

# Geranium Essential oil China

*Pelargonium spp.*



**Floral**  
Rosy



Botanical family : Geraniaceae  
Method of culture : Conventional  
Part harvested : Aerial parts

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

## Specifications

Method for obtaining : Hydrodistillation  
:  
Appearance : Yellow amber to greenish yellow liquid  
Constituents : Citronellol, citronellyl formiate , geraniol

## Harvest period

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



A key plant in the perfumery industry, the geranium rosa – a pretty plant with pale-pink flowers – hides its scent in its downy leaves. This foliage is covered with secretory hairs containing the essential oil, giving off a pleasant rose scent when rubbed or crushed. The leafy branches are harvested in summer and fresh-distilled to produce an essential oil with notes of rose, lemon, and mint. The olfactory characteristics of geranium rosa vary depending on the characteristics of the soil in which it is cultivated: Geranium essential oil produced in China has a herbaceous facet not found in the oil of the Egyptian-grown plant. Geranium rosa belongs to the genus *Pelargonium*. It differs from ornamental geraniums, which are from the *Geranium* genus. But both genera share a botanical family – Geraniaceae – as well as by their etymology and symbolism, for *Pelargonium* comes from the Greek *pelargos*, meaning "stork," and *Geranium* is derived from the Latin *geranos*, meaning "crane." These two references to birds link both botanical genera in the same symbolism: prosperity in Egypt, immortality in Taoist China, and longevity in Japan.

Originally from South Africa, geranium rosa grows wild in the Cape Province. Introduced in Europe in the 16th century, geranium rosa soon enjoyed fame for its rose scent. Other plants with a rosy smell were imported from the East Indies in its wake, such as palmarosa or lemongrasses. To meet the growing demand of the perfume industry, the plant was widely cultivated in Grasse, Spain, Algeria, and Corsica. In 1819, it became an element in the perfumer's organ as a substitute for true rose, and then earned recognition in its own right as an original fragrance.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



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