Dilmah Earl Grey vs Hyson Lemon: Ceylon Citrus Teas Compared

From the teas.co.uk wiki

> **Quick answer:** Both products are flavoured Ceylon black teas, but they solve different citrus briefs. **Dilmah Earl Grey** uses bergamot for a floral, perfumed citrus character; **Hyson Lemon** is the more direct lemon-led cup and comes in a larger 32-bag box at the current snapshot. Choose Dilmah for classic Earl Grey aroma and Hyson for straightforward lemon black tea.

Rewritten around the current Dilmah Earl Grey and Hyson Lemon products on 8 August 2026. Prices and availability are dated shop snapshots.



Current products from the live teas.co.uk catalogue. Photos of both packs and their stock position were verified on 8 August 2026.

It makes a sensible pairing to compare: two Sri Lankan black teas, two takes on citrus and two live UK pack formats. The former Hyson Breakfast example has been removed from the article and artwork.

The two teas at a glance

Question	Dilmah Earl Grey	Hyson Lemon
Tea base	Ceylon black tea	Ceylon black tea
Citrus direction	Bergamot: floral, aromatic and classically Earl Grey	Lemon: brighter and more immediately recognisable
Current format	20 tea bags, 30g	32 tea bags, 32g

Question	Dilmah Earl Grey	Hyson Lemon
Snapshot price	£6.75	£4.75
Approx. snapshot price per bag	33.8p	14.8p

The price-per-bag result is useful but incomplete. The products state different total weights and may use different bag construction and tea quantity. It tells you household cost at this snapshot, not which cup has better leaf or aroma.

Bergamot and lemon are not the same flavour

Earl Grey is defined by the aromatic character of bergamot, a citrus fruit whose fragrance combines peel-like brightness with floral perfume. Dilmah's official product information describes its Earl Grey as Ceylon black tea with bergamot flavour. Hyson Lemon takes the more literal citrus route: black tea with lemon flavour. If ordinary lemon tea is what you picture, Hyson is the clearer match; if the distinctive fragrance of Earl Grey is the point, choose Dilmah.

This distinction matters more than the brand names. Somebody who dislikes perfumed tea may prefer Hyson even when they normally buy Dilmah, while an Earl Grey drinker may find plain lemon too simple. Neither flavour is an upgrade over the other.

What "Ceylon" establishes

Ceylon Tea is tea grown and manufactured in Sri Lanka. The Sri Lanka Tea Board states that tea qualifying for the Ceylon Tea name cannot be blended with tea from another origin. Its Lion Logo has an additional meaning: the Board describes it as a guarantee of 100% Pure Ceylon Tea packed in Sri Lanka, subject to its approval process.

That origin does not create one fixed taste. Region, elevation, season, grade, manufacture and added flavour all change the cup. In this comparison, bergamot and lemon are intentionally prominent; choose an unflavoured product such as Dilmah Premium Ceylon Black if the aim is to examine the tea base more directly.

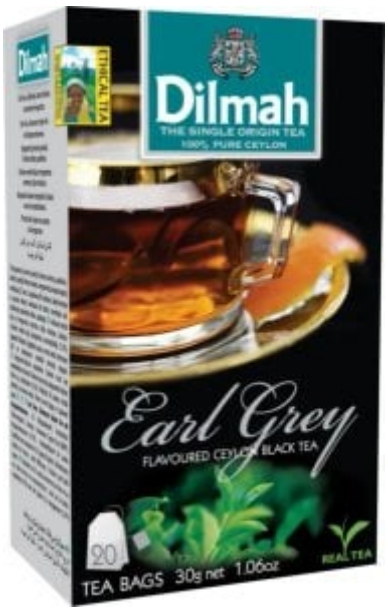
A fair home tasting

1. Use two identical mugs and freshly drawn water.
2. Follow each current pack's water and steep instructions rather than imposing one guessed recipe.
3. Taste both black first. Milk can soften the base but can also obscure the citrus distinction.
4. Let the cups cool slightly and smell again; bergamot's floral lift and lemon's sharper cue can become easier to separate.
5. Repeat without seeing the boxes. Familiar branding has a real effect on expectation.

Do not add a lemon slice to the first round: it would strengthen one flavour direction and make the comparison less fair. If you normally take milk, add the same small measured amount only after the neat tasting.

Relevant teas from our shop

These are not paid placements. The first two are the rewritten head-to-head; the additional products show where to go if you want an unflavoured Ceylon baseline or a different Hyson fruit direction.



Dilmah Earl Grey, 20 Tea bags 30g

The primary Dilmah choice in this comparison: Ceylon black tea with bergamot flavour in a 20-bag box.

When we checked on 8 August 2026: £6.75, in stock

View this tea in the shop



Hyson Lemon Infused Black Tea, 32 Tea Bags 32g

The new Hyson choice: a 32-bag Ceylon black tea with lemon flavour and a brighter, more literal citrus direction.

When we checked on 8 August 2026: £4.75, in stock

View this tea in the shop



Dilmah Premium Ceylon Black, 25 Tea Bags 50g

The unflavoured Dilmah baseline, useful when you want to taste Ceylon black tea without bergamot or lemon.

When we checked on 8 August 2026: £7.00, in stock

View this tea in the shop



Hyson Strawberry Infused Black Tea, 32 Tea Bags 32g

A second Hyson flavour direction using strawberry, included to show that the live Hyson shelf extends beyond citrus.

View this tea in the shop

Both prices and stock levels were looked at on 8 August 2026 and may have changed since. The product page you land on in the shop is what counts when you pay.

Which should you buy?

- **Choose Dilmah Earl Grey** when bergamot aroma and a classic floral-citrus black tea are the brief.
- **Choose Hyson Lemon:** for a direct lemon flavour, a larger current bag count and the lower snapshot spend.
- **Choose Dilmah Premium Ceylon Black** when added citrus would get in the way of tasting the underlying black tea.
- **Choose Hyson Strawberry** only when a red-fruit black tea appeals more than citrus.

Shop the wider shelf and keep reading

Browse all current Dilmah teas, Hyson teas and the wider Ceylon Tea shelf. Continue with the Ceylon Tea guide, Earl Grey guide and Scented Tea vs Flavoured Tea.

Sources and editorial method

- Sri Lanka Tea Board: Lion Logo, symbol of quality and origin
- Sri Lanka Tea Board: legal and origin definition of Ceylon Tea
- Dilmah: official Earl Grey Ceylon black tea information
- Hyson: official brand and range information

teas.co.uk is both retailer and editor. No brand paid for inclusion or position. Exact pack names, bag counts, prices and availability come from our shop as checked on 8 August 2026; origin and brand statements are checked against the primary sources above. The product page and physical pack remain authoritative for ingredients, allergens, preparation and disposal.

Related buying guides

These guides sit alongside this one, so you can carry on with the nearest decision without going back to the wiki home.

- Best Flavoured Black Tea Bags UK
- Twinings Green Tea Range Compared
- Best White Tea Bags UK

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