

# The Makings of Fragrance, Part 3

## Fragrant, sensual and seductive

### Oakmoss

It's just like being in a forest. That's true in the case of this scent! Oakmoss smells earthy, like moss and smoke, like cool, fragrant-fresh air, a bit like wood and sometimes even very faintly like tar. As the name implies, this light green lichen grows primarily on oak, as well as on other trees (e.g. pines) in France, Morocco and in the countries of the former Yugoslavia, among others. In perfumery, the fragrant scent of oakmoss is a preferred ingredient in



fine masculine notes. The absolute is obtained through extraction and has a sticky, viscous consistency. But it can't be used until it's been dissolved in ethyl alcohol. The fragrance of oakmoss is highly intensive, which is why it is employed in only minute quantities.

### Tonka

Don't be misled by its poetic name: Tonka isn't a flower – it's a "bean." Yet the scent that it develops is so pleasingly sweet and uniquely



fragrant that it can hold its own against many a flower. It smells like a blend of freshly mown hay and marzipan. Although tonka used to be employed to flavor snuff tobacco, today its scent is contained in any number of exclusive perfumes.

Tonka "beans" are the seeds of the yellow-blossoming tonka tree, which is native to the northern portions of South America. Tonka can be outstandingly combined with numerous other scents, taking on a different nuance with each: Sensual with ylang-ylang or patchouli. Or lively in the company of lavender, rose or myrtle.

### Gardenia

Our grandmothers' suitors used to wear them on their lapels. And who knows: Perhaps it wasn't just the charm of these cavaliers, but also the wonderful scent of gardenia that would set an entire generation of women to swooning: Beguiling, sweet, sultry, reminiscent of jasmine. With its lush, cream-colored blossoms and its leathery, dark-green leaves, gardenia is unrivaled in its old-fashioned elegance – and in Anglo-Saxon countries, it is still



considered to be the "First Lady" of lapel flowers. The gardenia is native to China, Formosa (today's Taiwan) and Japan. Its essential oil lends a seductive-sensual note to any number of perfumes.