

## **Lepidolite - No fixed chemical formula**

Hardness: Variable. Cleavage: None observed when massive/fine grained; perfect when foliated. Foliated material very soft; easily damaged and said to easily exfoliate (flake apart) in water but this appears to be untrue as 'books' have been soaked in various water solutions of cleaning chemicals for days with no exfoliation observed. Not an issue with fine-grained, lapidary grade material. Stable to Iron OUT/EDTA, hot alkali and  $\text{NH}_4\text{HF}_2$ .

Not a valid mineral species but sufficiently common to merit its own listing. The name is usually applied to lilac, purple or red micas.

### References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-2380.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <https://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/lepidolite.pdf>

Hardinger, S. (2025) Mineral Specimen Cleaning and Development for the Amateur, 339 p.

Sinkankas, J. (1972) Gemstone & Mineral Data Book, 346 p. Winchester Press, New York.