

# Buchu Essential oil South Africa

*Barosma betulina* Bartl. & H. L. Wendl.



**Herbaceous**  
Minty



Botanical family : Rutaceae  
Method of culture : Conventional  
Part harvested : Leaves

CAS TSCA : 68650-46-4  
INCI : Barosma betulina leaf oil

## Specifications

Method for obtaining : Steam distillation  
:  
Appearance : Pale yellow to brun liquid (white crystals appear at low temperature)  
Constituents : Limonene, isomenthone, diosphenols

## Harvest period

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



Buchu is a heath-type shrub that grows to one meter in height. It shares the Rutaceae family with celebrated citrus trees: lemon, orange, and bitter orange. What makes buchu so unique is its roots, which grow tightly against rocks to collect moisture. The star-shaped flowers may be white, pink, or purple. The rounded, evergreen, aromatic leaves are the morphological feature that led the plant's being dubbed "round-leaf buchu" or "short buchu." These leaves have many pockets secreting the essential oil. These pockets form translucent dots on the limb when the leaves are viewed in the light. The foliage is cut during flowering and fruiting and is distilled. Buchu essential oil, with a fragrance reminiscent of blackcurrant buds, is herbaceous, sulfurous, and oily. It also has a minty note evocative of the fresh fragrance of various mints.

An endemic South African shrub, buchu grows in the mountains of the Cape Province. The indigenous peoples there use buchu as a medicinal plant and an insect repellent. Some 400 years ago, the Hottentots African tribe used the plant, which they called Bookoo or Buku, to perfume the body. Buchu is part of the British Pharmacopeia. To avoid the destruction of wild plants, the harvest and sale of buchu are regulated by the Cape Town authorities.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



ALBERT VIEILLE

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