

ORGANIC ROSE GERANIUM OIL

Latin Name:	<i>Pelargonium graveolens</i>
Source:	Organic rose geranium
Origin:	Southern Africa
Extraction:	Steam distillation of the leaves, stalks and flowers
Organic Certification:	EU and NOP certified



HISTORY & STORY

Rose geranium is probably one of the most commonly sought after and used essential oils in the cosmetics and perfumery industries for its unique aroma and profile. Its strong rose-like scent is very distinctive and the most commercially important rose geranium varieties are those that have a strong and true rose scent.

Pelargonium graveolens is native to the Southern African region including the islands of Reunion and Madagascar. Oil from this region differs to the geranium oils of Egypt and China. Historically, oil from this region was characterised as 'Bourbon' type which is the most sought after variety for quality fragrance applications.

Rose geraniums history of use is documented from the 1700's when it was introduced to Europe and began to grow well in the temperate climates of Southern Europe. In the Victorian era it became a popular decorative and greenhouse plant. There is some reference to geranium being used back as far as Egyptian times and that prior to its use in distillation, the root of the geranium was crushed and used to treat a number of different ailments – from skin conditions to depression.

Pelargoniums are a hairy perennial shrub which grow to 1 to 2 meters in height with an oily/waxy snowflake-shaped leaf which emits a strong aroma when touched or brushed. It produces pinkish-white flowers but distillation often takes place when leaves have turned yellowish and produce their strongest 'rose' aroma. *Pelargonium graveolens* prefer dry, well-drained soil and can even tolerate long periods of time without rain but not cannot however, tolerate frost.

Earthoil is one of the world's largest producers of organic rose geranium oil with over 60 hectares of *pelargonium graveolens* planted in the Rustenberg region of South Africa. Earthoil also works with SEDA (the South African Government's Small Enterprise Development Agency) in other regions of South Africa to establish and nurture small-scale South African essential oil farmers and rose geranium is one of the key product in this project. The project brings valuable income, training and skills to families and communities in these regions.



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Tel +44 (0) 1543 264 268 Fax +44 (0) 1543 410 885 Email sales@earthoil.com

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OIL COMPOSITION

Colour:	Colourless to slighty green in colour
Odour:	Powerful, green, leafy-rosy with a pronounced fruity mint undertone and a rich long lasting, sweet- rosy dry out
Principal Constituents:	geraniol, citronellol, linalol, isomenthone, menthone,

TECHNICAL DATA

INCI Name:	<i>Pelargonium graveolens</i>
FEMA:	2508
CAS Number:	8000-46-2
EINECS Number:	290-140-0
Typical Refractive Index at 20 deg C:	1.465
Typical Density at 20 deg C:	0.887gm/ml
Typical Optical rotation at 20 deg C:	-15°
Flash Point:	85°C

POTENTIAL COSMETIC USE

Rose geranium has numerous cosmetic and perfumery uses and its strong, distinctive aroma means it is used in a wide variety of application from soaps and lotions to high-end perfumes. Rose geranium has antiseptic and anti-inflammatory properties and is relatively good for sensitive skin types. It is one of the most popular aromatherapy oils and blends well with many other essential oils. It is also used as a component in insect repellent and as a flavouring ingredient in food, alcohol and soft drinks.



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