

# Cedarwood Virginia Essential oil United States

*Juniperus virginiana L.*



**Woody**  
Sweet



Botanical family : Cupressaceae  
Method of culture : Wildcrafted controlled  
Part harvested : Wood

CAS TSCA : 8000-27-9  
INCI : Juniperus virginiana oil

## Specifications

Method for obtaining : Steam distillation

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Appearance : Colourless to yellow viscous liquid with crystallizations sometimes

Constituents : Thujopsene, alpha-cedrene, cedrol

## Harvest period

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



Eastern Red cedar is a large, slow-growing evergreen that reaches 30 meters in height. It is native to the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains in North America. A member of the Cupressaceae family, it shares botanical attributes with juniper (*Juniperus* genus) and its cousin, the cypress, for the evergreen foliage is composed of overlapping scales and needles. The fruits are globular, purple-brown berries reminiscent of juniper berries. The red-brown heartwood earned the tree the name “Red cedar.” Eastern Red cedar essential oil is distilled from sawdust and shavings from American wood mills. The sweet, woody fragrance of the essential oil is characteristic of the “cedar” notes found with Atlas cedar, but enhanced by a pencil facet.

Before 1917, red cedarwood was used mainly for making pencils. This industry used only old wild trees with wide, straight trunks free of knots, with abundant heartwood. The wood residues were recovered for distilling essential oil. However, in 1910, the natural resource began to see a decline, triggering an equivalent drop in pencil production. Beginning in 1917, distillers turned to the cabinetmaking industry to source sawdust and Eastern Red cedar chips. The trees used are younger, with more sapwood, but the quality of the oil produced remains the same. Today, Eastern Red cedar essential oil is sourced exclusively from this industry.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



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