

This first version of a generic honeybush sensory wheel, consisting of 28 flavour and 7 taste and mouthfeel terms, has been developed as a communication and quality control tool for the honeybush tea industry. It is not species-specific since it is based on the sensory analysis of infusions from six honeybush species.

The overall sensory profile of honeybush tea can typically be described as floral, sweet, fruity and plantlike, with a sweet taste and a slightly astringent mouthfeel. There are, however, significant taste and flavour differences between the different honeybush species, e.g. *Cyclopia maculata* has a strong spicy character, while *Cyclopia subternata* is associated with a fruity, sweet flavour.

More information on honeybush:

- Agricultural Research Council: www.arc.agric.za/home.asp?pid=4045
- SA Honeybush Tea Association (SAHTA): www.sahoneybush.co.za

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