

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, BELGRADE, SERBIA



**SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN TERMS
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
STRATEGIC GOALS REALIZATION
WITHIN THE DANUBE REGION**

- sustainability and multifunctionality -

Thematic Proceedings

Belgrade, 2019

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LEMON BALM (*Melissa officinalis* L.) – TECHNOLOGY OF CULTIVATION AND PRODUCTION COST ESTIMATE¹

Vladimir Filipović², Vladan Ugrenović³

Abstract

*The demand for lemon balm (*Melissa officinalis* L.) is growing with years, is it dried leaves (*Melissae folium*), the above-ground parts (*Melissae herba*) or lemon balm essential oil (*Melissae aetheroleum*). The reasons for the increase in the demand lie in the fact that lemon balm is one of the few plants that are simultaneously medicinal, decorative, spice, aromatic and honey plants, and they have industrial application. The demand for the raw material, semi-finished products and final products from lemon balm lies in the fact that the lemon balm raw material from our area is of exceptional quality, and meets the criteria prescribed by appropriate documents for this particular field. As there continues to be self-sown lemon balm, some people still continue to acquire it from nature. The percentage of those who acquire lemon balm from nature is almost negligible. The bulk of the raw material is obtained from cultivated plants. In this regard, in the case of perennial species, it is necessary to follow the guidelines concerning the good practice of lemon balm production and the methods used to improve the existing cultivation technology. This paper represents the author's knowledge on the technology of lemon balm production, its use and the cost estimate showing the investments made in the process of its cultivation.*

Key words: *lemon balm, *Melissa officinalis* L., production, use, production cost estimate.*

Introduction

Lemon balm or common balm, melissa plant, bee balm, balm mint and sweet balm (*Melissa officinalis* L.) is a perennial herbaceous plant belonging to the mint or

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