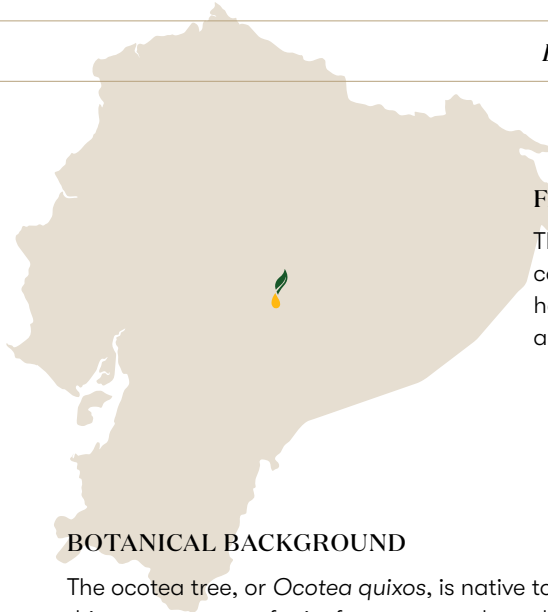


Pastaza Province,
Ecuador

MERA OCOTEA FARM

Established 2018

Botanical sourced from this farm: Ocotea



FARM LOCATION AND BACKGROUND

The Mera Ocotea Farm presents Young Living with a unique opportunity to fulfill our commitment to the planet. For starters, we'll plant another 6,000 ocotea trees, which will help accelerate oxygen production. The farm relies on the region's year-round rainfall and uses only non-GMO seeds that are cultivated through natural pollination.

BOTANICAL BACKGROUND

The ocotea tree, or *Ocotea quixos*, is native to Ecuador and Colombia. Amazonian tribes prized this evergreen tree for its fragrance and sturdy wood. When the Spanish expeditions explored the Amazon region for legendary cities rich with gold and spices, the presence of the ocotea tree, as well as tobacco, cocoa, timber, sugar, and other fragrant resins and plants, led them to believe they were on the right track.

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TESTING

Orlando Pschecho, the farm agronomist and field production manager, oversees the Mera Ocotea Farm's progress. To test the soil quality, he has dug test pits that are between 80 centimetres and one metre deep and takes samples for specialised laboratory analysis. There he records the micro- and macronutrients found in the soil and uses that data to develop the best fertilisation plan. This approach results in healthier trees that produce richly aromatic essential oil with an ideal constituent profile.



HOW THE FARM GOT ITS START

Young Living Founder D. Gary Young always valued the Ocotea essential oil produced in Ecuador. Initially, ocotea was wildcrafted and then transported by local harvesters to the Finca Botanica Farm and Distillery for distillation. However, since the geographic location of the farm wasn't suitable for cultivating ocotea trees, Gary decided it was time for Young Living to start our own ocotea farm.

In September 2017, Young Living purchased nearly 47 hectares (116 acres) of land in Mera, located in the Pastaza province eight hours northeast of Finca Botanica, where ocotea trees grow wild. In 2018, Young Living received permits from the EPA to clear 14 hectares (nearly 35 acres) where it could plant ocotea trees. The Mera Ocotea Farm has planted thousands of trees since and is currently caring for them through fertilisation and weeding, looking forward to harvesting them in five or six years.



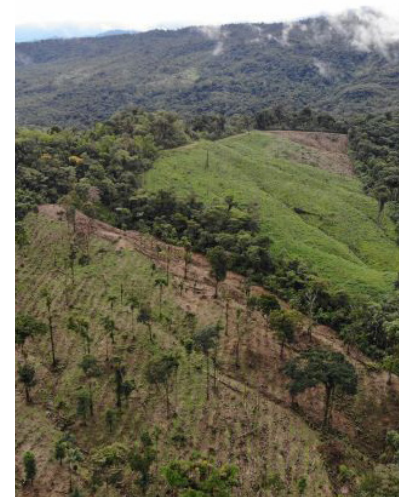
DID YOU KNOW?



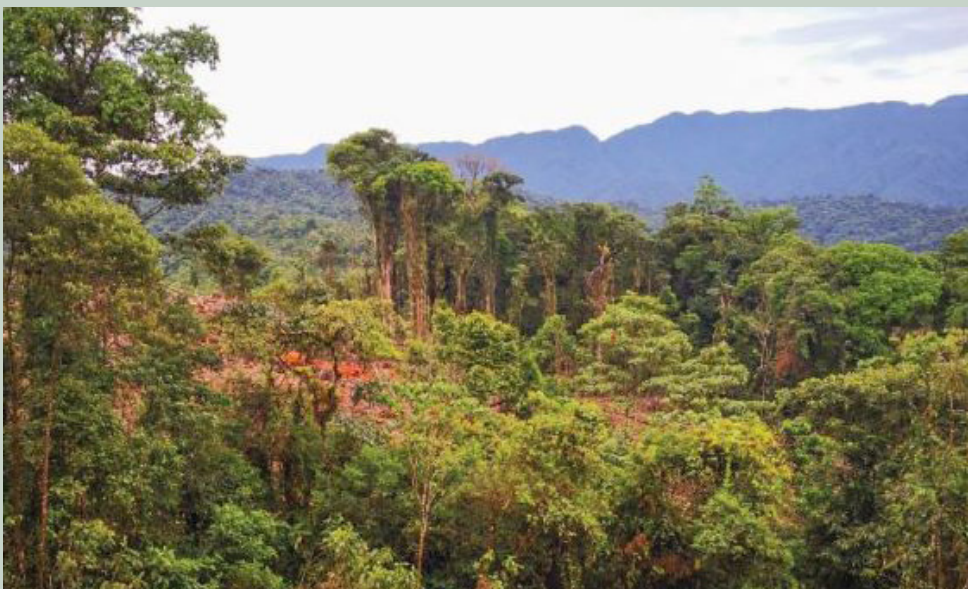
The Mera Ocotea Farm relies on the region's year-round rainfall and uses seeds cultivated through natural pollination.



This farm uses GPS coordinates and drone images to plot the terrain for the mapping.



LOOKING AFTER THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY



Protecting natural resources. This farm developed a sustainable ecological plan to protect waterways and prevent erosion in ravines, maintain a sustainable percentage of larger trees, balance production with biodiversity, and preserve an orchid sanctuary.

Preserving wildlife. In time, wildlife corridors will surround the farm, creating vital links between habitats that protect and re-establish threatened populations.