

Mint arvensis dementholized Essential oil India

Mentha arvensis var. piperascens Malinv. ex Holmes



Herbaceous
Minty



Botanical family : Lamiaceae
Method of culture : Conventional
Part harvested : Flowering tops

CAS TSCA : 68917-18-0
INCI : Mentha arvensis piperascens herb oil

Specifications

Method for obtaining : Steam distillation and then partially free-mentholated by freezing and wringing
Appearance : Colourless to amber yellow mobile liquid
Constituents : Menthol (33-45%), menthone, isomenthone

Harvest period

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



Mentha arvensis or mint, also called “field mint” and “cornmint,” is a perennial plant covered with very fine hairs. The square stems bear oval leaves with serrated edges. Small, lilac-colored flowers form dense heads at the tops of the stems. This wild species grows in meadows and along the edges of wetlands in Europe. In India, it is grown by smallholders on plots of not more than a hectare. Harvesting is done by hand, reaping with a sickle. The aromatic greens are then dried in the open air before being transported to the distillery to be steam-distilled. The resulting essential oil is then dementholated through freezing. The plant contains so much menthol that it precipitates at room temperature. Indeed, *Mentha arvensis* is a “menthol mint,” like peppermint. The cooling process crystallizes the menthol and helps clarify the essential oil. Despite this process, the mint essential oil still retains 50% of this molecule and thus conserves its minty fresh character.

Though introduced in Japan in 1,750 years ago, “field mint” began being used in traditional Chinese medicine as early as 984, during the Song Dynasty. The first indications of its being cultivated date back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Menthol was first isolated from the essential oil of *Mentha arvensis* in 1870. China then began mass production of the essential oil and menthol in the Shanghai region in 1923. This mint was introduced in India in 1953, which triggered Indian trade of the “field mint” essential oil.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



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