

Bergamot

Bergamot is possibly a hybrid between sour orange and Palestine sweet lime. It is grown in Italy for the uniquely perfumed oil that is extracted from the rind by spraying water on fruit rasped to release the oil. Oil of Bergamot is used in the production of eau de cologne perfume, and also provides the scented flavour of Earl Grey tea.

The fruit is rounded, with a yellow rind, and often with a persistent style. The flesh is straw coloured, acidic and bitter. The tree is thornless, with a spreading habit, and of medium-small size. At Kerikeri Bergamot fruits well in the greenhouse, but has not been evaluated in the field yet.