



International perfumery competition winner tours Indian sandalwood plantations in the Kimberley

One of the world's leading perfume makers has travelled to the Kimberley's Ord Irrigation Scheme, to get a firsthand look at the world's largest irrigated plantation of Indian sandalwood.

Jennifer Jambon, a perfumer for the London-based Molton Brown, is touring the Ord after beating 128 perfumers from across the globe in a perfume creation competition run by sandalwood producer Tropical Forestry Services (TFS).

Her winning fragrance, Voyage D'Iris, combined sandalwood oil and orris (iris roots) to create a fragrance aimed at capturing the essence of a journey through Australia.

Speaking to ABC Rural in Kununurra, Ms Jambon said the oil from Indian sandalwood trees was a vital ingredient for the perfume industry.

"It's really important because it can help make a link in the perfume and can blend really well with other ingredients," she said.

"It can round all the notes and make it more elegant and it gives that creaminess in perfume that is really important.

"It also makes it [the perfume] longer-lasting on your skin."

Ms Jambon spent her time in Kununurra witnessing the planting and harvesting of TFS plantations of Indian sandalwood.

"It's been really amazing to smell the sandalwood and experience the nature," she said.

"To smell the oil directly from the tree ... the smell is amazing when it's freshly cut, and it's beautiful wood as well."

Future demand for Indian sandalwood smelling good

Ms Jambon said while synthetic oils were being used in various sectors of the fragrance industry, she believed natural oils from plantations (such as those owned by TFS), were at the premium end of the market where demand was strong and long-lasting.

"I think it's really good for perfumers to know we will be able to use natural [Indian sandalwood oil], because when you create a new fragrance, it's important to know that you can still get the ingredients in the future if your perfume is successful," she said.

"It's a beautiful ingredient and I'm sure all the perfumers will be happy to find out there are these plantations [in Australia] and you can have a sustainable supply of sandalwood."

TFS owns or manages more than 10,000 hectares of Indian sandalwood plantations across Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland.

The company is currently harvesting around 100 hectares of sandalwood trees in the Ord Irrigation Scheme.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-08-23/international-perfumery-competition-winner-tours-sandalwood/7768070>

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