

NEW for Spring 2026



### Instructions for Top Dressing a Lavender Mound with Gigi's BarrelBloom Biochar + Worm Castings

Gigi's BarrelBloom (Jack Daniel's oak barrel biochar blended with Tennessee worm castings) is an excellent gentle amendment for established lavender. It improves drainage and aeration in Tennessee clay soils, adds beneficial microbes and slow-release nutrients, and helps lavender mounds stay healthy without over-fertilizing (lavender prefers lean, well-drained conditions).

Top dressing is ideal for mature mounds because it avoids disturbing the shallow roots.

#### Best Timing

Early spring (now through May in the Nashville area) before heavy growth.  
Or after the first bloom flush (late summer/early fall).  
Avoid applying in extreme heat or when soil is very wet.

#### Materials Needed

Gigi's BarrelBloom blend (pre-mixed biochar + worm castings).  
Garden gloves.  
Hand trowel or small cultivator (optional for light incorporation).

Watering can or hose with a gentle shower setting. **\*Remember to use a hose filter if using city water**  
Optional: A thin layer of gravel, pea gravel, or coarse sand on top for extra drainage and weed suppression.

### Step-by-Step Application

#### 1. Prepare the Area

Gently remove any weeds, old mulch, or debris around the base of the lavender mound. Clear a circle extending out to the drip line (outer edge of the foliage). Do not pull or dig deeply—lavender hates root disturbance.

#### 2. Measure the Amount

For a standard mature mound (2–3 ft wide): Use 1–2 cups (about ½–1 quart) of BarrelBloom per plant.

For larger mounds or rows: Apply a ¼–½ inch layer over the soil surface under the canopy.

Spread it evenly in a doughnut shape around the base, starting 2–3 inches away from the main stems (keep the crown/neck dry to prevent rot).

#### 3. Apply the BarrelBloom

Sprinkle the blend evenly over the cleared soil. The worm castings provide gentle nutrition and microbes, while the biochar holds moisture and improves soil structure over time.

#### 4. Lightly Incorporate (Optional but Recommended)

Use your gloved fingers or a hand cultivator to gently scratch the BarrelBloom into the top ½–1 inch of soil. Avoid deep digging. This helps it integrate faster without exposing roots.

#### 5. Water It In

Water thoroughly but gently so the amendment settles and begins working. Watering activates the microbes and helps the biochar start holding nutrients and moisture. Let the soil dry out between regular waterings—lavender likes to dry down.

#### 6. Optional Finishing Touch

Top with a thin ½-inch layer of gravel or coarse mulch. This keeps the crown dry, deters slugs, and maintains the excellent drainage lavender needs in humid Tennessee summers.

### Frequency & Maintenance

Apply 1–2 times per year (spring and/or post-bloom).

BarrelBloom's effects build over time—expect improved vigor, better drought resistance, and stronger fragrance the following seasons.

Monitor for signs of over-moisture (yellowing lower leaves) and adjust watering accordingly. **\*a TN field of lavender typically doesn't need additional watering after the new plantings have established (3 - 4 weeks depending on rain)**

### Extra Tips from Gigi's Lavender Experience

Lavender mounds in Tennessee clay benefit hugely from this blend because the barrel biochar (from whiskey oak) adds structure and the worm castings introduce biology without excess nitrogen.

Always keep the base of the stems exposed and dry—never pile amendments directly against the crown.

Combine with good air circulation and full sun (6+ hours) for best results.

Be sure to subscribe to our: **The Lavender Exchange** website for ongoing R & D, helpful grower updates, Events and more! [TheLavenderExchange.com](https://TheLavenderExchange.com)  
A PDF copy of these instructions is also available on that website

