

Tea tree Essential oil Australia

Melaleuca alternifolia Cheel



Herbaceous
Woody



Botanical family : Myrtaceae
Method of culture : Conventional
Part harvested : Branches

CAS TSCA : 68647-73-4
INCI : Melaleuca alternifolia leaf oil

Specifications

Method for obtaining : Steam distillation
:
Appearance : Colourless to greenish yellow liquid
Constituents : Terpinene 1ol 4, alpha and gamma Terpinenes

Harvest period

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



The tea tree is an evergreen, bushy tree endemic to Australia. The long branches have narrow, slender, bright-green leaves and, when in bloom, the tea tree is covered in cottony plumes of pretty white flowers. Australian aborigines have utilized the leaves for their medicinal properties for centuries, but it was not until the 20th century that tea tree essential oil started being produced in Australia from wild trees. In a move to perpetuate the species, tea tree cultivation has expanded over the last twenty years. The leaves are harvested in the summer, starting in December. The trees are pruned when the foliage is the thickest and the leaves contain the maximum amounts of essential oil. The cuts are done in such a way as to allow the tree to regain its foliage in two years. The extracted essential oil is herbaceous and woody.

The tea tree was discovered in 1770 in Australia by Captain James Cook of the British Royal Navy. English sailors who used steeped its leaves in hot water to replace their favorite drink christened it the “tea tree.” The name, however, causes confusion with the real tea tree, *Camellia sinensis*, and other species of the genus *Melaleuca* commonly called tea tree. Two other trees of this family are utilized for their olfactory qualities: the paper bark tea tree or niaouli (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) and the cajeput tree (*Melaleuca leucadendron*).

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic



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Ed. 2019.10.15