

Topic Lavender

Jan 2017

We will have the owners of Red Barn Lavender (Ferndale) come and discuss their experiences with organically growing lavender in this area.

They started growing lavender in 2005 and have over 3,600 plants under cultivation. Over the years they have experimented with various species of lavender to determine which ones grow best in our area and meet their product requirements.

At present they have plantings of Buena Vista, Grosso, Maillette, Fred Boutin, Hidcote Giant, Old English, Twickle Purple, Royal Velvet, Blue Hidcote and Pink Hidcote. In addition they have specimen plants of Sawyers, Dilly, Sarah, Sachet, Munstead, Jean Davis, Cascade Velvet, White Spike, Folgate, Seal, Silver Frost, Dutch Mill and Lodden Blue.

The reason for the various species is that Red Barn has several product lines which require different plant attributes. Specifically some species generate superior oil, others are fragrant, some species have robust flower heads and others provide culinary usages. Lavender sugars, butters, lotions, creams and soaps all require different plant attributes.

They will be bringing a few of their non-plant related products to demonstrate the lavender attributes that they are selecting.

Red Barn Lavender is a valued member of the Bellingham Farmers Market. When I visited their booth, it was overflowing with customers.

The pictures, their experiences and the range of lavender uses should be a treat.