

Factors Affecting Quantity and Quality of Essential Oil of Aromatic Plants

N. Dudai, E. Putievsky, U. Ravid¹

The content and composition of essential oils determine the aroma of herb plants. Many factors affect this aroma and in this review we present them, discuss their influence and give references to relevant literature. Among these factors, we mention the following: genetic, environmental, the season, leaf age, flowering phase and agricultural practices. Each of them has both direct and indirect effects on the essential oil and also interact with other factors.

Key words: essential oil, environmental factors, seasonal factors, flowering, leaf age.

¹ Dept. of Aromatic Plants, Inst. of Field and Garden Crops, ARO, Newe Ya'ar Research Center, P.O.B. 90000, Haifa 31900, Israel.