

# Lavender

## Soil & Climate

### Soil

Light well-aerated dry and calcareous soils rich in nutrients are the best for cultivation of lavender. Poor carbonate and sandy soils are also suitable but such soils need mineral fertilizers annually. Waterlogged soils are not suitable for its cultivation. It grows very well on slopy lands, thus checking soil erosion to a great extent. The best crop and oil yields are obtained in neutral and alkaline soils (pH 7.0 to 8.4).

### Climate

It is a temperate plant and does well only in those areas, which have cold winter and cool summer. It is resistant to frost and drought. . High altitude areas are favorable for the crop. Lavender needs a great deal of sunshine. If the duration of the sunshine is not sufficient, then the formation of flowers, the essential oil content of the flowers, and the ester content of the essential oil, are significantly reduced

It has been established that high-grade lavender oil can be produced in Kashmir valley where the plants require minimum irrigation and could be grown even on poor soils/eroded soils.

Even gentle and steep slopes in dry areas, which are not generally used for cultivation can be used for lavender plantation providing cash income to poor farmers.