

CITRONELLA FACT SHEET



The use of citronella has been proven to be effective against a range of different insects from mosquitoes through to head lice.

2003

A study was conducted to test the efficacy against headlice. A number of children were treated with a citronella formulation at 4 different schools and others were monitored as untreated and the results showed that of those who were treated only 12% were found to have headlice compared with the 50% of the remaining untreated children.

2013

It was shown that Citronella was effective against mosquitoes inhibiting host seeking behavior, i.e. repelling insects from people.

CITRONELLA IS A COMMONLY USED INSECT REPELLENT WITH DOCUMENTED USE DATING BACK OVER A CENTURY

It was first used as early as 1858 by a French perfumer. It was also used by the Indian army at the turn of the 20th century as a mosquito repellent and later as an official insect repellent by the American EPA in 1948 where it has been listed as minimum risk pesticide ever since.

There are now many citronella insect repellent products on the market world wide ranging from gels and soaps to candles and wipes.

CITRONELLA IS AN OIL DERIVED FROM CULTIVATED GRASSES AND CONTAINS VARYING AMOUNTS OF CITRONELLOL, CITRONELLAL, GERANIOL AND LIMONENE.

The levels of each chemical are dependent on the type of grass used for the production of the oils. There are two main species of grass that are used *Cymbopogon winterianus*, commonly called Java Citronella, which is grown on the Indonesian island of Java and *Cymbopogon nardus*, commonly called Citronella Grass, which is grown in Sri Lanka.

Citronella works by masking the scents that are attractive to insects. This helps to repel them by reducing the interest that they may have had in coming near to people. It has a strong pleasantly lemon/citrus fragrance which makes it a popular choice for use as an insect repellent.

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