attending lavender conferences has demystified many aspects of lavender farming for Terri. She advises against accepting generalized advice as it may not apply universally. Instead, she encourages farmers to adapt their approach based on their specific circumstances.

Reflecting on her journey, Terri highlights the lessons learned along the way. She regrets planting lavender in the fall due to the added stress it imposed during the Winter season in her area. Based on this experience, she prefers Spring planting to avoid potential challenges. Furthermore, Terri emphasizes the importance of providing the correct setup and conditions for successful lavender propagation.

In addition to farming, Terri also has her own insurance agency located at her farm. As an insurance agent, Terri has a unique perspective on the needs of other lavender farms and is always willing to provide advice to fellow lavender growers. Her main recommendation is to understand that farm insurance is very different from standard home insurance, and since most lavender farmers start out as homeowners, it's important to have the correct coverage. As a professional insurance agent, she advises always letting our insurance agent or company know exactly what we plan to do with our property because if this is not disclosed and there is a claim on any of our property buildings, it might not be covered if we omitted to disclose our business operations. The good news, she adds, is that everything we do with our lavender farms is insurable, so make certain to have the coverage you need.

While lavender remains the primary focus of Scoggins Valley Farm, Terri has plans to

diversify its offerings. With 20 acres of newly planted Douglas fir and the potential for cultivating elderberries, she envisions a vibrant and diverse agricultural landscape. Balancing her lavender farm with her insurance agency, Terri enjoys a fulfilling and rewarding life on the farm.

Terri's journey as a lavender farmer exemplifies the power of pursuing one's passion and finding success in an industry aligned with personal interests. As she continues to cultivate lavender and share her knowledge, Scoggins Valley Farm promises to be a flourishing venture rooted in the beauty and benefits of this remarkable crop.

Terri Powell Contact Information:
Telephone (541) 508-8489 | (503) 521-8842
Email: tpowell2@amfam.com

Call for Action:

Would you like to see your farm featured in this newsletter? Contact Mike & Sandra Mitchell today at willamettevalleylavander@gmail.com or call/text at (503) 860-8346 / (503) 705-7731. LNW is always looking for member farms, regardless of size or experience, who are willing to share their journey with lavender.

About Lavender Northwest

Check out our beautiful online brochure!

Lavender Northwest is an organization created for the purpose of showcasing and promoting lavender grown in the Pacific Northwest.

It draws upon established regional expertise in lavender cultivation, preparation of primary lavender products, and incorporation of lavender into value-added products.

Through collaborative promotional opportunities, as well as focused educational efforts, *Lavender Northwest* intends to serve its members by offering extended reach to potential consumers, by expanding technical and business knowledge, and by providing support for interested individuals and developing lavender businesses.

Dedicated to the interests of regional lavender growers and product-makers, the organization is structured as a non-profit corporation, and evolved through the cooperation of its progenitors, the *Oregon Lavender Association (OLA)* and the *Washington Lavender Association (WLA)*.

Stay Connected!

Check out our [website](#) for more information on lavender and its many

Become a Member

Have you thought about being a member of Lavender Northwest?

Did you know that you don't have to be a lavender grower to be a member!

Great things are happening at our meetings. In-person meetings include many educational and networking opportunities like farm tours in our NW region, distillation and equipment demonstrations, propagation and other hands-on workshops, along with many knowledge sharing activities that members are able to take part in.

Being entirely member driven, our association asks for an active membership.

There are two levels of membership: **Professional** and **Associate**.

The **Professional** level is for those with direct ties to lavender grown in the Pacific Northwest, either as a grower, primary product supplier (plants, bundles, buds, oils, etc.), or as a product developer featuring northwest-grown lavender.

uses! Be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and **Instagram** for more ideas!

Be part of the conversation!

Do you have a lavender-related recipe, growing tip, photo, or experience that you'd like to share? Please contact

Pam Baker at
[pbaker@littl Lavender Farm.com](mailto:pbaker@littl Lavender Farm)

A n **Associate** level supports the efforts of Lavender Northwest to promote awareness and expansion of regional lavender growers and product developers and may have a potential business interest involving northwest-grown lavender.

New members enroll on the website **Lavender-NW.org**

And finally, Dear Readers...

"Knowledge is power. Sharing knowledge is the key to unlocking that power."

~Martin Uzochukwu Ugwu



Lavender Northwest

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