

Lavandula

Sweet Romance®



ZONE HARDINESS 4 – 9

NUTRITION

pH: 6.0 – 6.5

EC: (2:1 extraction method) 0.5 – 0.8

Moderate to low fertilization is recommended.

100ppm – 150 ppm N

TEMPERATURE for forcing from liners

Forcing: 65 F – 72 F

Growing on: 55 F – 65 F

Holding: 50 F – 60 F

Once plants reach a saleable size, they can be moved to a frost protected open environment with good air movement.

WATERING

Keep the soil evenly moist during all stages of growing.

Lavandula requires average to slightly below average levels of irrigation. Too much water and fertilizer will promote lush uncontrollable growth that may not hold up well at retail.

TIMING

Supernova® 28 Liner to Trade Gallon: 6 – 8 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 12 for finishing in Week 20. Planting a 28 count liner into a True Gallon container and bulking in the summer/fall is also a great way to finish a larger, high quality spring crop with excellent flowering.

84 Liner to Quart: 6 – 8 weeks with one plug per container. A typical planting date for spring forcing would be Week 14 for finishing in Week 22. Planting an 84 count liner into a Trade Gallon and bulking in the summer/fall is our recommended method to finish a larger higher quality spring crop with excellent flowering.

VERNALIZATION

Vernalization is beneficial on *Lavandula*. A fully vernalized plant will flush and flower much more uniformly than an untreated plant. If purchased in the spring, our Supernova 28 and 50 count liners have been vernalized for increased flowering.

PLANTING

Lavandula perform best when planted in a well-drained, porous growing medium. When plants arrive, they may appear

dormant, but it will only take 7 – 10 days for new growth to appear once planted. Plant the dormant plug with the soil line of the plug even to or just slightly below the soil line of the fresh planting media.

When growing perennials, we recommend using an aged or composted pine bark based media, as opposed to an annual growing mix that traditionally tend to be heavier in peat. Bark adds weight and stability to the growing mix and tends not to compress and shrink over time, thus adding the longevity that can be needed on long term crops such as perennials.

LIGHT/LIGHTING

Lavandula enjoy full sun and high light conditions. No photoperiodic lighting should be needed. During the winter months, maintain high light levels during vernalization.

TRIMMING/PINCHING

Plants respond well to shearing and this will promote reblooming in the summer after the first flush of color has faded. Pruning at planting isn't advised unless for shape. Removing much of the plant at this time can decrease the number of blooms.

GROWTH REGULATORS

Sweet Romance® is a fairly compact variety and growth regulators should not be needed. If growing them in a bright area with good spacing and proper air movement doesn't seem to control the growth, try growing them with less feed and slightly drier. To produce a more controlled crop, a 5ppm application of Sumagic® (uniconazole) can be used.

PEST and DISEASE MANAGEMENT

A good routine scouting program is recommended to ensure that insects such as Aphids or Whitefly don't cause damage, but these insects should not cause significant crop losses on *Lavandula*. Scout and spray preventively for foliar diseases as well. Phytophthora and Rhizoctonia seem to be the most prevalent problems when growing *Lavandula*. Scouting the root zone and following good water management practices is key in growing a healthy crop. Preventative soil drenches may be beneficial.

SPECIAL NOTES

When growing larger containers, it is best to bulk them in the summer/fall the year before they are to be sold.



Four Star Greenhouse | www.PWfourstar.com | 734-654-6420

The rates and chemicals listed are based on our southeast Michigan growing conditions, and are not recommended for nationwide application. Please adjust the rates and spray applications to your location and facility.