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Iowa Lavender

Text and Photos by Brian Abeling

If there's an award for the best-smelling farm in Iowa, it might go to Tim and Mary Hamer, who own the Loess Hills Lavender Farm near Missouri Valley. Started in 2009, the farm has more than 1,200 lavender plants. While best known for its fragrance, lavender is also used in cooking, cleaning, and healing. The Hamers estimate around 25,000 visitors stop at the farm each season.



Bees are frequent and welcome guests at the farm. The insects seek lavender for its nectar and pollen.

The sandy limestone soil of the Loess Hills, which helps drain water, is good for growing lavender.



Many of the visitors take time to collect their own handfuls of lavender. They typically take it home to dry and use for decoration, fragrance, or both.



The farm is around two acres. The lavender plants are arranged in rows with plenty of room between for walking.



Fill a basket with lavender, or you can visit the shop to buy products made with oil from the plants, including soaps, lotions, teas, cookies, and even fudge!



If You Go
Loess Hills Lavender Farm,
2278 Loess Hills Trail, Missouri Valley,
is open May through October each
year. The full bloom is typically mid-
June through July. Call 712-642-9016
or visit loesshillslavender.com.