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Basil oil is limited at the source in Vietnam. The next harvest is in July. Today, prices are firm but are likely to soften slightly by late summer. C&A has a solid position and is here to help.

Anise oil, grown primarily in the Yunnan Province of China, is distilled from April to June and again from October to December. As reported in September of 2017, prices have moved up from the early 2017 lows. The real story is that there was winter snow and frost damage to many trees in the main planting areas. This has put pressure on prices and supply. We suggest you cover your needs for the next 6-12 months. C&A continues to be basic in both anise oil and natural anethole. We can support your requirements.

Bay oil is a disaster! If the government policies of a few years ago didn’t disrupt the supply enough, Hurricanes Erika and more recently Irma totally devastated the island of Dominica. After the last hurricane even the small distillers ceased production. Just in the past few weeks, some of those small producers have begun to produce small quantities. It has also been reported that the local airport received its first flight in six months and that there is still no cell phone service or power on the island. Communication there is non-existent. In an effort to keep bay oil in everyone’s portfolio, C&A offers a bay WONF (with other natural flavors). Many of our customers have switched to this quality which is good news. However, based on all the information we have gathered, the immediate future for bay oil is not promising. Please contact us as we are keeping a close eye on this important essential oil.

The Brazilian crop was harvested almost six months ago and reported to be slightly down due to inclement weather. However, the next crop is on the horizon for this summer. The news from the Dominican Republic is much worse. The availability of industrial fruit for processing is becoming more dependent on scarce labor. The cost to produce oil is extremely high. C&A continues to source material from both the northern and southern hemispheres. We have excellent quality oils, both single fold and concentrated in our Belcamp, Maryland facility. Whether your requirement is for flavors or fragrances, we have the right bitter orange oil for you.
Severe wild fires and drought (said to be the worst in 100 years) are now seriously effecting the price and availability from source. After you digest the steep increase in price, we suggest covering your needs for the next nine months, but not beyond. Our hope is availability and price return to normal in 2019. Since the product is on strict allocation we strongly suggest contacting us soon.

Buchu

Certainly not a new essential oil for C&A but in recent years we have seen significant increases in volume. If your requirements are sufficiently large to necessitate contracting, we urge you to contact us so we can provide accurate information to our distillers. If you are a spot buyer, we recommend staying ahead by one order. We welcome your inquiries, large and small.

Cardamom

In Guatemala, the harvest is almost complete. Interestingly, our contracts at source were finalized much later than in previous years due to price volatility driven by demand in the Middle East. This year, the contracting window at source, lasted less than two weeks. The crop in India is also close to complete. This year we saw Indian prices well above the price in Guatemala. As always, we urge you to contract for this item.

Caraway

Carrot seed oil is severely limited at source. The reason is a big drop in yields which occurred last year and is expected to continue through this production season. As a point of interest, carrot seeds are harvested in the summer and the distillation period is in the fall and winter. Again, like buchu and bay, we strongly urge you to give us your annual requirements so we can allocate oil for your needs. If you wait until May/June the supply will most likely be sold and allocated.

Carrot Seed

Cassia, Natural Benzaldehyde and Natural Cinnamic Aldehyde Old Method

The June to August crop is underway and the supply of cassia is stable. Pricing for the so-called “new method” material (the quality supplied when the downstream product is either cinnamic aldehyde or natural benzaldehyde) is also stable. The traditional cassia oil was gradually moving up in price even during the May-July harvest. If you are not covered at this time, we think you should hold off and wait until November. Please contact us with your annual requirements so we can help you to manage the sourcing of cassia.
Strangely, and happily, this Russian oil is out of the news. Prices are stable but expected to increase as the distillers sell-off their inventories. We feel this is a good time to purchase a bit extra with prices at low levels.

Cinnamon Leaf

In speaking with our Sri Lankan suppliers the prices are stable but a lack of supply in the local markets is apparent. The devaluation of the Sri Lankan rupee has also kept prices from moving up or down. The next peak harvest is July/August which we feel might be the best time to lock in annual volumes. However, the prices today look quite favorable.

Coriander

Spreading, and happily, this Russian oil is out of the news. Prices are stable but expected to increase as the distillers sell-off their inventories. We feel this is a good time to purchase a bit extra with prices at low levels.

Clove and Eugenol

The most recent challenge with clove and all its derivatives came to pass after the all-important main October to December harvest. This is the expected dry season which is a must for a successful harvest of clove. However, this season became very wet with untimely rains which created havoc for collecting and distillation. The result has been severe shortages at source and has caught everyone empty handed. Obviously prices have risen, but we think availability should improve slightly by July and be back to normal levels come November. Please inquire as C&A has an ample but guarded supply.

Celery Seed

Celery seed oil continues to be short. We are told this is due to last year’s steep price declines. The old adage, high prices lead to low and vice versa, comes to mind. Since C&A has such a global presence in the spice arena, we took an advantageous position and would love to serve your needs at favorable prices. Please inquire.
The harvest is near complete. We strongly recommend giving us your annual projections so we can source this oil for you. Prices are at a recent low. It is an easy time to make a good buy.

The April harvest is coming up in Egypt. We will report back, or better yet, contact us regarding your annual needs this month.

Same report as last time. This specialty crop has been competitively priced this past year so we would recommend locking in pricing at today’s attractive rates. Our prices today are less than half of the long-term average.

The harvest was completed in the fall. The crop was of average size with normal d’carvone levels. Given our wide-ranging presence in the mint regions, dill weed oil is a basic oil for C&A and a popular crop rotation for our mint farmers. We are happy to help our growers and our customers by offering oil of dill weed in large or small volumes.

Having returned from an extensive trip throughout China, we can concur that, for many reasons, it is difficult to understand garlic oil. However, the most compelling reason to be well-covered is that the Chinese government is taking a more hardline stance on pollution control. This policy severely limits the number of reputable processors able to distill garlic. At this time, the prices have continued to soften. Today, our recommendation is for you to seriously look at contracting your annual needs in May.

The Chinese price remains stable with the recent harvest. The much less expensive Egyptian oil is expected to increase given the price spread between both oils and because the crop is down 30% due to the low prices in 2017.
Ginger continues to hold firm in price from the previous report. C&A continues to hold good volumes at competitive prices for product in stock, given our nice customer demand.

Ho Wood (Natural Linalool)

Prices are stable at present from the last report.

Lavender strikes again! This past June, I walked through the beautiful lavender fields in Bulgaria. Based on what I saw, my expectation was the crop would be excellent. However, well into the harvest the crop expectations fell far short. In fact 100 to 120MT short! Luckily, since we bought early we have good prices for beautiful quality oil at your disposal. Looking ahead, we recommend giving us your September 2018 annual needs so we can assist in covering your demands.

Lemongrass

In a repeat of the last ten years the situation for lemongrass is the same except that we see recent spikes in volumes which cannot be covered without planning six to nine months in advance. Of course this is due to the shortages of litsea cubeba oil, used to make natural citral. We continue to contract in Guatemala for slightly larger volumes each year to support our growing customer base. We thank our customers for their long-term support.

Litsea Cubeba (Natural Citral)

On the crop side, litsea berries in the Hunan Province looked to be in good shape for an excellent harvest. Unfortunately, Mother Nature had another plan that featured a July storm with heavy rains and consequent floods that damaged the litsea berries. The availability was so poor many pickers fled to the mountains to pick the berries on high ground. Today, prices are at extremely high levels with limited availability of litsea cubeba oil and natural citral. If this wasn't bad enough, the plant-closing-fire at BASF in the fall of 2017 (which makes citral synthetic) has caused the desperate synthetic buyers to try and source natural citral to stay afloat during this double disaster. C&A manufactures natural citral from litsea cubeba oil in our Belcamp, MD factory and is protecting its long term customers with supply. We hope that the next harvest in August–September will yield better news and that the BASF plant will be up and running again.
After two to three years of unpredictable softening of prices we now see the prices climbing to more normal levels.

Mandarin Petitgrain (Mandarin Petitgrain Terpeneless)

This summer will be my 19th year visiting our beloved mint growers and mint fields in the Pacific Northwest. At this time of year, farmers are making plans to choose the crops that will yield the most income, based on commodity prices of alternate crops, the input costs of labor, land, equipment, buying root stock, pesticides, and fertilizers to complete their overall farm plan.

In my opinion, the carryover of peppermint in the Pacific Northwest is near an all-time low but the fact remains that most farm prices are sluggish at best.

For the first time in many years, Indian prices for menthe piperita exceeded the North American prices. The reasons are the growing demand for Indian oil, and the confusing Indian GST – general sales tax and other factors. That being said, the reasons are not very good, nor sustainable and we expect prices to decline. The Indian harvest is June/July so we will keep you posted and monitor the weather, which is a critical factor for yields and overall volumes.

All in all, it is too early to be certain, but my crystal ball says prices should remain steady.

Spearmint: Overall, prices are similar to last year with a just a modest increase, due to many factors good and bad that are offsetting each other. Please inquire with us.

This expensive oil is mainly harvested in June through September, when the nutmeg and mace harvest slows. Interestingly, if nutmeg prices are favorable and the supply bountiful, the production and reaping of the massoia bark can be abbreviated. It is my opinion that prices are at very favorable levels today. If I were you, I would book annual volumes at today’s prices. I must also note that C&A manufactures the natural massoia lactone in Belcamp, Maryland. Please inquire for the best quality around!

Palma Rosa Oil, Geranyl Acetate Natural and Geraniol Natural

Palma Rosa Oil is completely sold out in India. No new oil is available now or for the foreseeable future. When we know more, we will provide an update.
The weather continues to hamper the supply of this beautiful essential oil from Paraguay. This difficult-to-find essential oil is best purchased by staying six months ahead since the availability, while better, is still difficult, and transit times are often measured in months, not weeks. C&A invites your inquiries.

**Petitgrain Cordillera Paraguay**

At present, the levels of oil at source are lower than I have seen in many years. This is unnerving, given the fragile nature of Jamaica’s infrastructure which can so easily be severely damaged by a hurricane. C&A remains in an excellent position to help with your needs.

**Rosemary**

The availability of rosemary oil has not improved. Recent harvests in Morocco and Tunisia have been problematic in the face of increasing demand for the antioxidant qualities derived from rosemary. We believe good quality rosemary oil will remain difficult to find. Please contact us to satisfy your needs.

**Tagetes South African**

Price and supply seem to be in balance at present. We will provide more information at a later date.

**Wintergreen**

Pricing for wintergreen, harvested in July and August, is stable. This is another small volume essential oil for which limited supply often dictates the need for contracting forward. The best time to contact us to cover is in June.

**Sandalwood**

This beautiful aromatic oil from India is available from C&A. During the past year, prices have stabilized due to competing qualities from assorted origins.

**Pimento Leaf**

At present, the levels of oil at source are lower than I have seen in many years. This is unnerving, given the fragile nature of Jamaica’s infrastructure which can so easily be severely damaged by a hurricane. C&A remains in an excellent position to help with your needs.