

Wintergreen Essential oil China

Gaultheria procumbens L.



Herbaceous
Aromatic



Botanical family : Ericaceae
Method of culture : Wildcrafted controlled
Part harvested : Leaves

CAS TSCA : 68917-75-9
INCI : Gaultheria procumbens leaf oil

Specifications

Method for obtaining : Hydrodistillation of the fresh material
:
Appearance : Colourless to pale yellow or pale pink liquid
Constituents : Methyl salicylate

Harvest period

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



Wintergreen, named “gaultheria” by Canadian botanist Dr. Gaultier, is a hardy evergreen plant native to the woodlands of North America. Its stems bear shiny, elliptical, slightly serrated leaves. In summer, the plant displays white, bell-shaped flowers that eventually produce bright-red berries. The aromatic leaves are harvested from May to September when their essential-oil content is at its peak. They are then fermented overnight by being macerated in hot water. This causes an enzymatic reaction that releases the methyl salicylate molecules, the main component of wintergreen essential oil. The oil’s fragrance is aromatic and herbaceous, reminiscent of medicinal plants and menthol.

The aroma of wintergreen is one of the oldest and best-known in North America. Indians chewed wintergreen leaves for their organoleptic properties. They were also used in traditional medicines. Early French explorers in America discovered this plant and learned from the indigenous peoples how to use it in infusion form, which is how wintergreen leaves came to be named “Canada tea.”

Advised uses : Aromatherapy, Perfumery, Cosmetic, Alimentary



ALBERT VIEILLE

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