

Lavender Grows in Mullin

By Brian Whitt
Goldthwaite Eagle

"In Xanadu did Kubla Khan a stately pleasure dome decree: where Alph, the sacred river, ran through caverns measureless to man down to a sunless sea." - Samuel Taylor Coleridge

A light, steady breeze blows across Xanadu Acres, sending purple ripples through the neat rows of Mexican lavenders. Their caretaker, Marc Walton, walks among them pulling weeds, followed by his loyal pup Rocket, who takes frequent stops to paw at shadows. There is no traffic on the dirt road nearby, the only sounds those of nature and Marc's voice. It is a bright and blissful place, this Xanadu, a far cry from Coleridge's sunless sea.

"I have five different varieties in the field: Vera - which is a true lavender plant, everything else is pretty much a hybrid after that; (and) these are Spanish that are in bloom right now, and I've got about five hundred of them," he said. "I've got Vera, Spanish, Grosso, and Provence."

What does one do with a field full of lavender plants?



Marc Walton and Rocket check the lavender fields of Xanadu Acres in Mullin.

"My Spanish and my Grosso are what I'm going to use for distilling oils," Marc said. "My Provence is a culinary-type lavender."

Lavenders are hardy, as they proved earlier this year.

"After our second big, bad freeze that we had here, I walked through the fields and I really didn't think the Spanish was going to make it," Marc said. "They were kind of frosted at the ends, so I went and trimmed them up a little bit, got rid of the dead stuff and man, they just took off after that."

Xanadu Acres may be relatively unknown at the moment, but that will change. Texas Highways magazine had already taken notice two weeks ago, and a photographer was on the way.

"This is exactly what Mills County needs: eight or ten of these farms around here," Marc said.

Marc attended a lavender festival in Blanco last year, and came away with a clear idea of how his farm measures up to the farms of other lavender-growers.

"They call Blanco the Lavender Capital of Texas," he said. "Well, after I left that festival last year, Mullin could be the Lavender Capital of Texas, because there were only two lavender farms there, and I had more lavender in the ground than both of them put together."

The scale of Marc's undertaking has to be seen to be believed, and people have been stopping by to take a closer look.

If you would like to visit Xanadu Acres or do a little volunteer weeding, give Marc a call at 512-484-5272.



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Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew [their] strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; [and] they shall walk, and not faint.