

Petitgrain

Citrus aurantium var. amara fol. - Rutaceae

Petitgrain is extracted from the leaves of the bitter orange tree. The small thorn-covered evergreen tree with its fragrant solitary or clustered white blossoms is cultivated around the Mediterranean, China and Haiti. It prefers open fields with loose sandy soil. Neroli oil is produced from the blossoms of the same tree.

Place of Origin

Italy, France, Tunisia

Part of plant used

leaves & green twigs

Method of Extraction

steam distillation

Characteristics

Colour: Pale yellow-orange
Perfume notes: Top

Yield

2%

BF

4-6

TR

D

Aroma

Chemical Composition

Esters	linalyl acetate	%	Monoterpanol	linalool	%
	geranyl acetate	52		geraniol	25
	neryl acetate	4		nerol	2
Monoterpenes	limonene	2			8
	beta-pinene	trace			
	myrcene	1			
		5			

(Other petitgrain oils are produced from the leaves and twigs of lemon, bergamot, sweet orange, mandarin and tangerine. Petitgrain is sometimes used to adulterate neroli oil)

Properties:

Adaptogenic antidepressant, anti-inflammatory, anti-spasmodic, cytophylactic, antifungal, bactericidal, calming, deodorant, nervine, stomachic, tonic

Precautions:

Non-toxic, non-irritant, non-sensitising

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Indications

Circulatory

Palpitations

Digestive

IBS, "Nervous system tummy", stress related
Digestive system problems

Genito-Urinary / Gynaecological

Menopausal imbalances, PMS, mood swings

Immune System

Musculo-skeletal

Nervous

anxiety, tension, stress, frustration, irritability,
depression, Nervous system conditions

Respiratory

Skin

Sensitive skins, irritated conditions, mature
skins, irritated conditions, mature skins, broken
capillaries, fungal skin conditions

Clinical Research

Antifungal activity against a range of fungi has been proven

Psychological uses

The refreshing flowery scent of petitgrain oil is lighter and more neutral than that of neroli, it is less expensive and shares similar psychotherapeutic Properties. It is invigorating, uplifting and clarifying and is a heartening remedy for less serious cases of depression and stress-related anxiety.

Summary

Soothing tonic, adaptogen, versatile oil