



Lavender Lessons

DVD accompaniment workbook

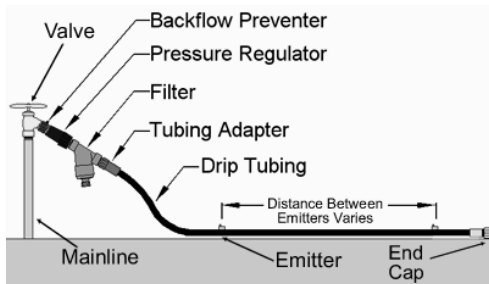
PLANTING

Eight Steps to Successful Lavender Planting:

- 1) **Understanding Your Soil:** Its chemical make-up, resources for obtaining soil analysis. Soil correcting amendments, and achieving proper drainage and nutrients, are all essential.
- 2) **Tips on Plant Varieties and Selection:** Knowing your commercial business plan or home growers desired use and applications for your lavender is as important as knowing the growing conditions. Victor quickly helps you turn the over 400 global lavender varieties into the top-3 to consider for your planting success.
- 3) **“Potting Up”:** Propagation plugs are still too young and fragile to plant, and mature 1-gallon plants are unnecessary for regularly achieving high planting success rates. Victor will discuss ideal nursery plant size for field planting, along with techniques on “Potting Up” plugs or smaller plants to help you achieve maximum planting success.
- 4) **Environment:** Considerations for the time of year you plant, as well as factoring in what Mother Nature brings to your fields are essential considerations for planted lavender’s success. Victor will discuss in detail what to look for in your climates: Temperature, Humidity, Rainfall and Seasonality all factor into successful lavender planting.
- 5) **Weed Control is critical!** Victor will repeatedly remind you that; *“There is NO free lunch”* in lavender farming. He suggests you pay now for durable weed barrier cloth or bank on spending years battling weeds. Victor shows us three primary options for weed control, with considerations for both beautification of beds enjoyed by home

growers, and mechanized plastic laying apparatuses for large acreage commercial lavender growers.

- 6) **Irrigation Issues:** Too much water will kill lavender quicker than under watering your plants. Incorrectly applying the water, i.e. overhead sprinkler vs. base-of-plant drip lines, can also damage plants. Victor will discuss watering in detail with step-by-step techniques for setting up the irrigation system best suited for your planting needs.



- 7) **The Art of Digging a Hole:** Proper depth for successfully planting lavender is essential. But first, getting to the soil through your weed barrier cloth requires special tools and thoughtful consideration. Thanks to Victor, forming the planting portal, then moving that soil are both covered with displays of three-different hole forming methods and three-different hole digging tools. Additionally, Victor will share a secret ingredient to put into each hole prior to planting your lavender.
- 8) **Finally Planting Lavender!** All the prior assessing, planning and preparatory installations come into play as you now plant your lavender! Victor will show you how to easily space your lavender plants for optimal growing success, and demonstrate efficient techniques used to commercially plant upwards of 300 lavender plants per day! No matter the size of your lavender fields, Victor's lavender planting tips will help you plan and plant rows and rows of successful lavender.

Step 1. Know Your Soil

Victor believes soil testing is the essential starting point in determining what action is required to produce a high yielding, high quality lavender field. Lavender grows best in well-draining sandy loom soil of a slightly alkaline composition, with an ideal soil pH level of between 6 to 8.

Where to get help:

- A) Nearly every state in the USA has a ***Land-Grant College*** with an **Agricultural Extension**. Here you will find helpful and cost effective soil analysis testing resources.
- B) Commercial soil analysis laboratories are located around the globe. Victor recommends selecting a lab within your geographic region as they will be most familiar with your soil type. In the western US, **A&L Laboratories** is a nationwide commercial lab Victor frequently receives client analysis reports from.
- C) Be sure your soil analysis addresses **both soil chemical make-up** (i.e. Organic Matter, Estimated Nitrogen Release, Phosphorus, Extractable Cations, Potassium, Magnesium, Calcium, Sodium), Hydrogen, Sulfate-S, pH, Cation Exchange Capacity and percent cation saturation (computed) **and soil moisture saturation physical properties**.
- D) **Contact Victor** if you'd like to consult with him over your soil lab test results, e-mailing: help@victorslavender.expert



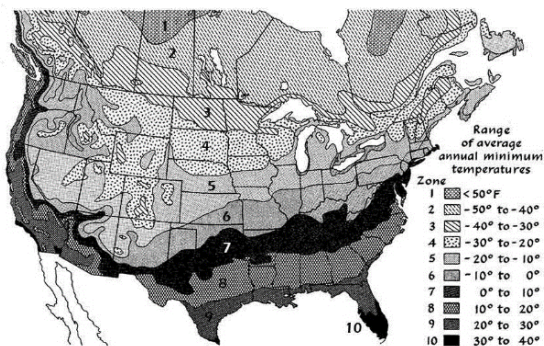
Step 2. Pick the Right Plants

Knowing your business plan for the lavender your planting is key.

Q: Do you want lavender to enhance your homes landscaping? Are plant size and flower colors key? Do you want lavender for its culinary or distilled oil properties? Is maximum lavender fragrance your goal? Do you have a harsh growing environment?

A: Knowing the answers to what you'd like from your lavender will help you select the specific varieties for your planting order.

Know your growing climate – Lavender plants can last up to 20 seasons when grown in the ideal environment. Temperatures above 110° F will limit your lavenders life to only 5 or 6 seasons. *Lavandula angustifolia* varieties doesn't mind humidity and winter moisture as much as other lavenders – think English countryside. Where as Lavandins (*Lavandula x intermedia*), are hybrids between English and spike lavender. They tolerate hot temperatures better than English lavenders, but they prefer to be kept drier, requiring plenty of sun and dry or well-drained soil.



Zones of Plant Hardiness in the United States and Canada

Step 3: Correctly Sized Plants will produce Success in your Planted Fields.

Direct planting of “Plugs” will experience up to 80% loss, as roots are under developed.

Victor only fulfills special orders of 72 / Tray plugs for growers “Potting Up” stock in their greenhouses.



In the “**Lavender Lessons – PLANTING**” DVD Victor illustrates “Potting Up” details.

Both 2” and 3.5” potted lavender should produce fields with high, 95+/-%, success rates.

Remember to remove all flowers from 2” or 3.5” planted lavender for the first year so the plants energy is directed into root and plant development instead of flower production.



Victor advises that properly planted 2” and 3.5” plants should thrive just as well as mature 1 gallon potted plants. The main difference – besides cost – is that planting 1 gallon plants will enable you to enjoy lavender flowers from the first season planted. No need to trim away 1 gallon flowers during their first year, as these are mature plants at the time of planting.

TIP: Don’t plant weeds! Be sure to remove all non-lavender grasses and weeds from your potted lavender before planting. As Victor says; “You don’t want to grow weeds, you want to grow lavender!”

Step 4: Understand your Environment

Your lavender fields are impacted by climate considerations, including: Temperature, Humidity, Rainfall and Seasonality. All environmental elements factor into your planted lavenders success.

Considerations include:

Planting in the Spring vs. Fall – In the Spring you'll have more active growing with less rainfall support, so be sure to have your irrigation system in place. In the Fall you'll have cooler temperatures, slower growth and typically higher humidity and rainfall. If your sandy loom is draining well and is chemically correct, such as found on Victor's farm, your freshly planted lavender will thrive with a Fall planting season.

Step 5: Get Control of Weeds

Throughout the *"Lavender Lessons – PLANTING"* DVD Victor reminds us that ***"There is NO free lunch!"***

His expert advice is to invest upfront in sustainable weed control. Victor's favorite is

DeWitt Sunbelt Woven Ground Cover 3.2 oz. black or white.

Whether you select full field ground cover or rows-only ground cloth coverage, Victor recommends securing your ground cover

with **DeWitt 10"x2" Anchor Pins** (item # AP10210). Home growers can spread beauty bark or tinted stone over ground cloth for beautification.



TIP: If **Step 4** shows your lavender fields are in a hot climate, select the white ground cover to reflect the heat. However, if like Victor's, your lavender fields are in mild climates, select the black ground cover to retain heat.

Step 6: Irrigation Issues

Proper watering is essential for successful lavender.

Victor reminds us: “When you water lavender, don’t be afraid - soak it wet – then let it dry out completely.” Our goal is to get water to the roots. In the DVD three irrigation methods are detailed:

- 1) **Overhead watering** – is fine for newly planted 2” and 3.5” lavender.

However, after the first year, and especially when flowering, overhead irrigation can cause plants to split and invite fungus friendly dampness to form at base of foliage and soil.



- 2) **T-Tape Drip Tape** – Lower in cost, T-Tape can be installed on the ground or under ground cover. **NOTE:** Victor recommends, see **Step 7**, 36” between planted lavender. T-Tape’s pre-cut emitter spacing’s typically doesn’t match, resulting in extra water not reaching your plants. Research will help you locate and purchase: 5/8” drip tape, with 36” emitter spacing, averaging .33 GPH (Gallon/Hour) irrigation output.

- 3) **Mainline Tube Irrigation** – Expensive yet longest-lasting. Purchase 5/8” or 3/4” Polyethylene Hose, install 1.5 or 2.0 GPH Emitters every 36”, locate and secure emitter at base of each plant.

TIPS: a) Correctly design your irrigation system (see diagram, page 4) to meet lavender field considerations.

b) Thanks to the environment, Victor only irrigates his mature lavender plants 10-15 gallons, three times a year. Natural rainfall does the rest. **Only have a few lavender plants?** Dedicated hand watering with a hose can save on installing irrigation.



Step 7: Tips on Hole Digging

- 1) **Spacing** – Rows 6' apart. Plants 3' center-to-center for all lavender types. Victor strings survey line, lays measuring tape & marks spots
- 2) **Holes** - The perfect opening for planting lavender only require 6" diameter x 6-8" deep for planting 2" or 3.5" plants. The goal is to find the tools and system which enable you to quickly and efficiently prepare your lander fields while preserving your back from repetitive bending over.

Victor demonstrates three popular methods to form the hole through the ground cloth material:

- a) **Torch** – simply free-hand your opening.
 - b) Modified **Propane Weed Burner** (Victor recommends welding a 6" plate on end. Heat and 'stamp' each planting hole). This method saves on bending over.
 - c) **Knife** – Cut a 6" X to mark the spot for planting.
- 3) **Dig** - The 6-8" deep holes can be dug using your favorite digging tools: i.e. Post Hole Digger, Planting Shovel, or hand spade. Placing the dug up soil adjacent to the hole for back filling when you plant.



TIP: Your investment in weed stopping ground cloth will last longer if the plant openings are **burnt vs. cut**. If you use a knife to cut your 6" opening be sure that you bury the ground cloth when planting. This will not only keep winds from tattering your non heat sealed ground cloth, it will also provide additional weed barrier at the spot of your lavender planting.

TIP: Victor recommends waiting until just before you are ready to plant before creating your openings in ground cloth and digging dirt from your holes. Especially before placing the – bird attracting – supplemental Bone Meal into each planting hole.

Step 8: Time to Plant!

Thanks to all your preparation, successfully planting lavender is a breeze. Here are Victor's steps for fast team planting prepared fields with upwards of 300 lavender plants per day:

- 1) Dig holes (6-8" deep, saving soil for back fill when planting)
- 2) Remove 2" or 3.5" lavender from potting containers. Placing beside hole.
- 3) Remove weeds, grasses, and stray flowers from lavender.
- 4) Add one generous handful of Bone Meal into each hole.
- 5) Mix Bone Meal with soil in hole. Measuring total hole depth so that lavender foliage isn't buried in soil.
- 6) Return soil back into hole. (Keeping soil from touching foliage)
- 7) "Tie back" the lavender plant by grabbing the whole plant and pushing plant down into hole from the top of the planting level.
- 8) Properly irrigate your newly planted lavender fields.

Look at all you've learned!

1. Soil chemistry and tips on achieving well-draining sandy loom soil.
2. Plant varieties for different lavender uses and climates.
3. Planting the perfect size plant. "Potting Up" techniques.
4. Considering your Climate + Time of Year when planting.
5. Wise investment in ground cloth for long-term weed control.
6. Understanding watering needs of lavender and various pros & cons of various irrigation systems.
7. Preparing the opening and digging those holes.
8. Successfully planting your own fields of lavender!

Contact Victor for Your Every Lavender Consulting Question

When you have a question about lavender, rely on **Victor Gonzalez**, owner of **Victor's Lavender**. Whether you are a new lavender farm owner, an experienced grower who needs information on the latest soil preparation techniques or a grower who wants help making your farm tourist friendly, Victor can help.

Watch each “Lavender Lessons” episode.

The third installment of Victor's popular ***Lavender Lessons*** DVD educational series will address essential topics such as:

- Pruning and maintenance of lavender plants
- Transplanting
- Tips and best practices for harvesting lavender flowers
- Utilizing lavender for: Drying, Distillation, Culinary, Soaps and Lotions
- The business of lavender. Insights from Victor's partners on successful marketing and promotion of commercial lavender enterprise
- And MORE for Enjoying and Profiting from lavender

Order every episode of “Lavender Lessons” today.

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PLANTING

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