

# Buchu South Africa

*Barosma betulina*

## ESSENTIAL OIL

### ABOUT BUCHU

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.

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.

To obtain the essential oil, the foliage is pruned during the flowering and fruiting period and then put into distillation.



These applications are given for information only

### THE FRAGRANCE

Buchu essential oil is often used in blackcurrant chords or to accompany mints to give them a fruity facet. This product is thus associated with aromatic woody accords or in reconstitutions of liquorice.

**AROMATIC**  
Minty



100 kg  
of buchu leaves

Steam distillation  
 $\eta = 1\%$

1 kg  
of essential oil



## Harvest calendar

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

## Traceability

Country

Region

Delimited  
collection area

## OLFACTORY PROFIL

Aromatic, minty, blackcurrant, green, woody.

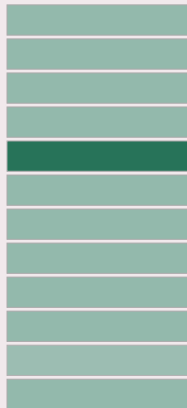
Head

Heart

Base

## TENACITY

1 hour  
2 hours  
3 hours  
6 hours  
1 day  
2 days  
3 days  
4 days  
1 week  
2 weeks  
3 weeks  
1 month



\* Tenacity of characteristic notes

## GLOBAL DATA

CAS TSCA: 68650-46-4

CAS EINECS: 84649-93-4

EINECS : 283-474-3

FEMA: 2169

FDA: 172.510

CoE: 85n

INCI: Barosma betulina leaf oil

Resource: Wild

Processed plant part: Leaves

Transformation process: Steam distillation

Appearance: pale yellow to amber limpid liquid

Main constituents: Limonene, isomenthone, diosphenols



ALBERT VIEILLE