

# Ylang-ylang extra Essential oil Comoros

*Cananga odorata forma genuina (Lam.) Hook. F. & Thom. (Baillon)*



**Floral**  
Jasmine



Botanical family : Annonaceae  
Method of culture : Conventional  
Part harvested : Flowers

CAS TSCA : 8006-81-3  
INCI : Cananga odorata oil

## Specifications

Method for obtaining : Hydrodistillation  
:  
Appearance : Pale yellow to dark yellow liquid  
Constituents : Sesquiterpen (24-48%), esters (23-56%)

## Harvest period

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



Ylang-ylang, having the Latin name *Cananga odorata forma genuina*, is native to Southeast Asia. It was imported to the Indian Ocean in the 20th century. Today, ylang is grown on the Comoros Islands, Mayotte, and Madagascar, all having the tropical and subtropical climates it prefers. Golden-yellow ylang-ylang flowers are highly sought after in perfume-making for their sweet fragrance. They can be found on the tree throughout the year, especially from November to March. Picking takes place at dawn, when the flower's aromas are the most intense. The blooms must be processed quickly after picking to preserve the full fragrance. Ylang-ylang essential oil is obtained by fractional steam distillation of the flowers. Each fraction results in a different quality of essential oil, classified by density. There are five different qualities: third, second, first, extra, and extra superior (no longer produced). Distillation for creating the extra essential oil takes one to two hours. There is also an unfractionated ylang-ylang complete essential oil. The ylang-ylang extra essential oil is one of the best qualities and is used in perfumery. It is the product of the first two hours of distillation. Ylang essential oil has floral and jasmine notes, as well as the cresol-like facets characteristic of ylang-ylang.

Ylang-ylang is often confused with its close relative, cananga (*Cananga odorata forma macrophylla*), for both are of the same botanical genus and species. The "flower of flowers," as it is called by the Malays, is highly prized for its scent and was widely used in harems due to its aphrodisiacal qualities. Ylang-ylang flowers are also said to combat frigidity and anxiety. In the wild, the ylang tree grows to several meters in height. In agriculture, however, the tree is kept to two to three meters, making the flowers easier to harvest. The branches are trained to curve downward, like those of a weeping willow, to place the flowers at eye level.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



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