



Spanish Lavender *Lavandula stoechas*

03-59



<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Exposure</u>	<u>Soil</u>	<u>Water</u>	<u>Flowers</u>	<u>Height</u>
Zones 4-24	Full sun	Well drained	Moderate watering	Small flower sometimes blackish maroon to purple, topped by 2-4 purple rabbit ears on top	1 ½ - 3 feet tall

Spanish Lavender (*Lavandula stoechas* ssp *pedunculata*) spends its first year in the ground settling in. Its second year it really takes off, spreading rapidly, & sewing its seeds some distance. It dislikes being disrupted thereafter, & should never be transplanted.

If there are dry unplanted areas you're neglecting to plant, but wouldn't mind if something would grow there pretty much on its own with no attention, Spanish Lavender is the stuff. It was given the Award of Garden Merit in 1993, reconfirmed after new trials in 1999.

It will grow very easily in USDA zones eight through ten, needing a touch of shade in zone ten. It loves a sunny location, where it grows to two feet in height, three counting the flower stems. It blooms marvelously & fragrantly all spring & summer, sometimes even into autumn. When the blooms are spent, it's a good time to trim the plant a bit shorter, as it will otherwise get stringy & spread outward & potentially get out of hand if never sheared.

Cultivated in North America since 1735, the species is native of the whole of the Mediterrean from Portugal & Spain to North Africa & Syria. It is often designated French Lavender which is just as correct, although *L. dentata* is also called French Lavender, so Spanish is preferred for *L. stoechas* ssp *pedunculata*. It is also sometimes but mistakenly called Italian lavender, though strictly speaking, only the shorter-flowered *L. stoechas* ssp *stoechas* is from Italy (we have the Italian white variant, [L. stoechas](#) ssp *stoechas* var *leucantha*)