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Lavandula latifolia

[Synonyms : *Lavandula spica*]

SPIKED LAVENDER is an evergreen shrub. Found in the western regions of the Mediterranean it has small, greyish-blue flowers.

It is also known as *Alhucema* (Spanish), *Breitblättriger Lavendel* (German), Broad-leaved lavender, English spike lavender, *Lavendel* (German), *Lavendo larĝfolia* (Esperanto), Lesser lavender, *Leveälehtilaventeli* (Finnish), *Narde* (German), Old English lavender, *Speik* (German), Spike lavender, *Spikenarde* (German), and *Spiklavendel* (German).

This species can sometimes be labelled *Lavandula spica* by gardening outlets.

Latifolia is made up of Latin *lati-* (broad, wide) and *-folia* (leaved) components.

Some authorities have believed that spiked lavender was the ‘spikenard’ mentioned in the *Bible*.

The plant has been depicted in porcelain painting. The shrub is used in perfumes, as well as in veterinary medicine and as an insect repellent.