

## GASTON GROWER SPOTLIGHT- April 2021



### June is Prettier in Purple

Lavender can grow in Gaston County? The pretty purple blooms pictured above are proof. It's easier said than done when it comes to growing lavender in our acidic clay soils. That being said Gaston County is home to a couple of lavender growers brave enough to take on the challenge. Lavenders are in their happiest state growing in Europe's arid Mediterranean climate with well drained low nutrient sandy soils. This growing environment can be mimicked on our clay soils with amendments of sand or gravel. A soil sample will be necessary to grow lavender as well, in order to gauge the proper amount of lime to apply. Our soils in Gaston County tend to be more acidic but lavender prefers a pH closer to neutral (7.0) or slightly alkaline (7.5). These conditions may be best mimicked for home gardeners in sand filled raised beds or in containers.

Lavender will bloom from May to June so this month is prime time for our producers. The fragrance of lavender blooms makes it a popular choice for use in oils that can be utilized in a variety of ways. It is often used as a unique culinary flavor, along with being a great choice for floral arrangements and wreaths. A crop this unique and diverse growing in our county is worth being celebrated. If you're interested in learning more about Gaston County lavender production, [Dallas Lavender Lane Farm](#) is hosting their second annual bloom festival June 5th and 6th from 10am-5pm.



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