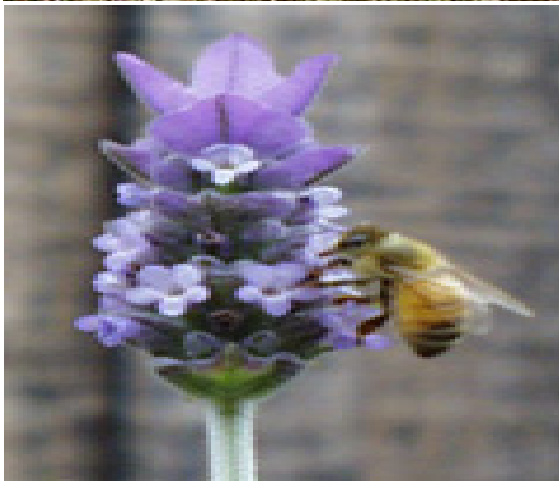




French Lavender

Lavandula dentata

03-58



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 8, 9, 12-24	Full sun	Well drained soil with little or no fertilizer	Moderate watering	Purple flowers in short rounded spikes, each topped with a pair of flag-like bracts that look like rabbit ears	To 3-4 feet tall

After years of trying many different varieties, we have found that the best types of lavender for growing in the hot, humid south are 'provence' and 'sweet.' Technically, they are lavandins, a class of lavender hybrids whose parentage provides much greater heat tolerance. Lavandins are grown commercially in France, where summers are hot (but not as humid). 'Provence' is an especially good strain of commercial lavandin because it has a high essential oil content, robust growth and two flushes of bloom (one in early summer, one in late summer). 'Sweet' lavender is slightly less pure in scent, but is especially well-adapted to the southern climate. Lavender has a wonderfully distinctive fresh, exquisite fragrance. Essential oils of French and English lavenders are slightly different, with the English commanding a higher price. Many aromatherapy products use the French because it is more readily available, but most of us can not tell the difference. We are fortunate that in this climate, on any given day of the year, one can brush the foliage of lavender and experience the immediate pleasures of its irresistible fragrance. Now that's aromatherapy!