

# For the gardener

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# For the Gardener

## LAVENDER (*Lavandula*)

The lavender is an evergreen shrub with pleasant greyish green foliage and is highly prized for its old world fragrance; by just touching the buds or gently rubbing the leaves a beautiful lavender smell is imparted to the fingers. Bees love it and where there is lavender in a garden pollination is not lacking.

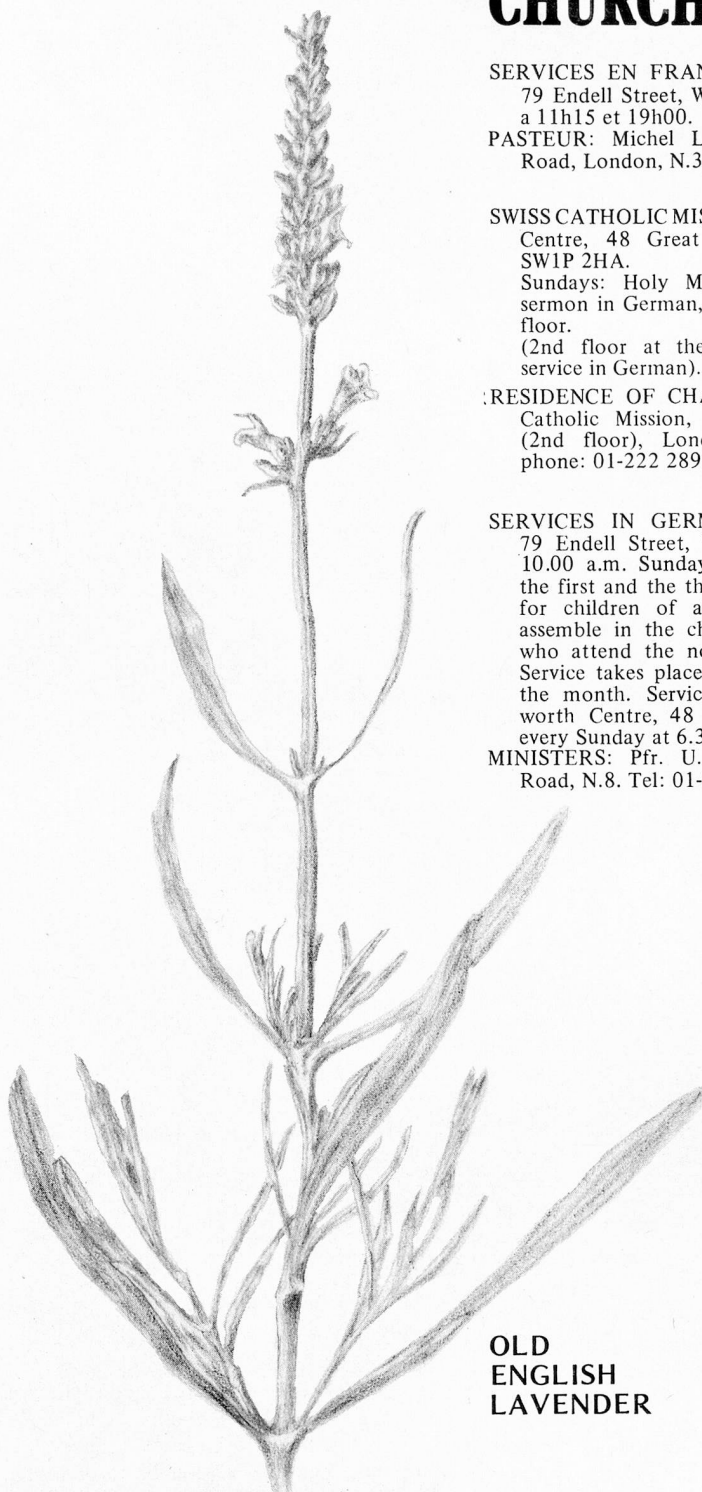
The plant is an excellent subject for making a dwarf hedge. It likes a relatively dry and sunny spot and produces flowers in July and August. Unshapely bushes and hedges should be pruned during March and April.

Planting takes place in March or September. Increasing stock is by cuttings of ripe wood, such cuttings should be taken off the parent plant with a "heel" attached, plant in either a prepared bed or insert into pots, say a five-inch diameter, six cuttings to a pot. One can grow from seed sown outside in April.

The flower buds are carried on a long stalk and as the flowers start breaking it is a good plan to cut these stalks off, this induces the plant to send up a second lot of stalks which prolongs the flowering period. The stalks which have been cut off should be tied into a bundle and hung up heads downwards in an airy dry place. After some days the flowers and buds can be rubbed off from the stalks, when quite dry these flowers and buds can be put into little bags made of either cotton or linen (not man-made fibres as these don't breathe). These filled bags can then be hung in wardrobes, in drawers among the linen and so on, a rare freshness is imparted to the articles and it is also said that the presence of lavender will keep away moths.

Species: *L. Dentata*, dark purple, one to two feet; *L. Spica*, old English, three to four feet; *L. s. Alba*, white, one foot; *L. S. gigantea*, purple, robust, flowering late; *L. s. Nana*, dwarf French, nine inches; *L. s. Nana*, Munstead dwarf, one foot, dark purple, early flowering; *L. s. nera*, Dutch lavender, foliage more silvery than the others.

HJT



OLD  
ENGLISH  
LAVENDER

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## LA RUBRICA DELLE VALLI

AIROLO. — *L'ultimo diaframma.* — Il 29 febbraio 1880 fu una data storica per l'Europa centrale: quel giorno cadeva infatti l'ultimo diaframma della galleria ferroviaria del San Gottardo. A quasi un secolo di distanza, con ogni probabilità all'inizio del '76, il massiccio del Gottardo sarà forato per la seconda volta dall'uomo. Secondo le previsioni quindi al principio del 1976 dovrebbe cadere

l'ultimo diaframma del cunicolo di sicurezza e per il 1980 si dovrebbe giungere all'apertura al traffico della galleria autostradale. Attualmente s'è superato di qualche centinaio di metri il confine Ticino-Uri e più precisamente le punte d'avanzamento danno le seguenti misure: galleria sud km. 5.2 (si è sotto il riale di Fortunei), galleria nord km. 5.5 (sotto Hospental); cunicolo di sicurezza

sud km. 6.7 (sotto il Blauberg), cunicolo nord km. 6.8 (1 km. a sud di Hospental). Restano quindi da scavare nella galleria (che sarà lunga km. 16.322) circa km. 5.6 e nel cunicolo solo km. 2.8. Gli operai impiegati, che formano 3 sciolte pel cunicolo e 2 sciolte per la galleria principale, sono circa 350. Un capitolo a sé è quello degli'inconvenienti che si riscontrano. Le infiltrazioni d'acqua raggiungono in media i 200 litri al secondo e, inondando i binari, disturbano notevolmente i lavori. La temperatura è di circa 30 gradi centigradi. Se quest'ultima era facilmente prevedibile (e