

Fragrance & Perfume Glossary L - Y

L

labdanum : An aromatic gum that originates from the rockrose bush (genus Cistus). The sweet woody odor is said to mimic ambergris, and can also be used to impart a leather note.

LACTONES : It provides creamy and milky notes, sometimes with fruity nuances.

LASTINGNES : The ability of a fragrance to retain its character over a given period of time.

LAVANDER OLIFAC: Floral, lavender, herbal and eucalyptus notes. (IFF).

LEAFY : One of the many variations of the green note.

LEATHER : A certain smokiness related to the old fashioned leather goods. In spite of its oddly qualities, the leather notes (French: "cuir") play an important part in the background of complex florals as a contrasting medium to break up monotony, as exhibited in the fragrance "Cabouchard."

LICORICE : A shrub native to Europe and Asia. The roots are used for candy and flavoring, and are said to be 50

times sweeter than sugar. Almost all licorice candy sold in the United States, however, is flavored with anethole, which is derived from anise.

LIFAROME : Green, floral, violet and fruity notes.
(Quest).

LIFT : To add life to a fragrance blend is to give it lift and some brilliancy; lift can also refer to diffusiveness of a given blend. A perfume having lift has a brilliant top note with wide diffusiveness.

LIGHT : A generally non-sweet, non-cloying fragrance where the fresh note is predominant. Often formulated as an eau fraiche or deodorant cologne for all-over body wear in warm climates or for sports.

LIGHT & HEAV : A light fragrance is balanced toward the top notes. A heavy fragrance is balanced towards the bottom notes.

LINALOOL : Fresh , floral, herbal , rosewood , and petitgrain , clear colorless liquid. Found in numerous essential oils such as bergamot , lavender , rose and jasmine absolutes and many fruit such as apples , bananas , citrus and spices . For its floral freshness very widely used in all kinds of functional and alcoholic perfumes.
(BSAF).

LINALYL ACETATE : Fresh floral , bergamot and petitgrain notes. (BSAF).

LINDEN : It is also called lime-blossom, but this is from the flower of the Linden (Tilia) tree, not the citrus tree that produces limes. The French name is Tilleul.

LOLITOL : Floral, muguet , and green notes (IFF).

LYRAL : Floral, muguet , aldehydic and woody notes. (IFF).

LYRAME : Floral and muguet notes (IFF).

LYSMERAL: Floral, powdery , fresh, and lily-of-the-valley. (BSAF).

M

MACERATION: This process is quite similar to enfleurage. In the latter cold fats are used, while in maceration the fats are heated. The flowers are immersed, the cells bearing the odoriferous oils are ruptured, and the fats absorb the oils. To obtain the pomade, the flowers are removed from the fats and fresh flowers are mixed in over and over again until the fats are completely saturated with the flower oil.

MASSADA : Musk, woody, fruity and balsamic notes (IFF).

MELLOW: A fragrance that gives a balanced, smooth and rich impression.

MICRO-ENCAPSULATION: A method of incorporating thin-walled, microscopic capsules containing fragrance oils into a solid substance (fragrance advertising inserts, capsules, blotters, paper, etc)

MIDDLE NOTE: The middle or "heart" notes make up a main blend of a fragrance that classifies the fragrance family or accord. It usually takes from ten to twenty minutes for the middle notes to fully develop on the skin.

MODERN: In perfumery the modern era began at the beginning of the 20th century when synthetic aroma chemicals such as aldehydes, were first used. A modern fragrance is a harmonious conception of the perfumer based on new notes or harmonies often unknown in nature.

MONOI : The word means "scented oil"; in modern perfumery, this most always refers to tiare (gardenia) petals macerated in coconut oil. Sometimes called Monoi de Tahiti.

MOSSY: The odor suggestive of the aromatic lichens, and mosses, primarily oak moss and tree moss; reminiscent of forest depths.

MOUSSE DE CHENE : see OAKMOSS

MUGUET : French for Lily of the Valley. The Italian term is "Mughetto".

MUGUET ALDEHYDE : Floral, aldehydic , ozone and muguet notes.(IFF).

MUSK: For many centuries, musk (the secretion of the musk deer) has been prized for its value in perfumery. The pouch contains pod-like grains that are soft and light colored. From these the perfumer prepares a tincture that is used as a fixative. Today, all types of synthetic musk are widely used.

MUSK R 1 : Musky, and powdery notes. (Givaudan).

MYRALDYL ACETATE : Flowery, jasmine, sweet, fruity and green notes. (Givaudan).

MYRRH : A gum resin produced from a bush found in Arabia and Eastern Africa.

N

NEROL OXIDE : Floral, rose, citrus and green notes.

NEROLI : An oil from the blossoms of either the sweet or bitter orange tree. True neroli is created using steam distillation, whereas "orange blossom" is usually

extracted with solvents. The Italian term for neroli is zagara.

NIRVANOLIDE : A Givaudan molecule; a fruity and powdery musk notes.

NONADIENOL: Powerful, green, herbaceous and melon notes.

NOTE: Borrowed from the language of music to indicate an olfactory impression of a single smell, or to indicate the three parts of a perfume –top note, middle note, base note.

NOSE : A "nose", or nez in French, is a person who mixes fragrance components to make perfume; another commonly used term is perfumer, or in French, parfumeur createur.

O

OAKMOSS : It is derived from a lichen (*evernia prunastri*) that grows on Oak trees. The use of real oakmoss is restricted (but not prohibited) due to regulations meant to avoid allergic reactions.

OAKMOSS NC : Fresh, marine and green notes.

OAKMOSS OLIFAC : Moss , leather, ozone and green notes.(IFF).

OCIMENE : Citrus , lime and pine notes.(IFF).

ODOR or ODOUR: Airborne chemicals emanating from water, objects, one's body, flowers or fragrance that stimulate the olfactory system. The characteristic smell of something.

ODOR MEMORY: The ability of a perfumer to hold, and bring to recall, hundreds of single perfume odors and odor blends.

OKOUMAL : Woody, ambry, tobacco and musky notes. (Givaudan).

OLFACTION/OLFACTORY: Relating to the sense of smell.

OLIBANUM see **FRANKINCENSE**

OPOPONAX : It is also known as "sweet myrrh" and "bisabol myrrh". Has a sweet, balsam-like, lavender-like fragrance when used as incense. King Solomon supposedly regarded opoponax as one of the "noblest" of all incense gums.

ORIENTAL: Heavy, sweet, animal blend with woody undertones. Typically quite diffusive and tenacious. A very important accord in perfumery, used historically in "Shalimar" and today's "Obsession."

ORRIS : It is derived from the rhizome of the Iris plant.

OSMANTHUS : A flowering tree native to China, valued for its delicate fruity apricot aroma. Known as the Tea Olive in the southern United States.

LOUD : Sometimes spelled oudh. The Arabic word for wood, in perfumery usually refers to wood from the Agar tree .

OXYOCTALINE FORMATE : Wood and ambry notes. (Givaudan).

OZONIC : It is used to describe aroma chemicals that are meant to mimic the smell of fresh air. Frequently described as the smell of air right after a thunderstorm.

P

PALETTE : The range of perfume **ingredients** from which a perfumer selects to use in the formulation of a perfume.

PALMAROSA : From Cymbopogon martinii, a grass related to lemongrass; the essential oil is said to have a soft, citrusy-green fragrance. Often used in rose accords.

PAMPLEFLEUR : Citrus, grapefruit, floral and vetivert notes.

PAMPLEMOUSSE : A French word for grapefruit.(IFF).

PARADISAMIDE : A Givaudan molecule; described as a fresh tropical fruit note (guava, passion fruit, grapefruit, rhubarb and cassis).

PATCHOULI : A bushy shrub originally from Malaysia and India. Supposedly the leaves were folded into the cashmere shawls shipped from India to England during Victorian times in order to protect the fabric from moths; eventually, the scent became a badge of authenticity and customers refused to buy unscented shawls. Patchouli has a musty-sweet, spicy-earthly aroma; modern patchouli is often molecularly altered to remove the musty components.

PEOMOSA : Floral, rose, and mimosa notes.(IFF).

PRECYCLEMONE B : Ozone, aldehydic , floral and muguet notes .

PERFUME : Most highly concentrated form of fragrance, the strongest and the most lasting. Perfume may contain hundreds of ingredients within a single formulation.

PERFUME BLOTTERS : Strips of odorless white blotting paper, which the perfumer uses to evaluate a scent as it develops.

PERFUMER, see **NOSE**.

PETALIA : A Givaudan molecule; described as having a fruity rose-peony odor.

PETIOLE : Green, floral, and hyacinth notes. (Givaudan).

PETITGRAIN : Oil distilled from leaves and twigs of a citrus tree, usually the bitter orange tree.

PHEROMONE : Chemical substances secreted by animals (including perhaps humans) to produce a response by other members of the same species. Sexual attractants are the most widely studied and described.

PIKAKI : A form of jasmine (jasminum sambac) grown in Hawaii and used for making leis. Also known as Arabian jasmine, and widely used to make jasmine tea.

PIVOINE : A French word for peony.

POIVRE : A French word for pepper.

POMADES : Combination of purified fats and flower oils produced by the enfleurage and maceration processes

POMAROSE : A Givaudan molecule; described as having a rich fruity 'rose and apple pie' odor.

PROFILE : A perfume or perfumed product profile is a description of the fragrance prepared by a marketer, which is given to a perfumer for inspiration and formulation. The profile should contain all pertinent details in relation to marketing the new fragrance plan, type, name, package, color/theme, mood, impression, cost, parameters, etc.

POWDERY : A term used to describe fragrances having considerable sweet and musk-like odors in the dry down.

PUNGENT : A word used to describe a physical impression of sharpness.

PYRALONE: Leather, green, woody, and powerful notes. (Givaudan).

R

RESINOIDS : Are extracts of gums, balsams, resins or roots (orris), which consists in whole or in part of resinous materials. They are generally used as fixatives in perfume compositions.

RHIZOMES : Root like stems with nodes, which grow under or along the ground. Certain perfume raw materials come from rhizome, e.g., Orris absolute and ginger oil.

RHODINOL : Floral, rose, minty and geranium notes.

RICH : Term used to describe "fullness." This is comparable to the harmonious effect of a full symphony

orchestra. Floral absolutes are classic examples of materials exhibiting a “rich” effect.

ROCKROSE : see **LABDANUM**

ROSE DE MAI : Rose absolute made from the centifolia rose.

ROSE OTTO : Floral, rose, fatty and aldehydic notes. (IFF).

ROSYRANE SUPER : Floral, rosy, geranium and green notes.(Givaudan).

ROUNDNESS : Term used to describe the fullness or richness of a fragrance.

S

SANDALORE : Sandalwood, warm and sweet notes.(GR).

SANDALWOOD : An oil extracted from the heartwood of the Sandal tree, originally found in India. One of the oldest known perfumery ingredients, the powdered wood is also used to make incense. Indian sandalwood is now endangered, so many modern perfumes use Australian sandalwood or synthetic substitutes.

SANDELA: Woody, balsamic and sandalwood notes .
(Givaudan).

SERENOLIDE : A Givaudan molecule; white musk with
fruity undertones.

SHARP: A combination of coarse aromatic chemicals that
produce a penetrating effect, usually, resulting from the
lack of roundness or balance.

SILLAGE : The trail of scent left behind by a perfume.
Fragrances with minimal sillage are often said to "stay
close to the skin".

SILVANONE SUPRA : Musky, sweet, powdery, and
animalic notes. (Givaudan).

SINGLE FLORALS : This is the most specific category.
Generally the name of the fragrance is similar to the name
of the floral it has taken inspiration from. Although the
major theme of the fragrance is a single floral there are
other elements to the perfume. The interpretation by
various perfumers of this category makes them differ in
their evolution.

SOLVENTS : Volatile fluids used to extract essential oils
from flowers and other natural perfume materials.

SOLIFLORE : A fragrance which focuses on a single flower, or which tries to recreate the aroma of a single flower. Soliflores may in fact have more than one floral note, however.

SPECIALITIES : Natural oils, natural isolates or synthetics, either alone or in combination, which are used as building blocks for fragrance compounds. They are less complex than a finished fragrance compound. They may be an end-product of special processing treatments or unique raw materials. A single company under a trade name usually supplies them.

SPICY : A word descriptive of a pungent or piquant fragrance. Oil of cloves or oil of cinnamon are classic examples of spiciness in single aromatic materials. In the flower group, carnation and oil of lavender may be described as having spicy nuances.

SPICY BOUQUE : As the name implies, this group relies on spice notes such as clove, cinnamon, nutmeg and bay for its principal notes. Spice notes are universally used in perfumer.

STABILITY : A reasonable length of time for a fragrance to remain stable before the product is affected by certain raw materials, heat, light and air.

STAKOLE : Civet and animalic notes.

STEMONE : Green, natural, leafy , fresh and powerful notes.(Givaudan).

STRENGTH : The relative intensity of a fragrance impression.

STYRALLYL ACETATE : Green , floral and gardenia notes.

SUPALANG : Floral, Yalang and sweet. (IFF)

SWEET: A fragrance impression that imparts a sensation. Natural examples include vanilla, benzoin and honey.

SWEET (2) : A fragrance effect classically illustrated by the rose. The rose effect is constantly used to sweeten perfume oils during the course of their design. The rose is to the perfumer as sugar is to the chef.

SYNTHETIC May be derived or isolated from natural products or manufactured in the laboratory. Some synthetics are superior to the natural in uniformity, stability and availability. Synthetics may be as costly as naturals.

T

TANGERINOL : Citrus, fresh, fruity and bitter notes.(GR).

TENACITY: The ability of a perfume to last, or a fragrance note to retain its characteristic odor.

TETRAHYDRO CITRAL : Citrus, fresh, aldehydic, and sweet notes. (Givaudan).

TETRAMERAN : Floral, green , balsamic and weedy notes.(IFF).

THEME : The idea thought of by the creative perfumer or given to the perfumer by a profile.

THIN : A fragrance lacking in the overtones necessary to give it body or richness. Musically, this condition might be illustrated by the sound of a single violin played without accompaniment.

TIARE : A variety of Gardenia, *Gardenia tahitensis*. It is the national flower of Tahiti. See also: monoi.

TILLEUL : A French term for Linden.

TIMBERIFF : Woody, spicy, nutmeg and amber notes. (IFF).

TOBACCO & LEATHER : These are two distinctive notes possessing great tenacity, used primarily in men's fragrances. Their use is as important in modern perfumery as it was in the infancy of the art. Some examples in this area are Kourous, Aramis, and Antaeus.

TOBACCOROL : Weedy , amber, spicy and tobacco notes.(IFF).

TOLU : Also known as Balsam of Tolu. A tree resin from South America, which when dried is said to have a strong aroma with elements of vanilla & cinnamon. Also used in cough syrups. Balsam of Peru is from a closely related species of tree.

TONKA BEAN : A thumb-size pod from a plant native to Brazil, said to smell of vanilla with strong hints of cinnamon, cloves and almonds.

TOP NOTE : The immediate effect of a fragrance upon the sense of smell. This expression is commonly used in connection with an impact of fragrance upon application to the skin. Careful consideration of this top note is highly important in the design of a fragrance since the initial sales appeal may be totally dependent upon its quality. Chemically, the top note is the most volatile material in the composition of the fragrance oil and often it is deliberately accentuated by the use of a highly volatile chemical; i.e., in the French practice of using a trace of methyl acetate or propionic aldehydes to emphasize the first "fruity" effect of a cologne top note.

TOSCANOL : A Givaudan molecule with sweet, spicy, green, aromatic anisic odor.

TRIPLAL : Green, citrus, herbal and aldehydic notes . (IFF)

U

ULTRAZUR: Fresh, ozonic, citrus, slightly ambry notes. (Givaudan).

UNDECATRIE 10% : Intense, galbanum, green, and herbaceous notes. (GR).

UNDECATRIENE : Intense , galbanum, green and herbaceous notes. (Givaudan).

UNDERTONES : Subtle characteristics of the fragrance background creating pleasant nuances that are an important part of the fragrance character.

V

VALENCENE (NATUREL): A sweet, fresh citrus, grapefruit, woody, orange odor. For woody notes in citrus compositions. (Bedoukian)

VANILLA : It is derived from the seed pod of the vanilla orchid, a flowering vine which is native to Mexico (although most of the vanilla available today comes from Madagascar). The vanilla orchid flower itself is scentless. True vanilla requires extensive hand-processing, and is therefore expensive

VANILLIN : Sweet and vanilla notes.

VELVETY: A soft, smooth, mellow fragrance without harsh chemical notes.

VELVIONE : Musk, powdery, and slightly animalic notes (GR).

VERBENOL: A fresh piney note with an ozonic character. For a natural rosemary or spike lavender note . (Bedoukian).

VERDANTIOL: Linden- orange flower. (Givaudan).

VERNALDELYDE : Natural, green, agrestic, fresh and aldehydic notes. (Givaudan).

VETIVER : A grass with heavy, fibrous roots, which are used to distill an oil with the scent of moist earth with woody undertones. The grass is also grown in many countries as a means of erosion control

VETIVERYL ACETATE PURE: Sweet, fresh, and fruity notes. (IFF).

VERTOFIX :Green, vetivert, leather and musk notes . (IFF)

VOLATILE :The property of being freely diffused in the atmosphere, easily vaporized at a low temperature.

W

Warm: A word used to describe a fragrance that has a stimulating effect upon the imagination. The effect of warmth is usually conferred by material having an unconventional odor.

WOODY : A fragrance effect generally linked with the aroma of fresh cut, dry, oriental wood or fibrous root, as illustrated respectively by the essential oil of sandalwood or vetiver. Woody is a term having an entirely different meaning to the layman than it does to the perfumer and should not be confused with "woody," which implies the green effect of a forest.

WORMWOOD : Diverse family of plants, so named because at one time they were used to prepare worming medicine. The latin name is *artemisia*, and in perfumery, wormwood and/or *artemisia* often refers specifically to *artemisia absinthium*, one of the key ingredients of Absinthe .

Y

YALANG-YALANG : The Malayan term for *Cananga odorata*, an Asian evergreen tree. Translates to "flower of flowers."

YUZU : A citrus fruit grown in Japan. It looks like a small grapefruit; the flavor has been described as a cross between grapefruit and orange.