

# *Ocimum americanum* Linn.

**Family** : Lamiaceae

**Parts Used** : Whole plant

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Hoary basil

Malayalam : Kattuthulasi

Hindi : Van tulasi

Sanskrit : Aranya tulasi

Bengali : Kalatulasi

Kannada : Nayitulasi

Tamil : Nayttulaci

Telugu : Kuppatulasi



**Distribution and habitat:** Found in Africa, South America and Asia.

**Botany:** It is a herb, woody at base, branchlets puberulous.

• **Leaves:** elliptic-oblong, acute, base truncate or obtuse, subentire, glabrescent or sparsely pilose along nerves below; petioles 2 cm long.

• **Flowers :** racemes, densely pubescent; bracts ovate, acute. Calyx 4 mm long, sericeous. Corolla 5 mm long, white. Staminal filaments glabrous. Nutlets ovoid-subtrigonus, 1.5 mm long.

**Properties:** Perfumery, cosmetic, febrifuge, antimalarial and beverages

**Chemical constituents:** Methyl chavicol, citral

**Uses:** It gives irritations of throat, ear ache and ringworm infections

## **Agro-technology**

**Soil and Climate:** Crops well under tropical climate up to an altitude of 1800 m. It can be cultivated in well drained loamy and sandy soil.

**Propagation:** By seeds

**Irrigation:** Irrigation is required once a week when it is raised as a summer crop.

**Manures and fertilizers:** At planting, 10-15 tonnes of compost or FYM are to be applied. A medium fertilizer dose of 40:40:40 kg/ha of N, P<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> and K<sub>2</sub>O is recommended.

**Pests and diseases:** *Corynespora cassicola* causes leaf spot diseases. *Elsinoe arxii* sp. nov causes scab diseases. Leaf blight is caused by *Alternaria alternate*

**Harvesting:** Harvested when plant is full bloom and lower leaves start turning yellowish. For high quality oil only flowering tops are harvested.

**Processing:** Whole plant is extracted by hydro distillation or steam distillation. Distillation is carried out for 1-1.5 hours.