

Lavender

Propagation

Lavender is propagated through seeds as well as through rooted cuttings. Although propagation through seeds is cheaper and quicker but due to cross-pollination there is genetic variability and quality of oil cannot be maintained.

Vegetative propagation maintains the quality of initial strain resulting in even and standardized population. However, this method is slower and expensive with a lower propagation coefficient.

By Seeds

Seeds are sown in beds, 1m wide, in autumn (November-December) either through broadcasting or in rows 10-12 cm apart for raising nursery. Seeds, being small, are mixed with fine sand or wood ash before sowing. For 1 sq. m area, 2.0-2.5 g seeds are required. The sowing depth is 1-2 cm. The seeds are covered with FYM or fine sand and are left in this stage during winter. The seeds germinate in spring (April) at 14-15° C. The nursery bed should be regularly sprinkled and kept moist. The seedlings should be pruned periodically to avoid follicle formation.

By Cuttings

Lavender is mainly propagated by cuttings. The cuttings are obtained from young wood or small branches and are inserted into raised beds with sandy soil. Protection to the bed is being given in cold weather. A certain amount of water is required in dry weather till the cuttings are established.

In Kashmir for providing protection from cold weather, black polythene covers are used to cover the beds, which are kept moist by regular sprinkling. Holes are made on the polythene at a distance of 7.5 x 7.5 cm. Cuttings of 10 cm length are taken from one-year old plants and firmly planted in the holes. This method has been successful in Kashmir, as very low mortality of cuttings is observed. Furthermore, covering the beds with black polythene sheets before planting, cuttings give a better rooting and prevent growth of weeds.