



LAVENDER NORTHWEST

Winter Quarter 2025 Newsletter

Lavender Northwest Invites You To Enjoy Lavender All Year Round!

Winter Watchfulness

Autumn's glory has passed, and your lavender plants have transitioned into dormancy for their long winter nap. Help them survive by keeping an eye open for seasonal issues against which your plants are defenseless.

1. Remove accumulated organic debris away from the root crowns of your plants.
2. Assure that periods of heavy rainfall do not create pools of standing water around your plants.
3. Cold weather is generally tolerated, but frequent exposure to cold, dry winds can be harmful. Consider wind-breaks or temporary coverings for susceptible plants.
4. Remove dead or diseased plants to reduce the risk of spread of viral and fungal conditions to your healthy plants.
5. Resist the urge to prune. Winter is not the time to trim plants back, and risk stimulating premature new growth. Wait until very late winter or spring, just before the plants start greening up for next season.



PC: RavenCroft

SAVE THE DATES



PC: Mary Bails

Upcoming LNW Quarterly Member Meetings

WINTER 2026

Date: January 22nd

Location: Online

Primary Topic: Introducing the LNW Marketing Guidelines for Small-Scale Lavender Growers in the Pacific NW.

Registration: Not required.

Watch your January emails for the meeting link.

SPRING 2026

Date: Late April

Location: Spokane, Washington area

Agenda: Expect a mix of educational presentations, demonstrations, and farm tours.

Registration: Meeting details, registration instructions, and local accommodation suggestions will be posted in February...watch your email.

LAVENDER HYDROSOL IN THE SPOT-LIGHT

So much of a typical lavender grower's attention is directed toward the production of high quality dried bundles, buds, and essential oil, making it easy to forget about our *other* distillation product, lavender hydrosol. At the recent Autumn Quarter regional member meetings, hydrosol was given some overdue consideration. Ways of obtaining better quality hydrosol were discussed, and many samples from different cultivars and distillers were compared.

Additionally, a wide variety of hydrosol uses were identified. The culmination of these efforts was the introduction of a new Lavender Northwest trifold guide to hydrosol and its applications. The trifold is available to LNW members in printed form for distribution to customers (see the LNW store), and in digital form to download and share electronically (see the LNW website Documents page).

Lavender lovers wanting to know more about hydrosol are invited to contact their local LNW growers and businesses and ask them to share the new trifold with them.



PC: RavenCroft

FEATURED LAVENDERS

Northwest Originals

Chris Mulder,
[Barn Owl Nursery](#)

Lavandula angustifolia
'Frances'

(Upper Image)

Flower Color: medium-dark violet

Stem Length: 12-14"

Plant Height: 15-18"

Plant Width: 24-36"

'Frances' is a cold hardy lavender in the Pacific NW and grows in USDA Zones 5-8.

This very hardy, unique *L. angustifolia* cultivar grows wider than tall, and produces long flower heads, on long straight stems.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



PC: Van Hevelingen Nursery

Lavandula angustifolia
'New Zealand Blue'

(Lower Image)

Flower Color: medium violet-blue

Stem Length: 10-12"

Plant Height: 15-18"

In the Pacific NW, this hardy lavender is a vigorous grower. It will form a dense compact bush over time and be covered with profuse flower spikes on sturdy stems.

Click [HERE](#) to read more.



PC: Van Hevelingen Nursery



CULTIVATION TIPS

"What are the main winter threats to lavender plants growing in the Pacific Northwest?"

To provide us with another glorious purple performance next summer, our lavender plants must survive the challenges of the cold, wet winter. The main winter threats to lavender plants growing in the Pacific Northwest (PNW) are

centered around **excess moisture** and the combination of **cold temperatures and harsh conditions**, which can be particularly damaging when coupled with the region's wet climate. Click [HERE](#) for a look at the primary threats, and steps you can take to mitigate those threats.

PC: RavenCroft

MEET THE FARMER
Debbie and Kevin
McQuilkin
Abby Normal Farm
Valleyford, Washington

We are pleased to introduce Debbie and Kevin McQuilkin who are the owners of **Abby Normal Farm**, purchased in 2017. First off: the name – **Abby Normal Farm** – how did you choose it? Anyone familiar with one of our favorite movies, “Young Frankenstein,” will readily understand the reference. Definitely recommend the film!

PC : D&K McQuilkin



What led you into lavender farming?

In 2017, we were anticipating retirement and moving home to Washington from Connecticut. We began as an alpaca farm. Lavender seemed a good complement to our alpaca products as well as a great option for our long hot summers as a sustainable crop. We put in a test row of 6 cultivars in 2019 to see how they liked it. Things looked good, so we began adding plants each year. We moved back to Washington in 2021, and physically to the farm in 2024. We are still small, with plans to expand now that the dust has settled a bit after building our home here. We are also the proud parents of 4 children, and grandparents to 4!

Click [HERE](#) to read more.

During the holiday shopping season, please consider NW-grown lavender gifts.

Your continued support of Pacific Northwest lavender businesses is greatly appreciated.

Many lavender farms sell their lavender products from their websites and offer **online sales** throughout the year.

Click [HERE](#) for ONLINE STORE access.

Search for **specific kinds of lavender products** made by LNW members.

Click [HERE](#) for listings of our product makers & their offerings.

PC: Park Place Perennials



GET BAKING!

LAVENDER-RICH COOKIES AS UNIQUE HOLIDAY GIFTS

Cheerful, lavender-flavored cookies -- what a great treat to share as a holiday gift for friends and family. Or add a delightful twist to your spread of holiday desserts and sweets. We set out to create a few new cookie recipes and to revise some old favorites, focused on enriching the palette of lavender flavoring ingredients that can be used by home bakers. In these five recipes, you'll find prominent use of culinary grade dried lavender buds, as well as lavender extract and mixed lavender spice. We even discovered a use for lavender hydrosol! Then, to push us over the top, we found applications for classic *Lavender Northwest* **Lavender Dark Chocolate bars** and our **Lavender Marionberry and Lavender Blueberry Preserves** and **Lavender Lemon Jelly**.

Culinary lavender products are available from most LNW farm members. Check with your local lavender businesses for availability.

Now, roll up your sleeves, fire up the oven, and put your Northwest-grown lavender to work. Check out these recipes for five delicious cookies:

[Chewy Lavender-Spice Sugar Cookies](#)



DRIED LAVENDER CREATIONS For Home Decor & Gifts

The holiday season is prime time for dried lavender. The comforting scents of fresh cut conifer boughs and warm spices are easily complemented by gentle wafts of lavender from your strategically placed decorative craft items. And who wouldn't love to receive a fragrant, lavender-crafted gift from a thoughtful friend.

PC: Michelle Lowe, Lowe's Lavender Farm

Click [HERE](#) to see more ideas.

IN THE NEWS

For Lavender Growers and Enthusiasts Rules and Regulations for Farm Sales

Link for [Oregon Farm Sales](#)

Update 11/19/25 - Farm Stands Rulemaking Concluded Since July 2025, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) paused a rulemaking on farm stands at the request of Governor Kotek to reflect on questions and concerns about the rulemaking process and content. Since then, the Governor's office, DLCD, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) have worked together to reassess next steps and have decided that many of these questions reside in statute, not rule, and may be better suited for legislative action. **In light of this decision, DLCD has concluded the rulemaking advisory committee without recommending rule changes.**

Link for [Washington Farm Sales](#)

Link for [Idaho Farm Sales](#)

LNW members in Idaho should consult with the Department of Agriculture.

Link for [Montana Farm Sales](#)



Photo above - PC: Pam Baker, Little Lavender Farm

Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Land Steward Program

Oregon State University offers a variety of affordable, educational online and in person classes throughout the year.

For more information and to register for upcoming classes: **Link:**

oregonstate.edu/program/all/land-steward/events

LNW Board Election Results November 2025

We are pleased to report that the following candidates won their elections and will begin their

new Board terms on Jan. 1, 2026.

Photo below - PC: English Lavender Farm

President - Michael Lemmers

Past President - Chris Mulder

President Elect - Donald Graham

Executive Secretary - Debbie McQuilkin

Member at Large - SE Region

(Eastern/Central OR) - Heidi Scott

Member at Large - SW Region

(Western OR) - Michelle Lowe

Congratulations to our excellent group of winners.
Thank you to everyone who voted and to our 2025
Board members for their service to Lavender
Northwest.

~ Jackie Szarka, LNW Executive Secretary,
Lake Holm Lavender



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, businesses, and services in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

When you go to the Lavender Northwest website, you will discover many of the outstanding lavender resources that our Northwest regional members have to 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 Services](#) that they offer.

You will find LNW 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 NW Lavender, culinary and fragrant lavender products. Some of our members are wholesale providers, culinary specialists, and product creators.

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 them our way.

We'd love to include them in the Quarterly LNW newsletters.

Contact: info@lavender-nw.org

And finally, dear readers...

"Joy gives us wings!

**In times of joy our strength is more vital, our intellect keener,
and our understanding less clouded.**

We seem better able to cope with the world and to find our sphere of usefulness."

~ Abdu'l Baha, Paris Talks

We wish you joy and inspiration this season and in the new year.



Lavender Northwest

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Email**



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