



## IntegriLIPID Marula Oil

INCI Name: *Sclerocarya birrea* (Marula) Kernel Oil

## Description

The marula tree is a single stemmed tree with a wide spreading crown. It is characterized by a grey mottled bark. The tree grows up to 18m tall mostly in low altitudes and open woodlands.

## Fruit

The fruit of the marula grows up to about the size of a golf ball and turns butter yellow when ripe. It consists of a leathery exocarp, which encloses white slimy fruit pulp and a large hard woody stone. The flesh clings onto to its brown stone. The flesh is very fibrous and juicy. The ripe fruit has a characteristic turpentine flavor. Inside the woody stone are two to three seeds, which are very rich in oil and protein. The fruits mature from February to June.

## Distribution

Marula is widely distributed in Southern Africa and occurs in all PhytoTrade Africa member countries Malawi , Namibia, Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe with large extensive belts stretching though Namibia Botswana and Zimbabwe and spilling in to Zambia and Malawi.

## Traditional uses

The bark is used both as treatment and a prophylactic for malaria. The bark of the male or female tree is also used in regulating the sex of an unborn child. Gums exudates from the stem are mixed with water and soot to make ink by certain tribes in the region.

The bark is used as coagulant. It is also effective against diarrhea, dysentery and unspecified stomach problems. Bark infusion is also used as treatment for fever and malaria. The bark also yields a red-brown dye used in coloring traditional craft ware. The leaves are chewed upon to help indigestion and to treat heartburn. The fruit infusion is used to bathe tick-infested livestock. The fruit is also regarded as a **potent insecticide**.

Oil obtained from the kernels is used in meat preservation and protecting leather clothing. The oil is also used for skin and hair application, as it is believed to have **moisturizing properties**.

## Known properties

The fruit pulp has a high content of Vitamin C, citric acid and malic acid and sugar. Chemicals that have been isolated from the bark include procyanidins, gallatannins, flavonoids and catechins.

The kernels contain a lot of oil and protein. Marula oil is the new “**miracle oil**” for the cosmetics industry. Thanks to its composition of **monounsaturated fatty acids** and its rich content of **antioxidants**, marula oil has excellent natural stability to oxidation. Marula oil is **nourishing, hydrating** and naturally **softens** and **revitalizes the skin**. The oil is popular in Namibia for **its anti-oxidant**, nutritional and aphrodisiac qualities. The flesh and kernel of the marula contains the largest amount of vitamins and minerals of any wild or cultivated tree.

Marula oil is one of Africa’s most notable skin care oils. It **is rich in anti-oxidants and oleic acid**. Marula oil is an extremely stable fixed oil. Its high content of palmitic acid creates an occlusive barrier on the surface of the skin making it particularly good for products designed for dry skin.

**It is rapidly absorbed, reducing Trans Epidermal Water Loss** and increases smoothness of the skin. Use Marula oil in formulations for dry, damaged skin and moisturizing hair treatments.

It is also a **first class superfatting agent** for soap use.

<u>Typical Fatty Acid Profile</u>		<u>%</u>
Palmitic	C16:0	11.20
Palmitoleic	C16:1	0.10
Stearic	C18:0	7.10
Oleic	C18:1	75.10
Linoleic	C18:2	4.60
Alpha Linolenic	C18:3	0.20
Icosanoic	C20:0	0.50
Icosenoic	C20:1	0.20
Docosenoic	C22:1	0.10

**Benefits:**

Antioxidant properties  
Absorbs quickly  
Nourish  
Hydrating  
Skin Softening  
Revitalize the skin

**Uses:**

Creams  
Lotions  
Sun Care Products  
Lip Balms  
Hair Conditioners  
Hair Oils  
Body Oils  
Body Butters

Use in your formulations at 1-10%.

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