

## **Results- April – May 2001 Greenhouse Lavender**

**Result at Pioneer Gardens:** Inspection of greenhouse plants on approximately May 15, 2001 at Pioneer Gardens showed that all plants were healthy, growing well and were approximately 18" high. Greenhouse plants at this location were not mulched.

**Result at Sunderland Lavender Farm:** At the same time, plants in the greenhouse at Sunderland Lavender Farm were reported as follows: "most plants looked poor, gray, dry foliage, and after two weeks, there was no recovery. Only 4 plants survived."

### **Conclusions**

The mixed results of the study are somewhat inconclusive regarding the effect of mulching lavender; however, both growers agreed that the extremely harsh winter weather conditions resulted in some failure of lavender at each farm.

The 100% failure of mulched and 100% failure of unmulched field lavender at Pioneer Gardens compared to the 26% failure rate of mulched plants and 80% failure rate of unmulched plants at Sunderland Lavender Farm suggests that the slightly more open field condition at Pioneer Gardens resulted in exposure which contributed to failure and that in cases of open fields with high exposure, mulch did not positively affect survival.

Consider also that mulched plants house in the unheated greenhouse at Sunderland Lavender Farm experienced low survival rate.

Lavender wintered in the heated greenhouse at Pioneer Gardens survived and was extremely healthy upon visual inspection mid-summer 2001. Twelve of these plants were put in a south-facing "household garden" plot in August 2001 at the residence of Denise Schwartz, South Deerfield, in dirt that is very poor, dry and sandy. These plants will not be mulched during the winter of 2001-02. Visual inspection will be recorded May 2002.