

# LAVENDER

AT HENFAES

## HERB PRODUCTION GUIDES

August 2008

Ref: 020504



### INTRODUCTION

The main lavender producing areas of the UK are in the south and east of England, with some smaller scale production in Merseyside and Lancashire. In response to increasing numbers of enquiries relating to lavender, CALU decided to establish a small demonstration plot at Henfaes in 2008.

### PLANTS

Micro-module plants of two varieties of lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*) – Hidcote and Munstead - were ordered from Thompson and Morgan in February 2008. These are both compact varieties that are widely planted in the UK and are deemed suitable for north Wales conditions.

### POTTING ON

The plants arrived in two deliveries. The first, 252 Hidcote plants, arrived and was potted into 9cm plastic pots on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The second delivery, of 252 Munstead plants, was dispatched on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008, but did not arrive until the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008. This meant that the plants had spent the Easter bank holiday in a sorting room somewhere. There was evidence of frost damage and lack of light (etiolation) on many of the plants. In addition the trays had obviously been upside down as some plants had fallen out of their modules completely, other were crushed. Of the 252 plants, 73 were unusable. The remainder were potted into 9cm plastic pots on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2008 using Humax multipurpose potting compost.

### GROWING ON

The plants were grown on in an unheated glasshouse until 29<sup>th</sup> April. During the week beginning 22<sup>nd</sup> April they were hardened off (kept outside during the day, brought in at night). They were transferred to an outdoor area protected with netting. From 29<sup>th</sup> April until 9<sup>th</sup> June they were watered as required and fed with Phostrogen plant food (10g per 9 litres) every week (NPK 14:10:27).

### PREPARATION OF THE FIELD SITE.

The area had previously been rabbit fenced. In 2007 it had grown parsnips. All the parsnips were removed by January. The area was then left until May, by which time it was heavily infested with black nightshade (*Solanum nigrum*). This was sprayed off with Samurai (active ingredient Glyphosate) on 30<sup>th</sup> May. The ground was then cultivated prior to being covered with Mypex 2m wide by 55m metres long.

### TRANSPLANTING

The plants were transplanted into the field on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June (27 rows of Munstead on day 1, the remaining Munstead and all the Hidcote on day 2). The final number of plants planted out was 228 Hidcote and 174 Munstead owing to limitations of space. Table 1 shows average plant height at the time of transplanting.

Incisions were made into the Mypex and the plants were planted at 40cm spacings within the rows, 50cm between rows.



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Cwledig  
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
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**Table 1:** Average plant heights at transplanting and 10 week after

	Average height at transplanting (cm)	Average height after 10 weeks in field (cm)
Munstead	5.3	19.1
Hidcote	5.6	23.0

**ON-GOING MANAGEMENT**

Following transplanting to the field, the plants have received no interventions other than minimal ad hoc manual weeding (mainly chickweed, corn spurrey, nettles and black nightshade).

**LOSSES IN-FIELD**

Although the field was fenced with rabbit netting, a rabbit did manage to uproot several of the plants immediately post planting (ten Munstead and one Hidcote). The hole where the rabbit was gaining entry was found and stopped up. Since then, there have been no further losses. Both varieties have established well.

**COSTS OF PRODUCTION**

Throughout the process we have monitored the inputs (labour and materials) involved in establishing the demonstration plot. The table below summarises this information

**Table 2:** production costs for 3 x 60m rows of lavender at CALU Henfaes, 2008

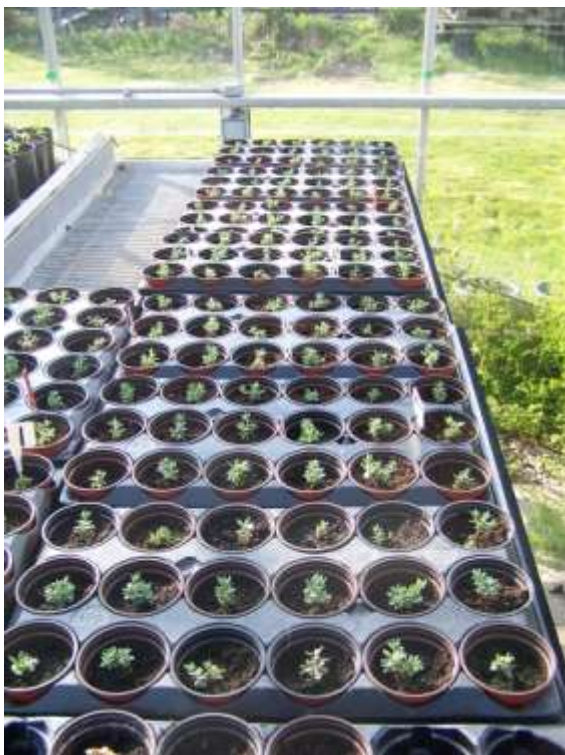
Item	Unit	Unit cost (£)	Quantity	Cost (£)
Micro module plants	ea	0.16	250	39.00
9cm pots	ea	0.01	250	20.00
Pot trays	ea	0.72	21	15.00
Humax multipurpose compost	litre	0.49	100litres	4.99
Labour	hr	7.20	2.25hrs	16.20
On going watering and monitoring = 1hr / week	hr	7.20	10	72.00
Herbicide	litre	5.36	<0.25 litre	1.00
Herbicide application	hr	7.20	1	7.20
Cultivating	hr	22.00	0.5	11.00
Planting out	hr	6.50	10	65.00
Laying Mypex	hr	7.20	2	14.40
Mypex	meter	1.00	60	60.00
<b>Total cost</b>				<b>£325.79</b>

The following photographs show the development of the plants through the first six months of the project

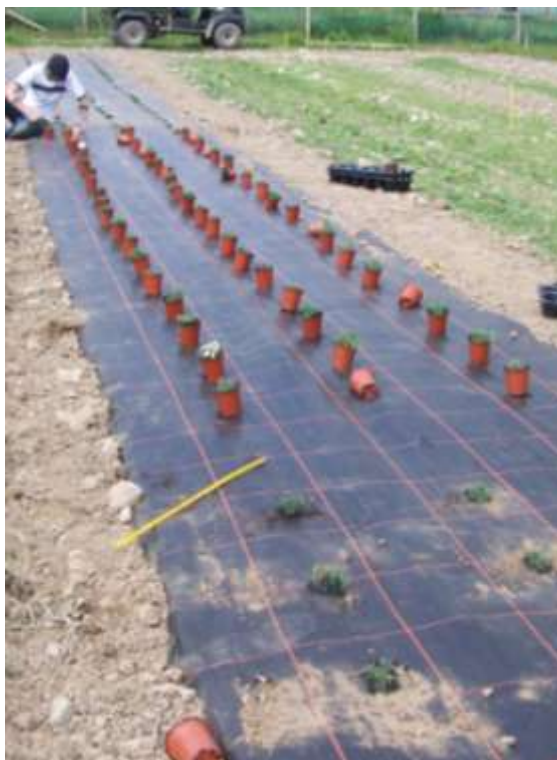
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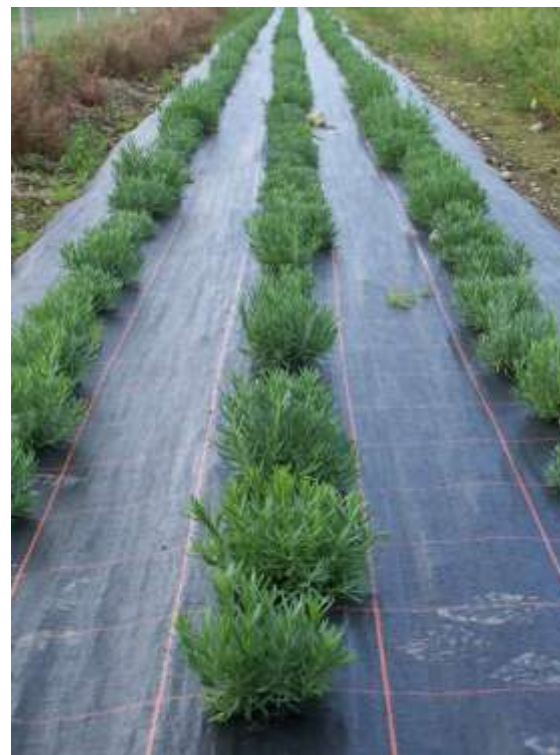
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22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008 (Munstead)



9<sup>th</sup> June 2008 (Munstead)



22<sup>nd</sup> August 2008 (Hidcote)

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