

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 give 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, P₂O₅ and K₂O 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.