



# LAVENDER

## LAVANDULA

*Lavender is a beautiful, drought tolerant, evergreen shrub. There are many species of lavender, with numerous varieties within each species.*

### POPULAR LAVENDER SPECIES

***Lavandula Angustifolia*** | Hardy to zone 5 or below. Often referred to as English Lavender, this variety has a sweeter fragrance than other species making them a good choice for desserts, baked goods, and a variety of craft purposes. They come in a large range of sizes, although generally tend to be smaller than the Lavender Intermedia varieties with shorter stems and more compact blooms, also offering the widest range of colors from the darkest purple to pure white. Booms June/July.

***Lavandula x Intermedia (Lavandins)*** | Hardy to zone 5. Often referred to as French Lavender, these have heavily scented flowers mostly used for making essential oil due to their high oil content. This variety is a good choice for savory culinary dishes, and numerous crafts. Intermedia varieties are good-sized plants with long, elegant stems and large pointed blooms, in a range of colors. Blooms July/August.

***Lavender Stoechas*** | Hardy to zone 7. The flowers don't have a strong scent and are not used for drying or culinary purposes. This variety is a large plant known for their chubby flower heads with bracts coming out of the top that look like little wings. Stoechas come in a range of color combinations and are one of the earliest species to bloom. Blooms early spring through summer.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

***Where should I plant my lavender?*** | Plant in full sun and well-drained soil. They will not tolerate soggy soil. Once established they are very drought tolerant.

***When do I prune my lavender?*** | Prune your plants back at harvest time, midsummer or after blooms are spent. You can prune again in the spring before buds appear. Make sure to leave at least an inch of green growth on your plant. You don't want to cut it all the way down to old wood.

***When do I harvest?*** | For fresh bouquets, cut flowers all during the bloom cycle. For drying and culinary purposes harvest when you start to see the first few flowers on a stem open, but the majority of buds are still tight.

***How do I dry lavender?*** | When the first few flowers are just starting to open, cut handful size bunches, secure with rubber bands or twine and hang upside down in a well ventilated area out of direct sunlight until dry.

***How do I process lavender for culinary uses?*** | Dry as described above and then using your hands, strip the flower buds off the stem and store in an airtight container out of direct sunlight.

***My lavender is woody and split open. What do I do?*** | Consistent pruning is required to keep your lavender looking its best. Even well cared for lavender will get too woody and need to be replaced at some point. The average span of lavender is 7-10 years.

***Do deer eat lavender?*** | Lavender is considered a deer resistant plant, but of course that is never a guarantee.

**DURANT**

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# LAVENDER WREATH

## INSTRUCTIONS

### KIT INCLUDES:

- Fresh Cut Estate Lavender
- 10" Wire Frame
- Paddle of Floral Wire

### ADDITIONAL ITEMS NEEDED:

- Scissors or garden trimmers
- Wire Snips

1 - Pre-bundle your lavender. Take a small handful of lavender from your kit, pull enough flowers that when you hold it in your hand, the width of the stems should measure around the size of a nickel. Tidy up the bundle by making sure the lavender flowers are all near the top. Trim the stems so your bundle is roughly 5-6 inches long. Repeat 14-16 times. Set two bundles aside.

2 - Take the wire paddle in your dominant hand and hold the wreath form in your other hand. Wrap your wire around the wreath form at least five times. It is important to keep only a few inches of wire lax from the paddle as you assemble your wreath. You will maintain the most control of the paddle this way making wrapping your bundles easier.

3 - Take your first bundle and position it by laying it within the two wire rungs of your frame. Refer to the video for bundle placement found on instagram on the Durant Oregon page link in bio, or click on the lavender wreath picture! Be sure to place your lavender in the same position every time to maintain a tight overall appearance once completed.

4 - Secure the bundle to the frame by wrapping the stems tightly several times with your wire pulling it tight. It is important to wrap tightly since as the lavender dries, the stems will shrink. Your lavender wreath will fall apart if the wire is not pulled tight enough.

5 - After your bundle is secured, trim your stems with your scissors or clippers using the edge of the wire wreath form as a guide. This will help make the back of your wreath less bulky and make attaching the rest of your bundles easier.

6 - Lay your second bundle on top of the initial bundle making sure to place the lavender flowers over the wrapped stems of your first bundle and secure again. There should be no stems nor wire of the first bundle visible. Trim again. Repeat until your wreath form is completely covered. At this point the stems of the first bundle you attached have been covered by the flowers of the last bundle attached. You may be tempted to think your wreath is completed but this is where the two bundles you set aside come in. You will need to tuck these in to complete your wreath otherwise your wreath will have a gap.

7 - Take the last bundle you attached and pull it up toward you. Fresh lavender stems are very pliable and forgiving. Tuck another bundle underneath it and attach. Repeat with the last bundle.

8 - To finish up your wreath, wrap your wire a few more times around the last bundle and snip your wire. Secure the end by tucking it into the back of the wreath. Dry your wreath for at least a week, laying it flat on a surface that is out of direct sun and any drafts. This is an important step as hanging your wreath while the lavender is fresh will lead to the flowers drooping.

The logo for Durant Oregon, featuring the word "DURANT" in a bold, sans-serif font, slanted upwards to the right. The text is white with a black outline and is set against a background of stylized lavender flowers and stems.

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