

Cultivation and Utilization of Aromatic Plants

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Format: Paperback

ISBN: 817833027X

Code: NI155

Pages: 608

Price: Rs. 1,100.00 **US\$** 29.73

Publisher: Asia Pacific Business Press Inc.

Usually ships within **5** days

Aroma has played a vital role, directly as well as indirectly, in the life of human beings since its appearance on the earth as a result of evolution. India, Egypt and Persia were amongst the first countries to have conceived the process of distillation of essential oils. Aromatic plants have essential or aromatic oils naturally occurring in them. They help heal mental ailments and other diseases. India is endowed with a rich wealth of medicinal plants. Aromatic (Aroma Producing) plants are those plants which produce a certain type of aroma. Their aroma is due to the presence of some kind of essential oil with chemical constituents that contain at least one benzene ring in their chemical configuration. These plants have made a good contribution to the development of ancient Indian material medica. In recent years, there has been a tremendous growth of interest in plant based drugs, pharmaceuticals, perfumery products, cosmetics and aroma compounds used in food flavors and fragrances and natural colors in the world. The chemical nature of these aromatic substances may be due to a variety of complex chemical compounds. There is a definite trend to adopt plant based products due to the cumulative derogatory effects resulting from the use of antibiotic and synthetics and except for a few cultivated crops, the availability of plant based material is mainly from the natural sources like forests and wastelands. There is a need to introduce these crops into the cropping system of the country, which, besides meeting the demands of the industry, will also help to maintain the standards on quality, potency and chemical composition. During the past decade, demand for aromatic plants and its products has attracted the worldwide interest, India being the treasure house of biodiversity, accounts for thousands of species which are used in herbal drugs. 90% of herbal industry requirement of raw material is taken out from the forests.

This book basically deals with cultivation of *matricaria chamomilla*, present agro production technology status of celery, cultivation of *ocimum gratissimum* linn. var *clocimum*, the production and perfume potential of *jasminum* collections, chemical modification of turmeric oil to more value added products, biologically active compounds from turpentine oil, folk medicinal uses of indigenous aromatic plants in nepal, traditional uses of selected aromatic plants of bhutan and their cultivation prospects, blending aspects of perfumes with turpentine constituents, the chemistry of mint flavour, essential oils of *cinnamomum* species, citral containing *cymbopogon* species etc..

The aim of publishing this book is to provide multidisciplinary information on aromatic plants. The book covers method of cultivation and utilization of various aromatic plants. This is very useful book for farmers, technocrats, agriculture universities, libraries, new entrepreneurs etc.

Contents

1. Cultivation of *Matricaria Chamomilla*
2. Damask Rose (*Rosa Damascena* Mill.) Cultivation and Processing

3. Present Agro production Technology Status of Celery (*Apium graveolens* L.)
4. Germination and Flowering of *Ocimum selloii* Benth
5. RRL Oc 12 A Newly Evolved Methyl Cinnamate Rich Strain of *Ocimum canum* Sims.
6. Search for New Aroma Chemicals from genus *Ocimum*
7. Cultivation of *Ocimum gratissimum* Linn. var *Clocimum*
8. Cultivation of Anise
9. Patchouli
10. Removal of Calamus Odour from Patchouli Oil
11. Propagation of Patchouli (*Pogostemon Cablin* Benth.)
12. Patchouli Root Knot Problem and Control
13. *Alponia Galanga*
14. *Citrus Medica* Linn.
15. *Curcuma Longa*
16. *Cuminum Cyminum*, Linn.
17. *Cyperus Rotundus*
18. *Hibiscus Rosa Sinensis*, Linn.
19. *Piper Nigrum*
20. Pomegranate
21. *Ricinus Communis* Linn.
22. Common Elder
23. Tamarind Tree
24. *Woodfordia Fruticosa*, Vurz.
25. *Angelica* (*Angelica Archangelica*)
26. Sandalwood Oil Substitutes A Review
27. Native Jasmines of India
28. Screening of Flowers of *Jasminum* Species for Indole
29. Production Economics of Jasmine Concrete
30. The Production and Perfume Potential of *Jasminum* Collections
31. New Compounds of Value in Perfumery and Flavour Industry from *Carene*
32. Citral Containing *Cymbopogon* Species
33. *Cedrus* Oil A Promising Antifungal Agent
34. Terpenes and Coumarins from the Seeds of *Peucedanum Dhana* Ham. Seeds
35. Essential Oils of *Cinnamomum* Species
36. *Jamrosa* a New Geraniol Rich *Cymbopogon*
37. 9 Aristolen 1 alpha ol and I(10) Aristolen 2 one from *Nardostachys Jatamansi* DC
38. Comparison of Chemical Composition of Pepper and Pepper Leaf Oil
39. Chemical Modification of Turmeric Oil to More Value Added Products
40. Rectification of Benzene Extract A Simple Method for Extracting Sandal Oil in Higher Yield
41. *Palmarosa* Oil Grass for Higher Yield of Oil and Its Quality Under Cultivation
42. Effect of Harvest Management on the Yield of Essential Oil Content and Flavour of *Kala Zira* (*Carum bulbocastanum* W. Koch) Seed.
43. Essential Oil from *Cymbopogon Olivieri* (Boiss. C. B.) Bor.
44. Chromatographic Separation of Alpha and Beta Santalenes
45. The Rose Fragrance
46. Breeding of a New Type of *Ocimum Gratissimum* for Eugenol Rich Essential Oil
47. Breeding for High Essential Oil Content in Khas (*Vetiveria zizanioides*) Roots
48. *Ocimum Sanctum* for High Oil and Eugenol Content
49. Essential Oil of *Artemisia pallens* Wall (Davana)
50. Essential Oil from the Seeds of *Anethum graveolens* Linn. raised at Lucknow
51. Terpenoids from *Palmarosa* Grass (*Cymbopogon martini* var. *motia*)
52. Effect of Fertilizer Treatments on Yield and Economics of Cultivation of *Mentha*, *Citronella* and *Palmarosa*
53. Oil Content and Its Composition at Different Stages of Growth in *Ocimum Sanctum* Linn.

54. Weed Control in the First and Second Cutting of Japanese Mint (*Mentha Arvensis* L.)
55. The Chemistry of Mint Flavour
56. Ozonolysis Studies on Phenolic Constituents from Clove Oil
57. Natural Isolates & Reconstituted Essential Oils
58. Some Aspects of Longifolene Chemistry
59. Alpha Pinene Derivatives
60. Biologically Active Compounds from Turpentine Oil
61. Pesticides From Turpentine Oil
62. Blending Aspects of Perfumes with Turpentine Constituents
63. Insecticides Based on Turpentine
64. Promising Aromatic Plants of Industrial Value from North east India
65. Traditional Aromatic Incense and Insect Repellent Plants of Uttar Pradesh Himalaya
66. The Status of Essential Oil Bearing Plants in Uttaranchal (U.P.) India
67. Folk Medicinal Uses of Indigenous Aromatic Plants in Nepal
68. Traditional Uses of Selected Aromatic Plants of Bhutan and their Cultivation Prospects

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Sun, 28 Apr 2024 04:10:09 +0530