

Rosa spp.



Common name: Rose

Scientific name: *Rosa* spp.

Family: Rosaceae

Important part used: Flower and fruit

They are perennial shrubs, which usually bloom in late spring. The flowers are harvested in the late bud stage preferably before sunrise when the fragrance is at its best.

Economic importance: Rose oil is largely used in perfumes, scented soaps, flavouring soft drinks, liqueurs and certain types of tobacco, particularly snuff or chewing tobacco. In India, rose petals are converted into a preserve with sugar (gulkand) which is a tonic with mild laxative properties. Rosewater containing phenylethyl alcohol and other compounds in the dissolved state (or distillate allowed to age for two to three months) is used as a perfume and for flavouring confections, syrups and soft drinks. In India, the water is much used in eye lotions and eyewashes. In addition, it is sprinkled on guests on ceremonial occasions. Dried rose petals are used for making cold drinks in the summer months. The fruit is a rich source of vitamin C.

Rose oil is often adulterated with geranium and palmarosa oil—both being less expensive and having a rose-like odour.