

## Bringing flowers and greenery to the area by planting lavender <Aizuwakamatsu Plant>

Aizuwakamatsu Plant has been hosting an activity to green the area around the plant by planting lavender seedlings each year. This activity began with the rooted cuttings of lavender (approximately 200) provided by an employee in 2002 and has continued for the seven years since.



### Enjoying participation in environmental activities

Lavender planting is one of the events held during Japan's Environment Month in June. There are more participants every year and it has become a fun environmental activity for employees to participate in. The participants are also given seedlings to promote greening activities at home. We hope to expand the environmental movement at home through this activity.

### A road of 2,900 blooming lavender plants

Lavender seedlings are grown from cuttings taken from established plants. They have been planted around the plant by our employees little by little. We now promote the greening of the entire region by planting lavender along city roads with the cooperation of the City of Aizuwakamatsu.



The nearly 2,900 lavender plants that bloom along both sides of the road from the entrance of the industrial complex (a total of 1,200m) offer comforting beauty to the employees and local residents with their small flowers, subdued color and pleasant scent.



### Flowers made into dried flowers and potpourri

After enjoying the flowers for a while, we invite participants to pick them. They take them home to make dried flowers and potpourri. We also hold potpourri-making lessons during the picking season.

We invited other companies in the industry complex union to join in our flower picking in Fiscal 2008. Ten people participated and enjoyed the event a great deal. We hope to expand this activity and invite city residents next year.

#### How to make potpourri

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- ① Form a small bouquet of five to nine (an odd number) flowering stems by slightly shifting their positions and then tying them with a ribbon.
  - ② Hold the flowering stems upside down and bend the stems radially to wrap the flowers.
  - ③ Thread the ribbon between the stems. Continue to thread the ribbon over and under the stems and in reverse order on the second line in order to make a grid pattern.
  - ④ When the ribbon has been wound around all of the flowers, cut it and tie with another ribbon for decoration. Remove excess leaves from the stems and cut all stems to the desired length to complete.



### Lavender

Lavender is a low-growing and woody perennial shrub that belongs to the mint family (Lamiaceae). It flowers in June and July, reaching full bloom in the beginning of July. Taking cuttings from grown plants and allowing them to grow their own roots is a method used to produce new plants.