2,80 kn – ružmarin
3,10 kn – lavanda
4,60 kn – smilje

Marke su izdane u arcima od 20 maraka i karnetima od 10 maraka, a Hrvatska pošta izdala je i prigodnu omotnicu prvog dana (FDC) te tri maksimum-karte.

Veličina: 35,50 mm x 29,82 mm
Papir: bijeli, 102 g, gumirani
Zupčanje: češljasto, 14
Tisak: višebojni ofsetni s dodatkom mirisa, Zrinski d.d. Čakovec

Naklada: 170 000 primjeraka po motivu od čega 20 000 primjeraka u karnetima

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Tekstovi o flori: Sanja Kovačić

Prigodne poštanske marke

HRVATSKA FLORA

Ružmarin

Lavanda

Smilje

Prigodne poštanske marke

HRVATSKA FLORA

Ružmarin

Lavanda

Smilje

Hrvatska pošta

NiKEL
NATURAL INNOVATIVE COSMETICS

beautiful plant is cultivated as decorative plant also in continental parts, but because its sensitivity to frost it is necessary to protect it during winter.

Lavender

Lavandula angustifolia Mill., Family of *Lamiaceae*)

Curative or narrow-leaved lavender is a very aromatic and branchy evergreen bush reaching up to 1.5 m. Blue-greenish leaves are about 3 cm long and linear lanceted. Bilabial flowers are of unusual blue-violet colour by which this colour nuance also got its name (Lavender) and are about 1 cm long and surrounded by bracts. They are gathered in dense, cylindrical flower clusters up to 10 centimetres long at the top of long stems. Lavender blossoms from June to August. It prefers sunny habitats, but not dry land. Like rosemary's its homeland is also Iberian Peninsula (most probably mountains of North Spain), where, surprisingly, it does not grow near the coast. As a curative plant it was spread in old times throughout the whole Mediterranean area: in some areas it is fully domiciled, while in others it is cultivated. In Croatia it is mainly considered a cultivated plant although here the talk is most often about lavandin (Lavandula intermedia) a hybrid of narrow-leafed and wide-leafed lavender which is common also in well-known Hvar plantations. In coastal area lavender can be found also as wild, in low-bushes (macchia) and on rocky pastures. Since it successfully survives low temperatures, it is often cultivated in continental (even mountainous) areas as a decorative plant, but also a curative, honey- bearing and industrial plant.

From its flowers through distillation lavender oil can be produced, which has a wide application in pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry. Since antique times it has been added to massage oils, soaps and baths - wherefrom also a scientific name of the genus (lat. *lavare*, to wash oneself) originates. Aromatherapy recommends lavender oil as a mild and soothing agent. Depending on cultivar, there are various strengths and pleasantness of lavender scent: some are highly scented because they contain more camphor and are used, e.g. in sachets, against moths, while others are milder and "sweeter" and more convenient for application on skin.

Lavender is to some degree also used in culinary: new leaves and offshoots - similar as those of rosemary, can in small quantities be added as spice to salads and meat dishes. In recent years also sweets with the addition of lavender are popular, first of all chocolates and sparkling drinks.

Curry plant (immortelle)

Helichrysum italicum (Roth) G. Don, family of *Asteraceae*

Curry plant (immortelle) is aromatic and at its base a woody half-bush reaching the height of about half a metre. Young branches are covered with small hair and linear leaves are often silver-white). Gold-yellow flower heads (Latin name of the genus originates from the Greek word *helios*, sun, and *chryson*, golden) are 3 mm in diameter, built of tiny tubular flowers and surrounded by bracts. More flower heads are clustered on tops of branches in umbel - an umbrella-like shield of flowers of a diameter up to 10 cm. Immortelle blossoms from April to July in sunny, open areas, mostly on rocky grassland and in shrubs. Immortelle is a genuine Mediterranean plant spread throughout whole South Europe, Northwest Africa and Asia Minor. A number of subspecies of immortelle are known, which differ by their height and leaf size.

Although always appreciated as a curative plant, immortelle has only in recent years become exceptionally popular in all parts of the world and thus its natural habitats in Croatia are often exposed to merciless devastation. From flower heads, through their distillation, a light colour oil of pleasant scent and wide application in pharmaceutical and cosmetic industry is obtained. It contains an abundance of bitter chemical compounds (phalides, flavonoids) which are very efficient in curing various skin diseases, injuries and anomalies: from effective compresses against burns and cuts to "miraculous" preparations which remove wrinkles. It is used in alternative ways of curing, from aromatherapy to homeopathy. In industrial production of scents immortelle oil is used as fundamental solution (fixative) to which later various other scents are added. Food producers add it to chewing gums, sweets, ice creams and baker's products. In small quantities immortelle leaves can be added to various meat or fish dishes of Mediterranean kitchen, soups, stews and fresh salads, while flower clusters are added to tea blends.

Immortelle flower heads are also added to dried flower arrangements because they keep their golden yellow colour for long time. Also various other species of this great genus are popular as dried strawflowers from which many decorative cultivars of different colours have been obtained and some sorts are cultivated also as small hedges (the plant withstands pruning very well).

Sanja Kovačić

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PRIGODNE POŠTANSKE MARKE REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE

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