

In South Africa, beverages are mostly found in the Eastern and Western Cape provinces.



Honeybush tea

### OTHER FIELD CROPS

Other field crops include tobacco and sugar cane. Tobacco is grown mostly in the Limpopo and Mpumalanga provinces. It is processed from the leaves of plants in the genus *Nicotiana*, mainly into cigarettes. The product is chewed, inhaled or smoked, which results into nicotine readily being absorbed into the bloodstream.

Sugar cane is found in the warm temperate to tropical regions of KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga, and is used to make sugar, alcohol, skin care products, fertilisers etc.



Sugar cane

### Further information can be obtained from:

Directorate: Plant Production  
Division: Industrial Crops  
Tel: 012 319 6072  
Fax: 012 319 6372  
E-mail: DPP@daff.gov.za

# Industrial crops



## “FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE”

Industrial crops are plants which are classified primarily because of their industrial uses, but they may also have secondary domestic applications. These crops require industrial processing before they can be utilised by consumers.

Industrial crops produced in South Africa are divided into four main categories, namely essential oil crops, medicinal plants, fibre crops, and beverages. There are also important industrial crops which cannot be accommodated into the four groups, including tobacco and sugar cane. These crops are described separately.

### ESSENTIAL OIL CROPS

Essential oils are the volatile (evaporate rapidly), odorous oils, which occur in certain plants or specified parts of plants, recovered



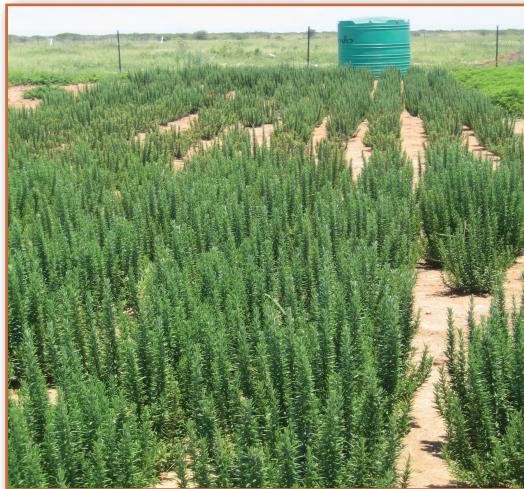
agriculture,  
forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

by accepted procedures such as steam distillation, chemical extraction or CO<sub>2</sub> extraction.

Most essential oil crops produced in South Africa are mainly grown in KwaZulu-Natal, Eastern Cape, Western Cape, and lowveld regions of Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces.

Essential oils are inputs to a range of products, including food flavours, pharmaceutical goods and industrial solvents. Examples include rose geranium, rosemary, lavender, mint etc.



Rosemary

### MEDICINAL PLANTS

Medicinal plants can be described as plants which have certain extracts/compounds in the leaves, stems and reproductive structures that are used for medicinal purposes.

Medicinal plants mostly grow wild in the mountainous areas of KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo provinces. They are also found in the Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and North West provinces.

Plant extracts are primarily used as inputs into the medicinal, herb, pharmaceutical, nutraceuticals and insecticide industries. Examples include devil's claw, African potato, aloe etc.



African potato

### FIBRE CROPS

Fibre crops are crops that produce filamentous matter from the bast tissue or other parts of plants, and are processed to be used for industrial purposes. There are a number of different fibres found in plants, and these include bast fibres, leaf fibres, seed fibres, fruit fibres and wood fibres.

The primary uses for fibre crops are clothing, textiles, automotive parts or building composites, insulation, paper and pulp, packaging materials and

weaving or thatching. Examples of fibre crops include cotton, sisal, flax etc.

Fibre crops are mostly produced in the KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, North West, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape provinces.



Cotton

### BEVERAGES

South Africa has diverse species of indigenous and traditional teas. The unique South African fynbos plants, *Aspalathus linearis* and *Cyclopia* species, are processed to rooibos and honeybush teas, respectively.

Functional foods and beverages such as rooibos, honeybush and fever tea are considered products that provide additional physiological benefit beyond that of meeting basic nutritional needs. The beverages also include coffee, black tea etc.