



New Zealand Lavender Growers Association - Oil Awards Rules

1. The Oil Awards program of the New Zealand Lavender Growers Association (NZLGA) are a valuable component of the support and services provided by the association for its members.
2. The Oil Awards educate growers on the aromatic aspects of lavender oils which make these products more refined and hopefully more valuable.
3. The Oil Awards provide an opportunity for members to gain a consensus opinion from trained noses on the quality of their oils. The feedback is intended to assist growers to learn about the aromatic characters associated with good quality oils and faults which detract from oil quality. It is also intended to eliminate such faults which may arise from corruption, contamination, poor production, harvesting processes and storage.
4. The Oil Awards Program holds potential for the NZLGA to promote sales of individual batches or combined stocks with the utmost confidence of consistent characteristics within the product.
5. The Oil Awards Committee is a special interest Sub-committee of the NZLGA. The Executive Committee will appoint one member of the Executive to sit on the Oil Awards Committee to represent the interests of the sub-group in the Executive Committee.
6. The Oil Awards Sub Committee hold the purpose to plan, facilitate and record the appraisal of lavender oils submitted by subscribed members and, from time to time, other parties.
7. The Oil Awards Sub Committee may seek from the NZLGA Executive Committee, funds sufficient to "float" the activities of the process of analysis for the express purpose of facilitating the Oil Awards Program.
8. The Oil Awards Sub Committee shall plan and budget their activities to permit the reimbursement of any funds provided by the Executive Committee for the purpose of facilitating the Oil Awards Program; such requirement is to best meet the expectation of the members of the NZLGA that the process would be self-funding.
9. The Oil Awards Sub Committee may receive and propose to the Executive of the NZLGA offers of sponsorship or financial grant from others for the purposes of funding the Oil Awards Program; surplus funds so derived may be deposited into the NZLGA bank account as secured provision for the future activities of the Oil Awards Program.
10. The Oil Awards Sub-Committee shall lodge with the Secretary of the NZLGA full copies of the description of all procedures, processes, documentation, spreadsheets and forms such as to define and describe the workings of the Oil Awards Sub Committee and the Oil Awards program. Any amendments to any documents so provided shall be advised and copied to the Secretary to be held on file.

Ownership

11. The Oil Awards system comprises a number of different processes developed cooperatively by members of the Oil Awards Sub Committee on behalf of the The New Zealand Lavender Growers Association and Dr Noel G Porter. The development of the different processes and the ownership of their intellectual property is acknowledged as follows -
 - 11.1 Dr N G Porter - the concept of the competition and the definition of the different constituent processes which make up the competition which include:
 - a. The evaluation and training of the judges,
 - b. The judging criteria and form,
 - c. The conduct of the judges during the evaluation of samples,
 - d. The necessity for double blinding to preserve sample anonymity and avoid judging bias.
 - 11.2 The New Zealand Lavender Growers Association - the facilitation, documentation and recording by which the processes above are put into action during the Oil Awards which include:
 - a. The recording of entrants' and sample details.
 - b. The handling of the samples.
 - c. The function of the impartial adjudicator.
 - d. The data handling and spreadsheet.
 - e. The setting of the award levels,
 - f. The feedback to the growers.
 - 11.3 The Oil Awards system is an asset of significant value to both parties and no part of the system may be exposed, vended, loaned or duplicated to any other party without the knowledge and express written consent of the relevant party. Similarly, the complete system may not be exposed, vended, loaned or duplicated to any other party without the joint knowledge and express written consent by both parties."

Functions and Responsibilities

12. The Oil awards Sub Committee is required within its activities to train sensory judges and renew and monitor the on-going competence of judges to ensure consistent and relevant determinations.
 - 12.1 Samples received from growers are required to be quarantined in secure and appropriate means to ensure the security and confidentiality of source of the sample and to avoid all possible risk of sample degradation. They are required to be quarantined by the appointed receiver of the oil.

Procedures

13. Appropriate records and methods are required to be maintained to both ensure that any received sample accurately recognizes the grower/provider yet provides for the sample to be presented to the judging panel blind in respect of all grower/provider detail such as would make such source recognizable to the testing judges; i.e. retaining complete anonymity.
 - 13.1 Testing and sensory determinations are to be conducted in a formal and disciplined manner with the samples blinded and matrixed such as to provide the broadest possible base for comparison between the oils and recognised standard characteristics. Scoring is required to be by comparison of the sample to recognised ideals as appraised by the judges and recorded to be collated mathematically.
 - 13.2 All samples shall be retained following analysis to quarantine storage in identifiable form. Samples may be used by the Oil Awards Committee following 30 days after the determinations of the awards for the purpose of training and demonstration.

Awards

14. The Oil Awards Committee shall establish ratings by qualification recognised by the awarding of certificates to the level of Gold and Silver in each category (variety) and season where oils so qualify. Where no oils meet the criterion set for each respective category, no Oil Award or certificate shall be awarded.
- 14.1 The results in all categories are to be ratified with the Oil Awards chief adviser and held by the Senior Administrator of the Oil Awards Program in complete confidence with the Oil Awards Committee until the time of the scheduled presentation of awards or at such time as the Executive Committee of the NZLGA shall determine. At the Senior Administrators discretion an awards advice maybe given to entrants' who are to receive an award.
- 15.1 Trophies to be awarded are to be so awarded in compliance with the Terms and Rules set for the awarding of each respective trophy; in appraising the basis for awarding such trophies, this must be determined through reflection of the points/marks/grades as established through the Oil Awards Program of the year in which the trophies are to be awarded and not give consideration to any other basis.
- 15.2 The Awards as determined and announced by the Oil Awards Committee shall be final and no correspondence to the topic of any result entered into in respect of the awarding or non-awarding of any trophy, certificate or award in any category.
- 15.3 Subscribed members of the NZLGA who receive awards and/or trophies may use and employ the receipt of such awards for the promotion and advancing of their brand and product; any such use of the award in any labeling or publication shall include notice of the year the award was made, the variety or blend to which the award applies.
- 15.4 Any award made through the process of the Oil Awards Committee is by the determination of the sample and application of comparison as required to be applied as described in the Oil Awards procedures; such determinations and awards reflect the processes of the Oil Awards Committee and the Oil Awards program and do not reflect any advice or instruction from the Executive Committee or any other officer of the NZLGA other than as described in these protocols.

Confidentiality Agreement.

15. Members of the Oil Awards Committee are bound by the Confidentiality Agreement as detailed below. The purpose of this is to ensure that the Oil Awards Committee is free of bias and outside influences in order to preserve its integrity.
- 15.1 No member of the Oil Awards Committee can discuss or otherwise disclose information about the Oil entered or how they are recorded or coded to any 3rd party or organization outside of the Oil Awards Committee. No member will disclose the intellectual property rights as defined in the Oil awards Rules document. (Paragraph 11.) Any member who is approached or otherwise asked for information regarding any of the above or any information that could compromise the Oil Awards shall report the interaction to the Oil Awards Chairperson.
This agreement does not include information required by the NZLGA Executive but not limited to; funding, sponsorship or financial grants, finance reporting, and other as detailed in the Oil Awards Rules.