

Life in your Backyard

Some interesting scents of flowers

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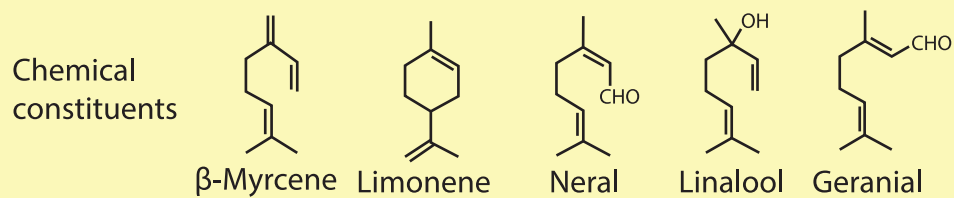
Here are some of the most common flower scents that are pleasing to us. How many of these do you recognise?



Bee on citrus blossoms

CITRUSY

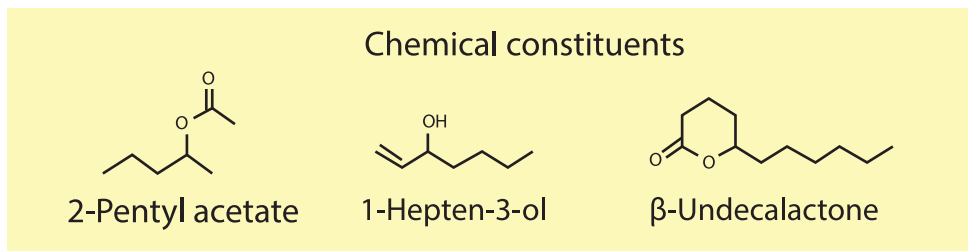
An odour like that of oranges or lemons, produced by a combination of compounds such as β -myrcene, limonene, linalool and citrals. Seen in the fragrance of flowers of citronella, lemongrass and bergamot.



A ylang ylang flower

FRUITY

Sweet, pleasant and strong odours arising due to compounds such as alcohols, esters, and lactones. They sometimes act as long-range cues, allowing detection of flowers from a distance.

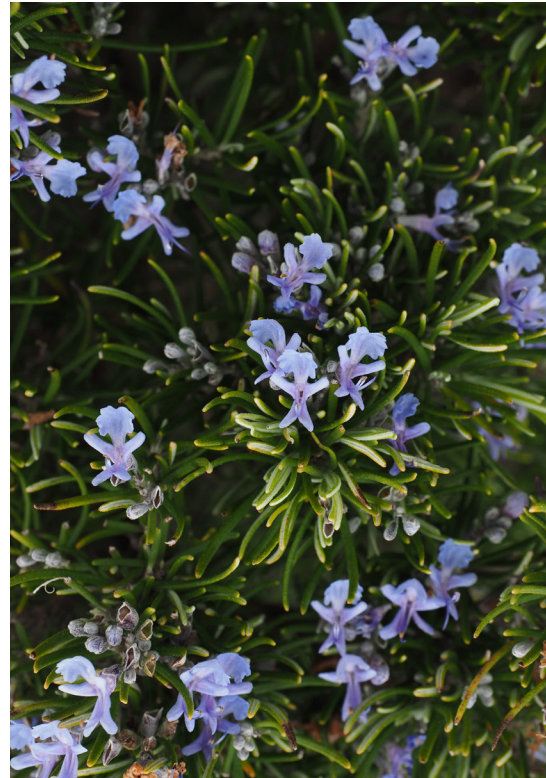
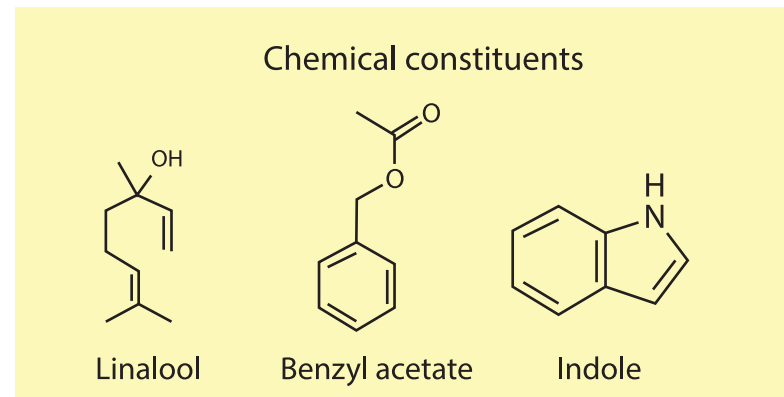


WHITE FLORAL OLFACTORY IMAGE

Compounds responsible for this fragrance include linalool with aromatic esters like benzyl acetate, methyl benzoate; and nitrogenous indole and oximes. Mostly found in night blooming white flowers, such as Jasmine, Evening Primrose, etc., to attract nocturnal pollinators.



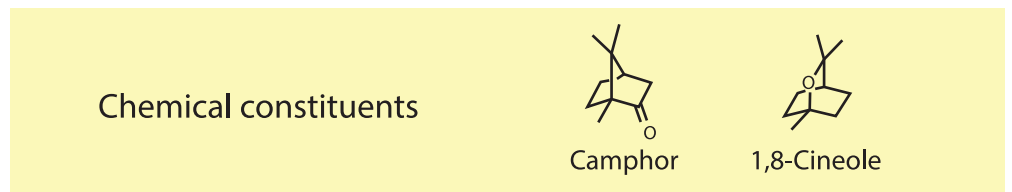
A jasmine flower visited by a moth



Flowers and aerial parts of rosemary

CAMPHOROUS

A sharp and cooling fragrance produced by compounds such as camphor, 1,8-cineole, and pinenes. Seen in the fragrance of the flowers, leaves, and stems of rosemary.



A rose flower

ROSE

A unique smell produced by chemicals like rose oxides, β -damascenone, phenyl ethanol, geraniol, nerol, and citronellol. The leaves and stems of geranium (*Pelargonium graveolens*) also produce these compounds. Historically, one of the most preferred scents in perfumes, foods, and ceremonies. The perfume (attar) made from rose petals is highly valued in the fragrance industry.

