FLOWERS · A SUNNY, AIRY PATIO OR GARDEN TERRACE

Let's grow English lavender.

Lavandula angustifolia 'Hidcote'

This plan is for **Hidcote English lavender**

Purple flowers, sunshine, and a lighter watering hand.

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep **1 nursery plant**

Before you start

Plant in spring after severe frost risk, with full sun, airflow, and excellent drainage; exposed pots need extra winter protection in cold climates.

By jennyzhuang

Sources checked September 28, 2026 View sources

LIGHT

Loves full sun

Give it at least 6 hours of direct sun and good air movement.

WATER

Likes to dry between drinks

Keep new roots from drying through; let established mix approach dry.

FEEDING

Keep feeding light

No extra fertilizer in this starting plan; avoid rich routine feeding.

BEFORE YOU START

Your little kit.

- ✓ 1 English lavender ‘Hidcote’ nursery plant
- ✓ One 16-inch-wide, 12-inch-deep pot with open drainage holes
- ✓ Peat-free potting mix and coarse horticultural grit; a watering can and snips

THE SOIL

Blend 3 parts peat-free potting mix with 1 part coarse horticultural grit by volume. That is 25% grit, the upper end of the RHS container recipe. Mix it throughout; do not put gravel underneath.

Start with what’s on this list. Add plant food only when the feeding section says it’s needed.

YOUR SIMPLE GROWING PLAN

One pot. Here’s the plan.

A sunny, airy patio or garden terrace. Start with **nursery plant**.

THE POT

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep

Our starter pot for one nursery plant, with open drainage holes. The 16-inch width follows RHS guidance; the 12-inch depth is our practical choice, not a tested minimum.

HOW MANY

1 nursery plant

Buy English lavender ‘Hidcote’, not the larger ‘Hidcote Giant’ lavandin.

THE CONTAINER

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep



START WITH

1 nursery plant



Illustration · not to scale

16 in. wide × 12 in. deep · 1 nursery plant Our starter pot for one nursery plant, with open drainage holes. The 16-inch width follows RHS guidance; the 12-inch depth is our practical choice, not a tested minimum. Buy English lavender 'Hidcote', not the larger 'Hidcote Giant' lavandin. Original illustration; not to scale.

01

Mix before you fill

Use the same scoop: 3 scoops of peat-free potting mix and 1 scoop of coarse horticultural grit. Blend them before filling the pot.

02

Keep the old planting level

Set the nursery root ball so its top stays at the mix surface. Leave about 1 inch below the rim as watering space.

03

Settle the roots with water

Water slowly around the root ball and let excess leave through the holes. Empty any saucer; standing water defeats the draining mix.

04

Put it in the sun

Choose at least 6 hours of direct sun with space for air to move. New roots still need moisture checks; drought tolerance comes later.

Help with the setup: drainage holes and saucers · potting mix vs. garden soil.

Other ways to start

Root a summer cutting

Use a healthy nonflowering shoot from a known Hidcote plant. Cut just below a leaf joint, strip the lower leaves, and insert it into moist propagation mix. Keep it moist, not soggy, until rooted; the established-pot drying rule does not apply yet. A cutting keeps the parent cultivar, while saved seed may vary.

YOUR EVERYDAY ROUTINE

Water & fertilizer at a glance.

WATER WHEN

Keep the new root ball from drying through. Once rooted and growing, let mix approach dry; check the top 1–2 inches and pot weight, then water thoroughly and drain.

FERTILIZER

No added fertilizer for this starting plan

AMOUNT

None

WHAT THAT AMOUNT COVERS

No fertilizer dose to calculate.

HOW OFTEN TO FEED

No routine feeding.

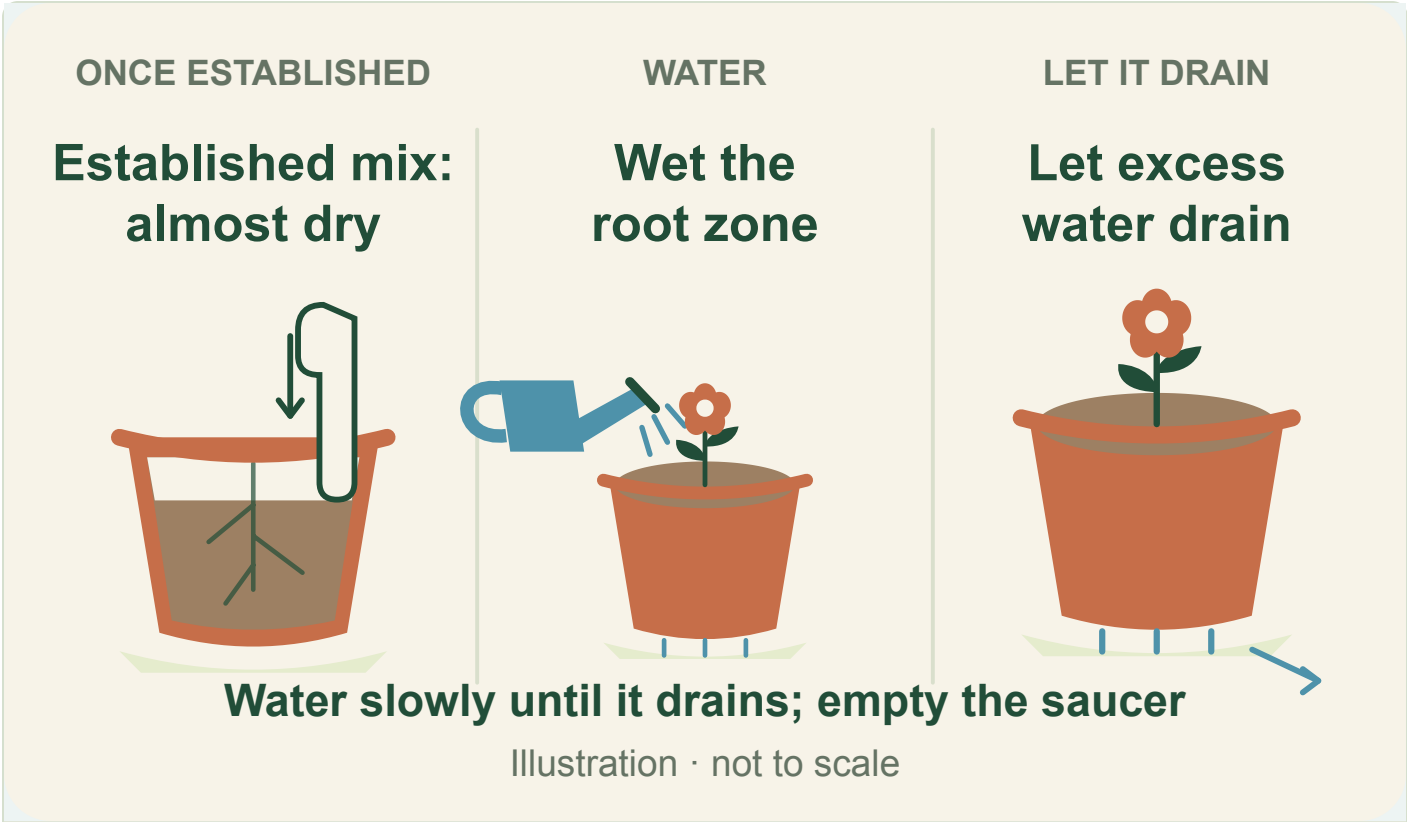
WHEN TO START OR PAUSE

Start without extra fertilizer. Check whether your mix already includes nutrients. If growth stays poor, check sun, drainage and roots; refresh exhausted mix or seek a growing-mix test before choosing a feed.

01 / EVERYDAY CARE

When to water.

Check each morning during establishment and hot weather. Feel the original root ball as well as the mix around it; water when it starts drying, before the small root ball dries through. Once rooted and growing, let the mix approach dry. A dry top 1–2 inches plus a lighter pot are clues; check deeper if unsure. Pour slowly over the root zone until water escapes the holes, then empty the saucer. Rain and cool weather may mean no watering. There is no fixed number of cups or days for every pot.



Check before watering. Keep the new root ball from drying through. Once rooted and growing, let mix approach dry; check the top 1–2 inches and pot weight, then water thoroughly and drain. Original illustration; not to scale.

> **The easy rule**
>
> Check first. Water only when the plant needs it.

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02 / PLANT FOOD

Exactly what to feed it.

Start without extra fertilizer in fresh potting mix. Check the bag for any nutrients already included. Lavender has modest nutrient needs; frequent rich feeding can produce leaves at the expense of flowers.

THIS STARTING PLAN

No added fertilizer



Illustration · not to scale

None No fertilizer dose to calculate. No routine feeding. Start without extra fertilizer. Check whether your mix already includes nutrients. If growth stays poor, check sun, drainage and roots; refresh exhausted mix or seek a growing-mix test before choosing a feed. Original illustration; not to scale.

THE SIMPLE FEEDING PLAN

Start without extra fertilizer.

Do not automatically buy an acidifier, manure, or a bloom booster. If growth stays poor, check sun, drainage, and root health first. Refresh exhausted mix when repotting. A persistently weak plant may need a growing-mix test or local Extension advice before choosing a fertilizer and dose.

03 / WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Flowering season and mature size

Expect summer flower spikes rather than a season-long wall of blooms. Mature-size estimates vary: RHS describes a compact shrub up to about 20 inches tall, while Monrovia lists Hidcote Blue at 2–3 ft tall and wide. Leave room around the pot and follow your nursery tag; a second flush is not guaranteed.

Spring planting and climate limits

Plant in spring after the risk of severe frost. English lavender is often listed for USDA zones 5–9 in the ground, but exposed pots have less winter protection. Hot, humid regions are harder; a sunny, airy spot and excellent drainage matter.

For regional planting windows, find your local Cooperative Extension office ↗.

Something looking off?

Can I cut a woody lavender back hard?

Avoid the bare brown framework. After flowering, remove spent stalks and lightly shorten leafy growth, leaving green leaves on the stems. Hidcote may not regrow from old leafless wood. Avoid an autumn trim in cold, wet regions; replace a badly woody plant rather than expecting hard pruning to reset it.

When should I cut lavender for drying?

For fragrant decorative bunches, cut stalks as the first few flowers open, on a morning after dew has dried. Hang small bunches upside down in a dark, dry place. Keep this harvest separate from shaping the woody plant after its main bloom.

What is the white foam on a lavender stem?

Foam containing a small soft insect is often a spittlebug shelter, not mildew. Small numbers usually need no treatment. If leaves distort or the plant declines, inspect further instead of assuming the foam explains every symptom. Ask local Extension to identify an uncertain problem.

Winter protection and choosing lavender

Protect a container from winter cold and wet

Protect roots from severe freezing and prevent winter waterlogging. Local Extension can advise whether your pot needs sheltered overwintering; a ground hardiness zone alone is not a container guarantee.

Check for English lavender 'Hidcote'

English, French, and Spanish lavenders differ in hardiness and growth. This plan is for L. angustifolia 'Hidcote', not every plant sold as lavender.

Help with your next step.

Set up a pot that can drain freely

Keep drainage holes open and empty collected water before following lavender's drying routine.

Check whether your mix already contains fertilizer

Lavender uses a different mix from many flower pots; check its label before adding any feed.

BEHIND THIS GUIDE

Where the advice comes from.

Plant care is based on the sources below. Planting layouts and beginner routines combine that guidance into one practical plan; they are editorial choices, not results from a Plant Care Steps growing trial.

- RHS: lavender containers, grit, feeding, and pruning ↗
  https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/lavender/growing-guide
- RHS: 'Hidcote' identity and flowering ↗
  https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/96353/lavandula-angustifolia-hidcote/details
- NC State: English lavender and climate limitations ↗
  https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/lavandula-angustifolia/
- Monrovia: Hidcote Blue English lavender ↗
  https://www.monrovia.com/hidcote-blue-english-lavender.html
- Utah State: lavender cuttings, modest feeding, and drying flowers ↗
  https://extension.usu.edu/yardandgarden/research/english-lavender-in-the-garden
- Iowa State: moisture checks and watering a container thoroughly ↗
  https://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu/how-to/care-plants-growing-containers
- Minnesota Extension: recognizing spittlebug foam and damage ↗
  https://extension.umn.edu/garden-and-home/yard-and-garden/yard-and-garden-insects/spittlebugs

Something needs updating? Suggest a correction

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Compiled with AI assistance. These first-edition guides have not yet had an independent horticultural review. Read our editorial approach.