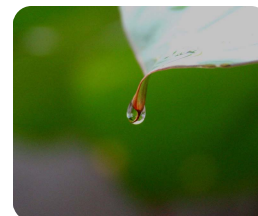


Essential Oils Than & Now Newsletter

- By Joanna Barrett, RN, CNHP, FCCI



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Still Not Settling For Less

We traveled seventy-seven miles from Salt Lake City to the farm. The fence was simple and weathered but the fields of lavender were straight and weed free with a few people searching and weeding a few straggling weeds that might have been missed. Regrettably, lavender was not in bloom. We wandered to the distillery in small groups. The stainless steel still was 15 feet high and 8 feet across. We looked in to see Roman Chamomile packed in loosely yet firmly and learned that the applied pressure would be light. Downstairs underneath we were told that water fed from the mountains was pure in Mona Lake at about 2 feet in depth. Nevertheless, it still went through a purifier before warmed and put through the still. To keep the oil therapeutic with all the constituents and with life force, the steam is never more than 212 degrees at most and usually about 200 degrees. That whole big still yielded only about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a cup of the precious oil. The oil is then tested to make sure there are no ingredients in it that shouldn't be (like weed constituents) and that it is still therapeutic grade. If it passes the tests, then the oil goes to be bottled and the left over plant material is composted to nourish the fields later.

But not all oils are grown and distilled on the Young Living farms of Utah, Idaho, France and Ecuador. In other parts of the world, unannounced, the stills are spot checked by a Young Living scientist. For example, in Sri Lanka where Cinnamon Bark is produced, it is very easy and less costly for the people to add cinnamon leaves or cassia (same family as cinnamon) and call it cinnamon bark. If that is done, the million dollar testing equipment back at the lab would show unacceptable constituents and the oil is rejected. We saw the complicated scientific charts the scientist was explaining to us. He said, "It's not that we don't trust them, it's just that we... don't trust them."

One of my favorite oils for its great healing ability even for damaged nerves, and for pain is Helichrysum. It is grown wild in rare places in Europe and cannot be cultivated in fields. It must be wild crafted. Last year it had a poor growing season and we were without it except for in a few blends. Six months ago a company contacted Young Living and said they had enough Helichrysum oil to supply all the distributors in the company. They sent a sample. It passed the first test, the second test, the third test but failed the fourth and fifth test. The results were shared with Gary Young and once they said the fourth test had failed, Gary would hear no more. It was rejected. Finally after a year and a half of waiting we now have our precious (expensive) oil. Quality oils that heal, for the work we are called to do.

They're worth it to us,

Joanna