

## Discover the Lavender Garden

The Lavender Garden includes 80 varieties of lavender and more than 250 plants, many of which were donated by Goodwin Creek Gardens in Williams, Oregon. The garden is the only one in the Pacific Northwest registered with the Herb Society of America. It is part of the Southern Oregon Lavender Trail, open from June to mid-August.

### Look for:

- It's easy to fall in love with lavender -- the plant features attractive foliage, beautiful flowers, and a heavenly scent. Plus, it's wonderfully resistant to drought, deer, and hungry bunnies.
- English lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) is the most widely grown type of lavender in North America because it doesn't mind humidity and winter moisture as much as other lavenders. It's also the most commonly used in cooking and baking, and has a sweet, soft fragrance. How many different *Lavandula angustifolia* varieties do you see? Do they smell different from other varieties?
- Check out the variegated Lavender varieties; they have green leaves edged in white. There is also a beautiful scent to the foliage of these plants.

### Garden Tips:

- Make sure the soil has adequate drainage. Dampness is the enemy of lavender, so choose a location where the soil is well-drained. The soil should be light, fluffy and well-aerated for optimum lavender-growing conditions.
- Prune lavender plants about once a year, preferably in spring before the new growth begins. Prune about 1/3 of the entire plant, using pruning shears or hedge trimmer to achieve a tidy, rounded shape. Pruning lavender will encourage new growth and stop the plant from sprawling.
- The best time to harvest lavender is when the bottom flowers of each stem are just beginning to open. This is when the lavender is at its most vibrant and fragrant. Cut the flowers at the base of the stems near the foliage.

