

Rose of May Floral water France

Rosa centifolia L.



Floral
Rosy



Botanical family : Rosaceae
Method of culture : Conventional
Part harvested : Fresh flowers

INCI : Rosa centifolia flower water

Specifications

Method for obtaining : Steam distillation

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Appearance : Colourless limpid liquid

Constituents : Of the volatile fraction : phenylethyl alcohol, citronellol, geraniol, nerol

Harvest period

J F M A **M** J J A S O N D



Once growing thickly over the Provençal hills, the Centifolia rose, the name referring its profusion of petals, has become one of the symbols of Grasse's agricultural past and present-day industry. Like jasmine, the flower brought the City of Grasse world renown. Along with the Damask rose, it is one of only two species of rose grown for their fragrance. Steam distillation of the Centifolia rose petals only produces May rose water, for there is not sufficient yield to produce essential oil. May rose absolute is obtained via ethanol extraction of the concrete. Exuding a rich, sweet fragrance, the Centifolia rose is the very expression of the rose, with a characteristic herbaceous note, found in the floral water and in absolute. The May rose has a prestigious fragrance and boasts the distinguished elegance of timeless femininity. It is also celebrated for its many applications in skin care.

In the past, Centifolia rose was grown in Provence, particularly in Grasse, for which it serves as symbol. Such crops are now mostly found in Pégomas, France. It is also grown in Morocco, where it was introduced in 1941. The "hundred-petalled" flowers are picked from late April to early June, depending on the year, often with a more intensified blooming period May 10-15, hence the name "May rose." To preserve the sweet fragrance of the May rose, the flowers are gathered at dawn, just as they bloom, and are then extraction-processed while fresh. The pickers seize the flowers in their fingers with a twisting motion to detach the bloom. An average picker can harvest six kilograms of fresh flowers an hour.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



ALBERT VIEILLE

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