

Geranium bourbon Essential oil Madagascar

Pelargonium X spp



Floral
Rosy



Botanical family : Geraniaceae
Method of culture : Conventional
Part harvested : Flowers and stems

CAS TSCA : 8000-46-2
INCI : Pelargonium graveolens oil

Specifications

Method for obtaining : Hydrostillation
:
Appearance : Yellowish-green to brownish-green liquid
Constituents : Citronellol, geraniol, isomenthone, citronellyl formate, linalol

Harvest period

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

The Bourbon geranium, or rose geranium, is native to South Africa and takes its name from the Greek geranos, meaning “crane,” a reference to its fruit capsule, shaped like a crane’s bill. It is part of the Geraniaceae family and the Pelargonium genus, which encompasses more than 200 species. In the mid-19th century, when the Damask rose became rare and its essential oil costly, perfumers set off in search of new plants with rose-like odors. Soon, Bourbon geranium, palmarosa, and lemongrass were being imported from the East Indies. In 1819, the rose geranium, having become a sought-after raw material in perfumery, officially found its place on the perfumer’s organ. In 1880, it was introduced to Réunion Island, where it was christened Bourbon geranium, a nod to the island’s former name. This plant is also widely used in aromatherapy for its healing, cleansing, and firming properties. Bourbon geranium is a heavily branched subshrub that grows 40-130 cm high. It has evergreen foliage covered in fine hairs where the essential oil accumulates. The five-petaled flowers are pale pink streaked with purple. On both Réunion Island and Madagascar, Bourbon geraniums are grown as perennial crops spread over more than three years. The plant is manually harvested several times a year between October and April. The traditional hydrodistillation of the leaves and stems produces Bourbon geranium essential oil, which has floral, rosy notes. The delicate olfactory character of the Bourbon geranium differs from that of the Egyptian geranium, which is sweeter and more floral.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



ALBERT VIEILLE