

Code: KA3838

## Lavender, Phlox & Pinks Guide

*Get the best from  
your plants*

### Quick Tips

- Open packaging immediately on receipt and stand upright where appropriate.
- Remove bagging if present on the pots. If plants seem dry, place roots/pots in a tray of water for half an hour.
- When growing in containers, don't fill to the brim with compost. Leave up to 2.5cm (1in) of pot on show to allow for watering – halve this for small pots and cell trays.
- If growing on the windowsill, turn plants regularly to prevent them stretching towards the light.
- Pots should always have drainage holes, but place on saucers/trays to prevent surface staining. It also helps retain extra water during summer heat.
- Always water prior to planting or potting on.
- Prepare soils ahead of planting. For the best establishment, work incredicompost® and incredibloom® fertiliser into the growing area. These will also give you the best results in containers displays too. Alternatively opt for regular liquid feeds through the season, starting at 6 weeks after planting.
- Avoid planting when soils are too wet or frozen.
- Acclimatise all indoor grown plants to outside conditions. Harden off by placing outside by day and back undercover each evening for 7-10 days.



**Lavender:** Lavenders dislike wet ground, particularly during winter. Improve heavy soil conditions by adding coarse grit or sharp sand prior to planting. When growing in large patio containers, use a well drained soil based compost such as John Innes No. 3. After planting, prune plants to encourage bushy growth. Water regularly throughout summer until lavender plants are fully established. Once established, they are reasonably drought tolerant. Immediately after flowering, prune back to within 2cm (1in) of the previous year's growth to maintain a compact, well shaped plant.



**Phlox:** Pot up creeping phlox plants and grow them on until large enough to plant outdoors in borders and rockeries. Transplant into fertile, well drained soil in full sun or semi shade. Once established, most phlox is reasonably drought tolerant and requires little attention, except occasional watering during particularly dry periods. Taller phlox paniculata types may need some support.

**Pinks (annual):** Pinch out growing tip 2 weeks after potting to encourage trailing habit. Plant out after all risk of frost. Allow 15cm (6in) between plants in pots and baskets. The wonderful fragrance will fill the air. Remove individual blooms as they fade. If your plants are in heavy, wet soil they will benefit from some sharp gravel incorporated into the soil which will help improve drainage. Wet soil kills more plants than cold weather.

**Pinks (perennial):** Pot up plants into pots of free-draining compost, and grow carnations on in frost free conditions until large enough to plant outside. When all risk of frost has passed and plants are well grown, acclimatise them to outdoor conditions over 7 to 10 days. Plant carnations outdoors in soil that has been enriched with plenty of well rotted manure or garden compost. Feed and water regularly until dianthus plants are fully established. Deadhead faded flowers frequently to encourage more blooms to be produced and maintain plant vigour.

Visit the gardening information section on our website for a wealth of content to help you get the very best from your new garden additions.



TM18020.03/ KA3828