

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower heads. Australian Plant Image Index, photographers RG & FJ Richardson, garden at Meredith, Vic



Stems with spent flowers. Photographer Jackie Miles



Plant. Photographer Jackie Miles

Common name

Italian Lavender, Spanish Lavender, Topped Lavender

Family

Lamiaceae

Where found

Woodland, pastures, roadsides, disturbed sites, gardens, waste areas, and along streams. Sydney area and Canberra. Occasionally elsewhere.

Notes

Introduced shrub to 1 m high, occasionally sprawling. Stems square in cross section, **woolly** hairy with greyish hairs. Older stems are somewhat woody, rough, rounded in cross section. Leaves strongly aromatic when rubbed, opposite each other, 1–3 cm long, 2–5 mm wide, stalkless, margins curved down, tips somewhat pointed to blunt. Flowers with a strong lavender smell. Flower clusters dense, 20–50 mm long, with up to five purple, deep bluish-purple, or violet, petal-like **bracts** each 10–50 mm long at the top. Individual flowers inconspicuous, 5–8 mm long, tubular, the tube white tinged blue towards the top, with 5 dark purple lobes. Each flower **subtended** by a deep bluish purple **bract**. Flowers Aug.–Jan.

Lavandula stoechas subsp. *stoechas* in Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lv=sp&name=Lavandula-stoechas> (accessed 22 January, 2021)

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