Fragrance Substitutions

Aromatic herbs and oils, including essential oils, have been an integral part of the spiritual practices of many religions and cultures throughout history.

Use these substitutions when making spiritual anointing oils.

Acacia: bitter almond or cassia

Amber: rosewood with benzoin

Ambergris: citronella with patchouli, amber, labdanum

Angelica: patchouli, balsam fir

Anise: fennel with benzoin

Asafoetida: garlic

Balm of Gilead: honeysuckle, sweet orange

Balsam of Peru: benzoin

Basil: lemon with pine

Bay: thyme

Benzoin: vanilla, orris root

Black pepper: camphor and ginger

Calamus: eucalyptus with lemon, benzoin with citronella

Calendula: lemon, ylang ylang, caraway

Camphor: eucalyptus, cajeput

Cardamom: cinnamon

Cassia: cinnamon, cedarwood (note that most "cinnamon" sold in the US is really cassia.)

Cedarwood: cassia, sandalwood

Chamomile: vetiver

Cinnamon: cardamom

Citron: lemon, bitter orange, or a combination of the two

Civet: musk, vetiver, valerian, ambrette

Clary Sage: patchouli with benzoin, petitgrain

Clove: cassia

Coriander: cinnamon

Cumin: cassia

Cypress: citronella, pine needle

Dill: fennel, anise

Dragon's Blood: balsam fir with cinnamon storax with citronella

Eucalyptus: camphor, Spanish marjoram

Euphorbium: gum arabic with cayenne pepper

Fennel: anise with clove bud, dill

Frangipani: sandalwood with neroli

Frankincense: benzoin with cedarwood

Galangal: nutmeg with ginger

Gardenia: jasmine

Ginger: ylang ylang with cardamom

Grapefruit: bitter orange with lemon

Honeysuckle: ylang ylang

Hyssop: lavender, eucalyptus

Jasmine: tuberose, ylang ylang with patchouli

Juniper: pine with lavender

Labdanum: ambergris, citronella

Lavender: juniper, jasmine, patchouli and benzoin

Lemongrass: citronella, lemon

Lemon: lemongrass, citron, bergamot

Lime: lemon, lemongrass

Mace: nutmeg

Mastic: pine, benzoin

Mint: camphor, eucalyptus

Musk: clove

Myrtle: eucalyptus, pine, rosemary

Neroli: petitgrain

Nutmeg: mace, cinnamon

Oakmoss: vetiver and cinnamon, patchouli

Opoponax: lavender

Orange, sweet: benzoin with lemon or bitter orange

Orange, bitter: bergamot

Parsley: thyme, oregano

Patchouli: vetiver with rose or jasmine

Peppercress: grains of paradise, rue, mustard seed

Pine: cypress, juniper, rosemary

Rose: rose geranium, palmarosa, rosewood

Rosemary: pine

Rosewood: rose geranium, palmarosa

Rue: rosemary with black pepper, peppercress

Sage: rosemary

Sandalwood: cedarwood, patchouli

Spikenard: patchouli, vetiver

Storax: amber

Sweet Flag: calamus, thyme, rosemary, benzoin

Thyme: basil, bay

Tuberose: jasmine

Valerian: vetiver, civet

Vanilla: benzoin

Vetiver: cedarwood, patchouli

Violet Flower: jasmine with lavender

Violet Leaf: thyme with rose, cypress

Wintergreen: mint with clary sage

Yarrow: rosemary

Ylang Ylang: lavender