

# Lemon Balm INFUSION

# MENTAL STRESS Agitation and insomnia

NPN 80030199

Ingredient			
Lemon Balm	leaf	Melissa officinalis	Organic

### DOSAGE

**INTERVENTION**: 3-5 cups per day for 2 weeks. **TREATMENT**: 3-4 cups per day, as needed.

#### **DIRECTIONS FOR USE**

Pour 1 litre of boiling water over 2 tbsp of herbs, cover and let steep 15 minutes. Filter.

#### MODE OF ACTION

As a nerve tonic and digestive herb, lemon balm calms nervous tension and the digestive troubles that it causes. It relieves nervous troubles such as anxiety, agitation and stress. As it acts on the limbic system and inhibits the degradation of GABA, lemon balm reduces irritability and improves the mood. It decreases corticosterone levels and reduces heart palpitations and migraine linked to stress. Lemon balm's efficiency has been demonstrated (sometimes combined with other herbs) to decrease sleep difficulties due to stress and anxiety. Lemon balm supports cognitive functions and memory, it calms the spirit and promotes mental clarity. It is a neuroprotector and mildly antidepressant.

As a carminative, *Melissa officinalis* has a relaxing effect on the gastro-intestinal tract. It relieves digestive troubles due to nervous conditions, indigestion, dyspepsia, colic and flatulence. Its effect on the peristalsis of the intestines, along with its antispasmodic effect, reduce colic in babies. Lemon balm helps to soothe babies' nervous systems during teething.

Lemon balm is diaphoretic and its essential oils are antiviral and antibacterial. It is used for infections accompanied by fever and in external use to treat Herpes simplex. Its high antioxidant content, particularly phenols, increases the quantity of certain enzymes that slow cellular oxidation.

The combination of its antispasmodic and relaxing effect on the nervous system reduces premenstrual discomfort such as irritability and menstrual cramps. Lemon balm is a TSH antagonist, it is therefore used for hyperthyroidism. It is a circulatory and heart tonic.

Lemon balm contains flavonoids (luteolin, isoquercitrin), volatile oils (citronellal, geranial), polyphenols (rosmarinic acid, caffeic acid), triterpenes (ursolic acid, oleanolic acid), tannins, bitter principles, vitamins and trace elements.

#### **HELPFUL ASSOCIATIONS**

**GREEN OATSTRAW** infusion for insomnia and nervous troubles.

ASHWAGANDHA tincture for stress accompanied by anxiety.

**NERVETOP** for nervousness and agitation.

**DREAMTOP** for insomnia.

**ESTOMIX** for digestive troubles accompanied by gas, bloating.

#### **ETHNOBOTANY**

**Nervous system**: anxiety, stress, irritability, nervous tension, agitation, mood swings, memory loss, difficulty concentrating, symptoms of mild depression, seasonal depression.

Digestive system: gas, bloating, colic, gastric troubles.

Other: Grave's disease, hyperthyroidism, migraine, palpitations, viral infection.

## **HISTORY**

The medicinal and culinary uses of lemon balm go back 2000 years. Dioscorides was the first to mention the medicinal properties of lemon balm. At that time, it was used to treat pathologies of the nervous system, mental health disorders, cardio-vascular and respiratory diseases. Lemon balm was brought to Britain by the Romans who appreciated its capacity to increase mental clarity, help memory and elevate the spirit. Today, lemon balm is still used in the preparation of *Carmelite Water* by the Carmelite nuns for nervousness and agitation.

#### **CONTRA-INDICATIONS**

Consult a health care practitioner if insomnia persists for over 3 weeks. Consult a health care practitioner if symptoms persist or worsen. May cause drowsiness is some people.

#### INTERACTIONS

The use of lemon balm with alcoholic beverages, sedative drugs or natural health products with sedative effects is not advised.

LEMON BALM INFUSION STRESS

#### REFERENCES

AHPA. Botanical Safety Handbook, 2nd Edition. Boca Raton: CRC Press; 2013.

Akhondzadeh S., Noroozian M., Mohammadi M., Ohadinia S., Jamshidi A.H., Khani M. Melissa officinalis extract in the treatment of patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease: a double blind, randomised, placebo controlled trial. J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry 2003;74:863–866; 2003

Alijaniha F., Naseri M., Afsharypuor S., Fallahi F., Noorbala A., Mosaddegh M., Sadrai S. (2015). Heart palpitation relief with Melissa officinalis leaf extract: Double blind, randomized, placebo controlled trial of efficacy and safety. Journal of Ethnopharmacology, 164, 378–384. doi:10.1016/j. jep.2015.02.007; 2015.

Barnes J., Anderson L.A., Phillipson J.D. Herbal medicines, 3rd Edition. London: Pharmaceutical Press; 2007.

**Blumenthal, Goldberg, Brinckmann.** Herbal Medicine: Expanded Commission E Monographs. Newton: Integrative Medicine Communications; 2000.

Bone Kerry. A clinical Guide to Blending Liquid Herbs. St. Louis: Churchill Livingston; 2003.

**Boon H., Smith M.** The Complete Natural Medicine Guide to the 50 Most Common Medicinal Herbs. Toronto: Robert Rose; 2004.

**Brinker Francis.** Herb Contraindications and Drug Interactions. Third Edition. Sandy: Eclectic Medical Publications; 2001.

**Chandler Frank.** Herbs Everyday Reference for Health Professionals. Nepean: Canadian Pharmacists Association and the Canadian Medical Association; 2000.

**Duarte M.C.T., Rai M.** Therapeutic Medicinal Plants. Boca Raton: CRC Press; 2016.

**ESCOP.** Monographs: The Scientific Foundation for Herbal Medicinal Products, Second Edition. New York: Thieme; 2003.

**Fetrow, C. W., Avila, Juan R.** Professional's Handbook of Complementary and Alternative Medicines. Springhouse: Lippincott Williams and Wilkins; 2004.

Foster S., Johnson L. R. Desk Reference to Nature's Medicine. Washington: National Geographic Society, 2006.

Gagnon C., Lanctôt-Bédard V. Materia Medica: Flora Medicina; 2009.

Hoffmann David. Medical Herbalism. Rochester; Healing Arts Press; 2003.

Holmes Peter. The Energetics of Western Herbs, Vol. 2, 3rd Edition. Boulder: Snow Lotus Press; 1998.

**Kennedy D., Scholey A.** (2006). The Psychopharmacology of European Herbs with Cognition-Enhancing Properties. Current Pharmaceutical Design, 12(35), 4613–4623. doi:10.2174/138161206779010387; 2006.

Martinelli, M., Ummarino, D., Giugliano, F. P., Sciorio, E., Tortora, C., Bruzzese, D., Staiano, A. (2017). Efficacy of a standardized extract of Matricariae chamomilla L., Melissa officinalis L. and tyndallized Lactobacillus acidophilus (HA122) in infantile colic: An open randomized controlled trial. Neurogastroenterology & Motility, 29(12), e13145. doi:10.1111/nmo.13145; 2017.

McIntyre Anne. Herbal Treatment of Children. London: Elsevier; 2005.

Mills S., Bone K. Principles and Practice of Phytotherapy. St. Louis: Elsevier; 2000.

Miraj S., Kopaei R., Kiani S. Melissa officinalis L: A Review Study With an Antioxidant Prospective. Journal of Evidence-Based Complementary & Alternative Medicine 2017, Vol. 22(3) 385-394: DOI: 10.1177/2156587216663433; 2017.

Noguchi-Shinohara M., Ono K., Hamaguchi T., Iwasa K., Nagai T., Kobayashi S., et al. (2015) Pharmacokinetics, Safety and Tolerability of Melissa officinalisExtract which Contained Rosmarinic Acid in Healthy Individuals: A Randomized Controlled Trial. PLoS ONE 10(5): e0126422. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0126422; 2015.

Romm Aviva. Naturally Healthy Babies and Children. New York: Celestial Arts; 2003.

Romm Aviva. Botanical medicine for women's health. St. Louis; Churchill Livingstone; 2010.

Schilcher Heinz. Phytotherapy in Paediatrics. Stuttgart: Medpharm; 1997.

**Schulz, Hänsel, Blumenthal, Tyler.** Rational Phytotherapy, 5th Edition. Berlin: Springer; 2004.

Shakeri A., Sahebkar A., Javadi B. (2016). Melissa officinalis L. – A review of its traditional uses, phytochemistry and pharmacology. Journal of Ethnopharmacology, 188, 204–228. doi:10.1016/j.jep.2016.05.010; 2016.

**Tilgner Marie S.** Herbal Medicine from the Heart of the Earth, 2nd Edition. Pleasant Hill: 2009.

Wightman, E. L. Potential benefits of phytochemicals against Alzheimer's disease. Proceedings of the Nutrition Society, 76(02), 106–112. doi:10.1017/s0029665116002962; 2017.

Winston D., Maimes S. Adaptogens. Rochester: Healing Arts Press; 2007.

Certified organic ingredients.

Made according to GMP.

Kosher, vegan and non-irradiated.

NO additives, colouring, added sugar, gluten, soy or GMOs.











