

# Basil Essential oil Vietnam

*Ocimum basilicum L.*



**Herbaceous**  
Anisic



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

CAS TSCA : 8015-73-4  
INCI : Ocimum basilicum herb oil

## Specifications

Method for obtaining : Steam distillation  
:  
Appearance : Pale yellow to amber yellow liquid  
Constituents : Methyl-chavicol (75-87%), linalol

## Harvest period

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



Most likely originally from India, basil is an annual plant that has been grown for its aroma for over 2,500 years. This very popular condiment is in the same botanical family as other aromatic herbs such as mint, savory, thyme, and sage. Its fragrant foliage is covered with secretory glands containing the essential oil. The oval, glossy leaves are of a pure, pretty green and the erect stems are topped with small white, pink, or purple flowers. It is these parts of the plant that are harvested when flowering to produce the essential oil. The fresh raw material is reaped and then immediately distilled to prevent its losing its flavor. The essential oil of Vietnamese basil has a fresh, herbaceous scent with a sweet, anise-like note and a spicy facet. Like that of Indian basil, it contains a high concentration of methyl chavicol (or estragole).

The etymology of the name “basil” comes from the Greek basilikon meaning “royal plant.” A sacred plant in India, basil is associated with the religious rites for the god Vishnu the protector. Worshipers weave necklaces and garlands of basil to present as offerings. It is even planted around shrines and temples dedicated to this god. In the West, basil has a place in the lore of the Christian religion. Its scent is said to have guided Saint Helena to find the cross of Christ for the Emperor Constantine (272-337). It is said also to have concealed the skirts of the Virgin Mary’s robe as she sought to escape Herod’s soldiers. As a result, picking basil entailed an entire ritual. Herbalists were to sprinkle their right hand with water from three different springs using a small oak branch to purify the flesh before touching the plant.

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



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