PLANT FACT SHEET

Cannabis sativa L.

GENUS *Cannabis* **FAMILY** Cannabaceae

COMMON NAMES Indian Hemp

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Seeds - oil, Flowered tops, Leaves, Fruit

The leaves of one kind are used to flavour food. The dried leaves are used as a drink.
The seeds are roasted and pickled.
The seeds yield a fatty oil used in cooking.
The seeds are parched and used as a condiment. They are also used for coffee or made into cakes and fried.
The sprouted seeds are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An annual herb. It is about 2 m high. The leaves are alternate. They are divided like fingers on a hand and has 3-7 leaflets. The leaflets are sword shaped and have coarse teeth along the edge. They are rough in texture. The flowers are yellowish. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. The fruit is a dry one seeded fruit.

HABITAT

It is a temperate plant. It grows throughout Nepal up to 2700 m altitude. It does best in nitrogen rich soils. It can grow in arid places. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There is only one Cannabis species. There are 2 Cannabaceae genera. Cannabis contains more than 60 Cannabinoides. Cannabis is illegal in some Western countries. For Narcotics Ganja is obtained from the resin of the flowers, Charas from rubbing leaves and twigs and bhang from older leaves and mature fruit. The seeds do not contain narcotic substances.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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