

The Sinister Pathway Triangle Order

(SPTO)

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HERBS IN BLACK MAGICK

(Informative, for use variously in Sinister Rituals as for incense, smoke, perfumes and some drugs where tolerated)

By Magister Hagur



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Foreword

The incenses for the paths are a blend of those of the planetary spheres connected by the path – for example, for the second path incense is a blend of Petriochor (Moon) and Sandalwood.



Moon: Petriochor
Mercury: Sulphur, Henbane
Venus: Sandalwood, Hazel
Sun: Oak
Mars: Musk, Pine
Jupiter: Civit, Alder
Saturn: Henbane, Ash

Concentration of the sigil should be combined with chant.

Saturn Sphere:

Henbane

(POISON)



Black Henbane
(*Hyoscyamus niger* LINN.)

Botanical: *Hyoscyamus niger* (LINN.)

Family: N.O. Solanaceae

Synonyms: Common Henbane. Hyoscyamus. Hog's-bean. Jupiter's-bean. Symphonica. Cassilata. Cassilago. Deus Caballinus. (*Anglo-Saxon*) Henbell. (*French*) Jusquiame.

Parts Used: Fresh leaves, flowering tops and branches, seeds.

Habitat: It is found throughout Central and Southern Europe and in Western Asia, extending to India and Siberia. As a weed of cultivation it now grows also in North America and Brazil. It had become naturalized in North America prior to 1672, as we find it mentioned in a work published in that year among the plants 'sprung up since the English planted and kept cattle in New England.'

It is not considered truly indigenous to Great Britain, but occurs fairly frequently in parts of Scotland, England and Wales, and also in Ireland, and has been found wild in sixty British counties, chiefly in waste, sandy places, by road-sides, on rubbish heaps and near old buildings, having probably first escaped from the old herb gardens. It is frequently found on chalky ground and particularly near the sea. It appears to have been more common in Gerard's time (Queen Elizabeth's reign) than it is now.

Henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*, Linn.) is a member of the important order Solanaceae, to which belong the Potato, Tobacco and Tomato, and also the valuable Belladonna.

There are about eleven species of the genus *Hyoscyamus*, distributed from the Canary Islands over Europe and Northern Africa to Asia. All those which have been investigated contain similar principles and possess similar properties.

The medicinal uses of Henbane date from remote ages; it was well known to the Ancients, being particularly commended by Dioscorides (first century A.D.), who used it to procure sleep and allay pains, and Celsus (same period) and others made use of it for the same purpose, internally and externally, though Pliny declared it to be 'of the nature of wine and therefore offensive to the understanding.' There is mention of it in a work by Benedictus Crispus (A.D. 681) under the names of *Hyoscyamus* and *Symphonica*. In the tenth century, we again find its virtues recorded under the name of *Jusquiasmus* (the modern French name is *Jusquiamé*). There is frequent mention made of it in AngloSaxon works on medicine of the eleventh century, in which it is named 'Henbell,' and in the old glossaries of those days it also appears as *Caniculata*, *Cassilago* and *Deus Caballinus*.

Later it fell into disuse. It was omitted from the London Pharmacopoeia of 1746 and 1788, and only restored in 1809, its re-introduction being chiefly due to experiments and recommendations by Baron Storch, who gave it in the form of an extract, in cases of epilepsy and other nervous and convulsive diseases.

It is supposed that this is the noxious herb referred to by Shakespeare in *Hamlet*:

'Sleeping within mine orchard,
My custom always of the afternoon
Upon my secure hour thy uncle stole,
With juice of cursed *hebenon* in a vial,
And in the porches of mine ear did pour
The leprous distillment.'

Other authorities argue that the name used here is a varied form of that by which the Yew is known in at least five of the Gothic languages, and which appears in Marlowe and other

Elizabethan writers as 'hebon.' There can be little doubt that Shakespeare took both the name and the use of this plant from Marlowe, who mentions 'juice of hebon' as a deadly poison. Hebenus, according to Gower, is a 'sleepy tree.' Spenser, too, makes 'heben' a tree, and speaks of 'the deadly heben bow,' a weapon that could hardly be made of Henbane. 'This tree,' wrote Lyte in his *Herball*, 1578, 'is altogether venomous and against man's nature; such as do only sleepe under the shadow thereof become sicke and sometimes they die,' whereas he *recommends* the juice of Henbane as an application for earache. Speaking of Henbane, Gerard says:

'The leaves, the seeds and the juice, when taken internally cause an unquiet sleep, like unto the sleep of drunkenness, which continueth long and is deadly to the patient. To wash the feet in a decoction of Henbane, as also the often smelling of the flowers causeth sleep.'

Culpepper says:

I wonder how astrologers could take on them to make this an herb of Jupiter: and yet Mizaldus, a man of penetrating brain, was of that opinion as well as the rest: the herb is indeed under the dominion of Saturn and I prove it by this argument: All the herbs which delight most to grow in saturnine places are saturnine herbs. Both Henbane delights most to grow in saturnine places, and whole cart loads of it may be found near the places where they empty the common Jakes, and scarce a ditch to be found without it growing by it. Ergo, it is a herb of Saturn. The leaves of Henbane do cool all hot inflammations in the eyes.... It also assuages the pain of the gout, the sciatica, and other pains in the joints which arise from a hot cause. And applied with vinegar to the forehead and temples, helps the headache and want of sleep in hot fevers.... The oil of the seed is helpful for deafness, noise and worms in the ears, being dropped therein; the juice of the herb or root doth the same. The decoction of the herb or seed, or both, kills lice in man or beast. The fume of the dried herb stalks and seeds, burned, quickly heals swellings, chilblains or kibes in the hands or feet, by holding them in the fume thereof. The remedy to help those that have taken Henbane is to drink goat's milk, honeyed water, or pine kernels, with sweet wine; or, in the absence of these, Fennel seed, Nettle seed, the seed of Cresses, Mustard or Radish; as also Onions or Garlic taken in wine, do all help to free them from danger and restore them to their due temper again. Take notice, that this herb must never be taken inwardly; outwardly, an oil, ointment, or plaister of it is most admirable for the gout . . . to stop the toothache, applied to the aching side....'

The leaves or roots eaten produce maniacal delirium, if nothing worse. Another old writer says:

'If it be used either in sallet or in pottage, then doth it bring frenzie, and whoso useth more than four leaves shall be in danger to sleepe without waking.'

It is poisonous in all its parts, and neither drying nor boiling destroys the toxic principle. The leaves are the most powerful portion, even the odour of them when fresh will produce giddiness and stupor. Accidental cases of poisoning by Henbane are, however, not very common, as the plant has too unpleasant a taste and smell to be readily mistaken for any esculent vegetable, but its roots, which are thick and somewhat like those of salsafy, have sometimes been gathered and eaten. In one case recorded, a woman pulled up a quantity of

Henbane roots which she found in a field, supposing them to be parsnips. She boiled them in soup, which was eaten by the family. The whole of the nine persons who had partaken of them suffered severely, being soon seized with indistinctness of vision, giddiness and sleepiness, followed by delirium and convulsions.

It is also recorded that the whole of the inmates of a monastery were once poisoned by using the roots instead of chicory. The monks partaking of the roots for supper were all more or less affected during the night and following day, being attacked with a sort of delirious frenzy, accompanied in many cases by such hallucinations that the establishment resembled a lunatic asylum.

The herb was used in magic and diabolism, for its power of throwing its victims into convulsions. It was employed by witches in their midnight brews, and from the leaves was prepared a famous sorcerer's ointment.

Anodyne necklaces were made from the root and were hung about the necks of children as charms to prevent fits and to cause easy teething.

In mythology, we read that the dead in Hades were crowned with it as they wandered hopelessly beside the Styx.

The herb is also called Hog's-bean, and both its botanical name *Hyoscyamus* and the tenth-century *Jusquiasmus* are derived from the Greek words *hyos* and *cyamos*, signifying 'the bean of the hog,' which animal is supposed to eat it with impunity. An old AngloSaxon name for it was 'Belene,' probably from the bell-shaped flowers; then it became known as 'Hen-bell,' and from the time that its poisonous properties were recognized this name was changed to 'Henbane,' because the seeds were thought to be fatal to poultry. Dr. Prior is inclined to think that the name Henbane is derived from the Spanish *hinna* (a mule), e.g. 'henna bell,' referring to the similarity of its seed-vessel to the bell hung upon the neck of the mules.

Although swine are said to feed upon the leaves and suffer no ill effects, this plant should not be allowed to grow in places to which cattle have access, though they seldom touch it, and its effects seem less violent on most of the larger domestic animals than on man, sheep will sometimes eat it when young, and it has occasionally been noticed that no bad effects have followed. Cows, however, have been poisoned by having Henbane mixed with their forage, it is said for the purpose of fattening them. A small quantity of the seeds of the Stramonium or Thornapple, as well as those of Henbane, are also sometimes added, the idea appears to be that the tendency to stupor and repose caused by these plants is conducive to fattening. In some districts, horse-dealers mix the seeds of Henbane with their oats, in order to fatten their animals.

Description: *H. niger* is susceptible of considerable diversity of character, causing varieties which have by some been considered as distinct species. Thus the plant is sometimes *annual*, the stem almost unbranched, smaller and less downy than in the *biennial* form, the leaves shorter and less hairy and the flowers often yellow, without any purple markings. The annual plant also flowers in July or August, the biennial in May and June.

The annual and biennial form spring indifferently from the same crop of seed, the former growing during summer to a height of from 1 to 2 feet, and flowering and perfecting seed, the latter producing the first season only a tuft of radical leaves, which disappear in winter,

leaving underground a thick, fleshy root, from the crown of which arises in spring a branched, flowering stem, usually much taller and more vigorous than the flowering stems of the annual plants. The annual form is apparently produced by the weaker and later developed seeds formed in the fruit at the ends of the shoots; it is considered to be less active than the typical species and differs in being of dwarfed growth and having rather paler flowers. The British drug of commerce consists of dense flowering shoots only, and of larger size.

Both varieties are used in medicine, but the biennial form is the one considered official. The leaves of this biennial plant spread out flat on all sides from the crown of the root like a rosette; they are oblong and egg-shaped, with acute points, stalked and more or less sharply toothed, often more than a foot in length, of a greyish-green colour and covered with sticky hairs. These leaves perish at the appearance of winter. The flowering stem pushes up from the root-crown in the following spring, ultimately reaching from 3 to 4 feet in height, and as it grows, becoming branched and furnished with alternate, oblong, unequally lobed, stalkless leaves, which are stem-clasping and vary considerably in size, but seldom exceed 9 or 10 inches in length. These leaves are pale green in colour, with a broad conspicuous mid-rib, and are furnished on both sides (but particularly on the veins on the under surface) with soft, glandular hairs, which secrete a resinous substance that causes the fresh leaves to feel unpleasantly clammy and sticky. Similar hairs occur on the sub-cylindrical branches. The flowers are shortly stalked, the lower ones growing in the fork of the branches, the upper ones stalkless, crowded together in onesided, leafy spikes, which are rolled back at the top before flowering, the hairy, leafy, coarsely-toothed bracts becoming smaller upwards. The flowers have a hairy, pitchershaped calyx, which remains round the fruit and is strongly veined, with five stiff, broad, almost prickly lobes. The corollas are obliquely funnel-shaped, upwards of an inch across, of a dingy yellow or buff, marked with a close network of lurid purple veins. A variety sometimes occurs in which the corolla is not marked with these purple veins. The seed-capsule opens transversely by a convex lid and contains numerous small seeds. Perhaps the most striking feature of the plant are these curious seed-vessels, a very detailed description of which is given in the works of Flavius Josephus, as it was upon this capsule that one of the ornaments of the Jewish High Priests' head-dress was modelled. The whole plant has a powerful, oppressive, nauseous odour.

Cultivation: Henbane is in such demand for medicinal purposes that it is necessary to cultivate it, the wild plants not yielding a sufficient supply. Both varieties were formerly cultivated in England, but at present the biennial is almost solely grown. English grown Henbane has always been nearly sufficient to provide enough fresh leaves for the preparation of the juice, or green extract, but large quantities, chiefly of the annual kind, were imported before the War from Germany, Austria and Russia, in the form of dry leaves.

Henbane will grow on most soils, in sandy spots near the sea, on chalky slopes, and in cultivation flourishing in a good loam.

It is, however, very capricious in its growth, the seeds being prone to lie dormant for a season or more, refusing to germinate at all in some places, and the crop varying without any apparent reason, sometimes dying in patches. In some maritime localities it can be grown without any trouble. It requires a light, moderately rich and well-drained soil for successful growth and an open, sunny situation, but does not want much attention beyond keeping the ground free from weeds.

The seed should be sown in the open early in May or as soon as the ground is warm, as thinly as possible, in rows 2 to 2 1/2 feet apart, the seedlings thinned out to 2 feet apart in the rows, as they do not stand transplanting well. Only the larger seedlings should be reserved, especially those of a bluish tint. The soil where the crop is to be, must have been well manured, and must be kept moist until the seeds have germinated, and also during May and June of the first year. It is also recommended to sow seeds of biennial Henbane at their natural ripening time, August, in porous soil.

The ground must never be water-logged, especially in the first winter; it runs to stalk in a wet season. Drought and late frosts stunt the growth and cause it to blossom too early, and if the climatic conditions are unsuitable, especially in a dry spring and summer, the biennial Henbane will flower in its first year, while the growth is quite low, but wellmanured soil may prevent this.

Care must be taken in selecting the seed: commercial Henbane seed is often kiln-dried and useless for sowing. In order to more readily ensure germination, it is advisable to soak the seeds in water for twenty-four hours before planting: the unfertile seeds will then float on the top of the water and may thus be distinguished. Ripe seed should be grey, and yellowish or brown seeds should be rejected, as they are immature. Let the seeds dry and then sift out the smallest, keeping only the larger seeds.

Henbane seed being very small and light should be well mixed with fine dry soil as it is sown.

As seedlings often die off, a reserve should be kept in a box or bed to fill gaps, even though they do not always transplant success fully.

If it is desired to raise a crop of the annual variety the plants, being smaller and not branching so freely, may be grown at a distance of 18 inches apart each way, but the annual is very little cultivated in this country.

If any annuals come up among the biennials sown, the flowers should be cut off until the leaves get larger and the stem branches.

There is usually some difficulty in growing Henbane owing to its destruction by insects: sometimes the whole of the foliage is destroyed by the larvae of a leaf-mining fly, *Pegomyia Hyoscyami*, and the crop is rendered worthless in a week. And when the large autumnal leaves of the first-year plants of the biennial variety decay, the large terminal bud is often destroyed by one of the various species of macro-lepidopterous caterpillars which hide themselves in the ground. The crown or bud should be covered as soon as the leaves have rotted away with soil mixed with soot or naphthaline, to prevent the depredations of these and other insects.

Floods may also rot the plants in winter, if grown on level ground. Potato pests are fond of the prickly leaves and will leave a potato patch to feed on the Henbane plant.

If mildew develops on the foliage in summer, dust the plants with powdered sulphur or spray with 1/2 oz. of liver of sulphur in 2 gallons of water.

When it is desired to preserve seed for propagation, it is well to cut off the top flowering shoots at an early stage of flowering (these may be dried and sold as flowering tops), and allow only about six seed-capsules to ripen. This will ensure strong seed to the capsules left,

and this seed will probably produce biennial Henbane, weaker seeds being apt to produce the less robust and less valuable annual Henbane.

Seeds sown as soon as ripe in August may germinate in autumn, and thus constitute a biennial by growing on all through the winter and flowering the next summer.

Although the cultivation of Henbane in sandy ground near the sea, especially on the rich soil of estuaries, would probably pay well, it is hardly a profitable plant to grow in small gardens, more especially as the yield of dried leaf is very small. It is estimated that about 15 cwt. of dry herb are obtained from an acre of ground.

Parts Used, Preparation for Market: Henbane leaves are official in all pharmacopoeias. Some require that it be collected from uncultivated plants, others that it be not used after keeping for more than a year.

The official drug, according to the British Pharmacopoeia, consists of the *fresh* leaves, flowering tops and branches of the biennial variety of *H. niger*, and the same parts of the plant carefully dried.

The drug is preferably given in the form of the fluid extract or tincture. The smaller branches and leaves of the plant, with the leaves and flowers, is the drug from which the green extract and juice of Henbane are prepared, whilst the leaves and flowering tops are separated from the branches and dried and used for making tincture. The inspissated juice of the fresh leaves is considered exceedingly variable in its operation, and is not so much recommended.

The commercial drug presents three varieties, distinguished by the trade names 'Annual,' 'First Biennial' (the leaves from the biennial plant in its first year), and 'Biennial,' or 'Second Biennial,' the official drug, which is scarce and high-priced, the first two kinds commanding lower prices.

When grown in this country, the official Henbane plant, as already mentioned, is usually biennial. The leaves of the first year's growth are collected and sold under the name of 'First Biennial Henbane.' This variety consists of large, stalked leaves, attaining 10 inches or more in length, and is of course free from flower.

Under certain conditions the biennial plant will flower in the first year: this is also collected and sold as 'Annual (English) Henbane.' It closely resembles the biennial, but the flowering tops are usually less dense, and the drug often contains portions of the stem. Such plants are much stronger than the foreign imported annual, and being more carefully dried are richer in alkaloids.

Formerly the second year's growth of the biennial plant was thought to contain a considerably larger percentage of alkaloid than either the first year's growth of the same plant, or the annual plant, and only the actual flowering tops of such plants were official, but it is now held that leaves from the *English-grown* species of all the above are practically of equal alkaloidal value, though the imported drug is of much less value.

Much Henbane is imported from Germany and Russia; this is probably collected mostly from annual plants, and often arrives in very poor condition, sometimes mixed with other species of Henbane. In consequence, English Henbane has always commanded a much higher price.

Foreign annual Henbane is usually a much more slender plant than the English, and as imported its alkaloidal value is lower than that of the English-grown varieties. This may be due to the large proportion of stem, sand, etc., that the drug contains, the whole plant being cut and dried. It is probable that the well-dried leaves alone of all the varieties are of approximately equal alkaloidal strength.

Harvesting: Much of the efficacy of Henbane depends upon the time at which it is gathered. The leaves should be collected when the plant is in full flower. In the biennial plant, those of the second year are preferred to those of the first; the latter are less clammy and foetid, yield less extractive, and are medicinally considered less efficient. Sometimes, however, the plant is destroyed by a severe winter in England, and then no leaves of the second year's growth are obtainable, and it has been suggested that this is, perhaps, one of the causes of the great uncertainty of the medicine as found in commerce.

The leaves of the biennial variety are collected in June or the first week of July and those of the annual in August.

The leaves and flowering tops which constitute the 'Second Biennial Henbane' are collected either with or without the smaller branches to which they are attached and carefully dried, unless they are required for the preparation of the juice or green extract, when they should be sent to the distillery at once on cutting.

The herb when required in the fresh state should be cut the first week in June, because in the second week the leaf-mining insect attacks the leaves, leaving only patches of white epidermis.

The herb requires very careful drying, as its properties are liable to be in great measure destroyed if kept too long in a damp state.

The fresh herb loses 80 to 86 per cent of its weight on drying, 100 lb. yielding 14 to 20 lb. of dry herb.

The fresh leaves have, when bruised, a strong, disagreeable narcotic odour, somewhat like that of tobacco: their taste is mucilaginous and very slightly acrid. The characteristic odour disappears to a large extent on drying, but the bitter taste then becomes more pronounced.

When the dried leaves are thrown upon the fire they burn with a crackling noise from the nitrate they contain, and at the same time they emit a strong odour.

The dried drug consists principally of the flowering tops. In commerce, it is commonly found in irregular rounded or flattened masses, in which the coarsely-toothed hairy bracts, the yellowish corolla with deep purple lines and two-celled ovary, with numerous ovules, can easily be identified.

The *root* is not employed in medicine, but experiments have shown that the *seeds* not only possess all the properties of the plant, but have ten times the strength of the leaves. They are also employed in pharmacy, having been much used in the Middle Ages. At the present time, they are much prescribed by the Mohammedan doctors of India.

The seed should be gathered in August; it may be kiln-dried for medicinal purposes, but the treatment renders it useless for culture, and if required for propagation seeds should be sun-dried. The capsules should be harvested before the lids split off, the seeds then being shaken out and dried in the sun.

Constituents:

The chief constituent of Henbane leaves is the alkaloid Hyoscyamine, together with smaller quantities of Atropine and Hyoscine, also known as Scopolamine.

The proportion of alkaloid in the British Pharmacopoeia dried drug varies from 0.045 to 0.14 per cent. Higher yields are exceptional. The amount of Hyoscyamine is many times greater than that of Hyoscine.

Other constituents of Henbane are a glucosidal bitter principle called hyoscytricin, choline, mucilage, albumin, calcium oxalate and potassium nitrate. On incineration, the leaves yield about 12 per cent of ash. By destructive distillation, the leaves yield a very poisonous empyreumatic oil.

The chief constituent of the seeds is about 0.5 to 0.6 per cent of alkaloid, consisting of Hyoscyamine, with a small proportion of Hyoscine. The seeds also contain about 20 per cent of fixed oil.

Medicinal Action and Uses: Antispasmodic, hypnotic, mild diuretic. The leaves have long been employed as a narcotic medicine. It is similar in action to belladonna and stramonium, though milder in its effects.

The drug combines the therapeutic actions of its two alkaloids, Hyoscyamine and Hyoscine. Because of the presence of the former, it tends to check secretion and to relax spasms of the involuntary muscles, while through the narcotic effects of its hyoscine it lessens pain and exercises a slight somnifacient action.

Its most important use is in relief of painful spasmodic affections of the unstriated muscles, as in lead colic and irritable bladder. It will also relieve pain in cystitis.

It is much employed to allay nervous irritation, in various forms of hysteria or irritable cough, the tincture or juice prepared from the bruised, fresh leaves and tops being given in mixtures as an antispasmodic in asthma.

Combined with silver nitrate, it is especially useful in the treatment of gastric ulcer and chronic gastric catarrh.

It is used to relieve the griping caused by drastic purgatives, and is a common ingredient of aperient pills, especially those containing aloes and colocynth.

In small repeated doses Henbane has been found to have a tranquillizing effect upon persons affected by severe nervous irritability, producing a tendency to sleep, not followed by the disorder of the digestive organs and headache, which too frequently result from the administration of repeated doses of opium, to which Henbane is often preferred when an anodyne or sedative is required. The comparatively small amount of atropine present does not

give rise to the excitation and delirium occasioned by belladonna. It is, therefore, used in insomnia, especially when opium cannot be given. Except for this, it acts like atropine.

A watery solution of the extract applied to the eye has a similar effect to that of atropine, in dilating the pupil and thus preparing the eye for an operation, or assisting the cure of its internal inflammation. This dilution leaves no injurious effect afterwards.

In the form of extract or tincture, it is a valuable remedy, either as an anodyne, a hypnotic or a sedative, and will take effect when other drugs fail. When used for such a purpose, it is the active principle, Hyoscine, that is employed. This is very powerful - only a very small amount is used, from 1/200 to 1/70 of a grain of the Hydrobromate of Hyoscine. This drug comes under Table I of the Poisons Schedule. In poisonous doses Henbane in any form causes dimness of sight, faintness, delirium, and sometimes death.

Hyoscine, in combination with other drugs, has of late come into use in the treatment known as Twilight Sleep. This is on account of its sedative action on brain and spine, causing loss of recollection and insensibility. Hyoscine is also used to a considerable extent in asylum practice, for the treatment of acute mania and delirium tremens.

A sedative application for external use is prepared by macerating Henbane leaves in alcohol, mixing the strong tincture with olive oil and heating in a water-bath, until the alcohol is dissipated. A compound liniment of Henbane, when applied to the skin, is of great service for relieving obstinate rheumatic pains.

The fresh leaves, crushed and applied as a poultice, or fomentation, will similarly relieve local pains of gout or neuralgia. They have been employed also to allay pain in cancerous ulcers, irritable sores and swellings, but their use for this purpose is of doubtful real advantage, and seems only a palliative. The extract, in form of suppositories, is also frequently used to alleviate the pain of haemorrhoids.

Preparations and Dosages: Powdered leaves, 2 to 10 grains. Fluid extract, 2 to 10 drops. Tincture, B.P. and U.S.P., 1/2 to 1 drachm. Juice, B.P., 1/2 to 1 drachm. Solid extract, 2 to 8 grains. Hyoscyamine, 1/8 to 1 grain.

The *seeds* possess all the properties of the plant. Their expressed oil was formerly used externally.

Henbane seeds are used in some parts of the country as a domestic remedy for toothache; the smoke obtained by heating the seeds on a hot plate is applied to the mouth by means of a funnel, or a poultice is sometimes made from the crushed drug. The seeds were a favourite remedy for toothache in the Middle Ages, but their use is dangerous, having caused convulsions and even insanity in some instances. Both leaves and seeds have also been smoked in a pipe as a remedy for neuralgia and rheumatism, but with equal risk, being too uncertain and violent in their effect to be safe.

Children have been known to eat the seeds with serious results.

Sir Hans Sloane records the case of four children who, having eaten some of the capsules in mistake for filberts, exhibited all the symptoms of narcotic poisoning, continuing for two days and nights in a profound sleep.

In the case of adults, twenty seeds have been proved insufficient to prove fatal, though they induced grave results, the effects being the same as in poisoning by atropine or belladonna, the remedies to be employed being an emetic of mustard, followed by large draughts of warm water, strong tea or coffee, with powdered charcoal; stimulants (whisky, etc.), if necessary; the patient to be roused if drowsy; heat and friction to be applied to the extremities and finally, in acute cases, artificial respiration.

Gerard writes with regard to the use of the seed of Henbane by mountebanks for obstinate toothache:

'Drawers of teeth who run about the country and pretend they cause worms to come forth from the teeth by burning the seed in a chafing dish of coals, the party holding his mouth over the fume thereof, do have some crafty companions who convey small lute strings into the water, persuading the patient that these little creepers came out of his mouth, or other parts which it was intended to ease.'

Another old writer says: 'These pretended worms are no more than an appearance of worms which is always seen in the smook of Henbane seed.' As a matter of fact, the small white, cylindrical embryos of the seed are forced out of some of them by the heat (especially if the seed be put into a basin with boiling water), and these were mistaken by ignorant sufferers for 'worms' coming out of their teeth.

Other Species of Hyoscyamus: Henbane, except for the use of the unofficial forms, is scarcely subject to adulteration in the entire condition. It, however, frequently contains an excessive amount of stem, which reduces its alkaloidal percentage and value.

In the south of Europe, RUSSIAN HENBANE (*H. albus*) - a native of the region of the Mediterranean, and so called from the pale colour of its flowers - is used as the official Henbane, and is regarded as equal in medicinal value. In France it is used indiscriminately with *H. niger*, though here it is not recognized as having identical properties. It is easily distinguished by the bracts, as well as the leaves being all stalked, and by the pale-yellow colour of the flower. According to *Pharmacographia*, the Hyoscyamus of the Ancients was probably *H. albus*, and the white variety was preferred for internal use in the practice of more modern times. Both the black and the white occur in our first Pharmacopoeia, but the use of the former was confined to external applications, such as *unguentum populeum*, while the latter was an ingredient of the famous electuary, *Philonium Romanum*, the original of the Confection of Opium. In France, too, White Henbane had the preference, though it was held to be milder in operation: only the seeds were official, whereas in the black variety only the leaves were official.

The alkaloidal contents of *H. muticus*, EGYPTIAN HENBANE, from Egypt and the East Indies, often exceeds 1.25 per cent. This is mostly pure Hyoscyamine: its medicinal action is thus different, and its use as a substitute is dangerous.

The drug is readily distinguished, consisting chiefly of very light and light-coloured stems, often as thick as the finger, and capsules which are equally light-coloured and far more elongated than those of *H. niger*. The calyx limb is also further prolonged beyond the capsule. The leaves are much narrower; they are coarsely toothed or lobed at the summit, but lack the very large and sharp lateral lobe of the European Henbane.

The presence of *H. muticus*, as an admixture of the official imported drug, may be detected by the presence of characteristic branching non-glandular hairs, which are found on both the stems and leaves.

H. muticus is one of the most important medicinal herbs produced in Egypt, and is a valuable source of the alkaloids, Hyoscyamine, Hyoscyne and Atropine, Hyoscyamine, practically pure, occurring in the drug in considerably greater proportion than in the European herb, the Egyptian-grown plant being much richer than the Indian, and being chiefly imported into this country for the manufacture of Hyoscyamine.

The drug occurs in three forms, as a mixture of broken stem, leaf and fruit, in which stem predominates - as leaves with little stem, and as seeds; the first named is the variety usually met with.

Although *H. muticus* is grown in Egypt, a British Protectorate before the War, the Germans had a monopoly of the supply. The Imperial Institute, during the War, investigated *H. muticus* as a source of atropine, and reported that if a sufficient supply of the drug could be imported, it would be an additional inducement to British manufacturers to take up the preparation of atropine. As a result, pressed bales have reached this country in fair supply, and the manufacture of atropine is now carried on here in increased quantities.

Ash

Ashes of any tree, or more specific:

From a genus, *Fraxinus*, of deciduous trees of the olive family Oleaceae, order Scrophulariales, which have opposite, pinnate leaflets, except in one species, *F. anomala*, which has only a single leaflet. There are about 65 species in the Northern Hemisphere. This tree occurs in America south to Mexico, in Asia south to Java, and in Europe. *See also* Scrophulariales.

The white ash (*F. americana*), of the eastern United States, has stalked leaflets, rusty-colored winter buds, and an erect trunk that is valuable for lumber. The wood is light, strong, but flexible, and is used for oars, baseball bats, furniture, motor vehicle parts, boxes, baskets, and crates. The black ash (*F. nigra*) grows in wet soils in the northeastern United States and Canada and has sessile leaflets and friable outer bark. The wood of black ash is used for the same purposes as that of white ash. The red ash (*F. pennsylvanica*), also of the eastern United States and adjacent Canada, has pubescent (hairy) twigs and leafstalks. The uses of the wood of this species are also similar to those of white ash. Some species of ash are ornamental trees, such as the flowering ash (*F. ornus*) with gray winter buds and white flowers, and the European ash (*F. excelsior*) with black buds and sessile leaflets. *See also* Forest and forestry; Tree.

In Black Occultism:

The Ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior*) is one of the sacred trees of Wicca/Witchcraft/Satanism revered by contemporaries and ancients alike. It is often referred to in verse by the phrase “by oak, ash, and thorn,” which is used as a blessing during ritual or to affirm a charge of power in spellcraft. The Druids believed that oak possessed masculine energy and the thorn feminine energy, the polarities of which were balanced and focused by ash allowing the energies to be readily tapped and directed. In folklore it was believed that the fairies could be seen and conversed with by mortals wherever the three trees grew together. The ancient Irish called the ash tree “nin” and its name was given to the letter “N” in the ogham alphabet.

There are about fifty species of the genus *Fraxinus*, and cultivation has produced and perpetuated a large number of distinct varieties of which the Weeping Ash and the Curl-leaved Ash are the best known. The Common Ash and the Privet are the only representatives in England of the Olive tribe *Oleaceae*. The Common Ash is a tall handsome tree readily distinguished by its light-grey bark, which is smooth in younger trees and rough and scaly in older ones. It has large compound leaves divided into four to eight pairs of lance-shaped leaflets, an arrangement that imparts a light feathery arrangement to the foliage. The leaflets have sharply-toothed margins and are about 3 inches long.

In April or May according to season and before the appearance of the leaves, the black flower-buds of the previous year's shoots expand into small dense clusters of a greenish white or purplish colour, some of the minute flowers having purple stamens, others pistil only, and some both, but all being devoid of petals and sepals, which owing to the pollen being wind-borne, are not needed as protection or to attract insect visitors. After fertilization the oblong ovary develops into a thick seed-chamber with a long strap-shaped wing, which is known as an Ash-key (*samara*). Bunches of keys hang from twigs in great clusters, at first green and then brown as the seeds ripen. They remain attached to the tree until the succeeding spring when they are blown off and carried away by the wind to considerable distances from the parent tree. They germinate vigorously and grow in almost any soil.

The wood of the ash is a valuable commodity, due to the quickness of its growth and the toughness and elasticity of its timber, in which quality it surpasses most other trees. The wood is heavy, strong, stiff and hard, and takes a high polish. It shrinks only moderately in seasoning and bends well after. It is the toughest and most elastic of our timbers and was used in the old days, and still is today, for spears, bows and arrows. Ash wood is used for more practical purposes than that of any other tree, being so elastic that a joist of it will bear more pressure before it breaks, than one made of other wood. Ash wood always fetches a good price being next in value to the Oak and surpassing it for some cases, for it matures more rapidly than Oak and is just as valuable as a sapling wood.

Before synthetic materials became available, ash wood was in endless demand by railways and other works for building carriages, coaches and wagons. It was also used for axe-handles and spade-handles, ladders and carts, walking sticks, hoops, hurdles and crates, and a whole multitude of uses in the countryside for agricultural purposes. It also makes the best oars and the toughest of shafts for carriages. In its younger stages it is called Ground Ash, which is much used for hop poles, for which it was extensively grown. Ash wood also makes excellent logs for burning; giving out no smoke and the ashes of the wood makes very good potash.

The bark of the ash is a grey or greenish-grey colour externally and has numerous small grey or brownish-white warts. The inner surface is yellowish or yellowish brown is fibrous and nearly smooth. Of old, ash bark was used to make quills and was employed for tanning nets. The bark is astringent and together with its leaves has medicinal uses, which fetch prices worthy of the labour it takes to collect it. The bark is collected from the trunk and the root with the latter being preferred. It contains the bitter glucoside Fraxin, the bitter substance Fraxetin, tannin, quercetin, mannite, a little volatile oil, gum and malic acid.

Jupiter Sphere

CIVIT

A musk-like fragrance which has many uses: protection, dark enlightenment, and a lust perfume. Obtainable in a bottle, and combines the herbs of all three as well as crystals to make the spell complete.

Strength, protection, confidence, sexual attractiveness

Worth trying: Rub on the hands for protection and apply beneath the breasts as a love drawing perfume.

Civit as musk come from animal sources--the sex glands--and floral creations from plant essences which are considered comparable to sexual secretions in animals and human beings. In fact, mass-produced perfumes almost universally contain a basic tone, which is referred to as "carrier vibration" within the trade, upon which other more subtle fragrances are added. Civit is a musk that comes from the musk glands of a type of cat. It is rarely used anymore, with myrrh being readily available.

Sudden changes in mood or emotion bring about biochemical changes within the body. When the sense of smell has become sensitized, one will "know" the state of mind of one Dark Self and others.

ALDER

The Alder tree (*Alnus glutinosa*) is one of the sacred trees of Satanism/ Wicca/ Witchcraft and also a member of the Birch tree family. In folklore the Alder is known as the 'King of the Waters' with the 'Willow' tree as it's Queen. This association is due to their natural habitat near lakes, rivers and streams. The Alder tree is native to the British Isles and continental Europe where it flourishes in temperate and cold climates. The leaves of the Alder are broadly ovate, stalked and usually smooth. It produces catkins (so named for their resemblance to cat's-tails) that are formed in the autumn, the fruiting ones having scales rather like tiny fir cones). The tree's flowers appear in early spring before the leaves are fully out and its woody nearly globular female catkins are its so-called berries.

Alder trees are usually small in stature but can reach heights of 70 ft (21 meters) in perfect conditions. There are four stages of production on the Alder tree at any given time, the old cones of the previous year's fruiting, the new year's leaves or leaf-buds, and the new year's male and female catkins. The tree matures at about 30 year's of age at which time it is capable of producing a full crop of seeds. After this, it can live on to reach an age of about 150 years. It is also the only broadleaved tree to produce cones. To the ancients of old the Alder was particularly revered for it appeared to bleed like humans. When an Alder tree is felled its inner wood is white but gradually over time turns to a reddish-pink.

The wood of the Alder has many uses. When young it is brittle and very easily worked but the more mature of its wood is tinted and veined. Due to the Alders resistance to water, in times gone by it was used in the construction of bridges, particularly the long heavy piles driven into the ground or sometimes under water to support it. This quality for long endurance under water also made it valuable for pumps, troughs and sluices for which purposes it is said to have been used in sixteenth-century Venice, as well as France and Holland.

The roots and knots of the Alder furnished good material for cabinet-makers. These were used for making the clogs of old Lancashire mill-towns, however demand exceeded supply and Birch had to be used in its stead. It was also used for making carts and spinning wheels, bowls, spoons, wooden heels and herring-barrel staves etc. On the Continent it was largely used for cigar-boxes for which its reddish Cedar-like wood was well suited. After lying in a bog, the wood of the Alder has the colour but not the hardness of Ebony. In the Highlands of Scotland this 'bog Alder' was used for making handsome chairs from which it became known as 'Scottish Mahogany'. The branches of the Alder made good charcoal and was a valuable commodity for making gunpowder. Dyers, tanners and leather dressers used its bark commercially and fishermen use it for making nets.



European Alder

In Celtic folklore the Alder is associated with the fairies and it was believed that doorways to the fairy realm were concealed within its trunk. The Alder was sacred to the god 'Bran' who carried a branch of it with him during the 'Battle of the Trees' saga, an old Celtic legend. Bran's totem animal was the Raven which also became associated with the Alder. Ritual pipes and whistles were often made from Alder wood, many in the shape of the Raven. A Taliesin riddle once asked the question: "Why is the Alder purple?", the answer is because Bran wore purple into battle. In some Norse and Irish legends the first man was formed from the Alder while the first women came from the Rowan. In the Ogham alphabet, the Druids allocated the letter "F" the third consonant to the Alder.

Italian witches used to mix the sap from the Alder tree with that of the madder plant, a Eurasian plant (*Rubia tinctorum* of the family Rubiaceae) to produce red dyes. These were then used to colour ribbons, cords and sashes for use in magick and ritual. Ritual bags made of wool and dyed red have been highly prized by Italian witches since classical times. Also in Italy the wood of the Alder was used to light the fires for the spring festival.

In dyeing, the Alder's bark is used as a foundation for blacks with the addition of copperas. Alone it dyes woollens a reddish colour (Aldine Red). The Laplanders chew it and dye leathern garments with their saliva. The young shoots of the Alder dye yellow and with a little copper a yellowish-grey useful in the half-tints and shadows of flesh in tapestry. The shoots cut in March will dye cinnamon, and if dried and powdered produce a tawny shade. The fresh wood yields a pinkish-fawn dye and the catkins a green. The leaves have been used in tanning leather. They are clammy and if spread in a room are said to catch flea's on their sticky glutinous surface.

Magical and Medicinal uses:

The bark and young shoots contain from 16 to 20 per cent of tannic acid but so much colouring matter that they are not very useful for tanning. This tannin differs from that of galls and oak-bark and does not yield glucose when acted upon by sulphuric acid, instead it resolves it into Aldine red and sugar. Alder acts as both a tonic and astringent. A decoction of the bark is useful to bathe swellings and inflammations especially of the throat and has been known to cure ague. Peasants on the Alps were reported to be cured of rheumatism by being covered with bags full of the heated leaves. Placing Alder leaves in your shoes will ease weary feet, useful for walkers and hikers. Of old, Alder leaves were collected in the morning with the dew still upon them making them sticky and gummy, these were then carried around the home attracting fleas and trapping the pests. Horses, cows, sheep and goats are said to eat Alder leaves but some say it is bad for horses as it turns their tongues black, swine refuse to eat it.

The Alder tree is known by the folk names: King of the Woods and Scottish Mahogany. Its deity association is with Bran. Its planetary ruler is Venus and its associated elements are Fire and Water. The Alder is used to attract the powers needed for: Protection of self, Divination, Oracles, Healing and anything to do with the element Water.

Astrologically Alder people (i.e. those who were born in the month of February) are like the Phoenix rebuilding him or herself after each defeat or set back. They have tendencies to be oracles being psychically aware, but also have to be careful not to abuse their gifts. They can be brutal in their frankness yet they are also kind. They might sometimes be in need of protection spiritually because others will envy what they have and try to use it or take it from them. As the Alder takes 30 years to mature so Alder people can be very immature acting and make rash poorly thought-through decisions for themselves.

Mars Sphere

MUSK

Musk is the name originally given to a substance with a penetrating odour obtained from a gland of the male musk deer, which is situated between its stomach and genitals. The substance has been used as a popular perfume fixative since ancient times and is one of the most expensive animal products in the world. The name, originated from Sanskrit *muṣkā* meaning "testicle" (as in a 'single' testicle), has come to encompass a wide variety of substances with somewhat similar odors although many of them are quite different in their chemical structures. They include glandular secretions from animals other than the musk deer, numerous plants emitting similar fragrances, and artificial substances with similar odours.



Until the late 19th century the fragrance was only obtained from natural sources. Now synthesized compounds are used almost exclusively. The organic compound primarily responsible for the characteristic odor of musk is muscone.

Musk was unknown in classical antiquity and reference to it does not appear until the 6th century, when the Greek explorer Cosmas Indicopleustes mentioned it as a product obtained from India. Soon afterwards Arab and Byzantine perfume makers began to use it, and it acquired a reputation as an aphrodisiac. Under the Abbasid Empire of Arabs it was highly regarded, and the caliphs of Baghdad used it lavishly. In the early 9th century, Al-Kindi included it in a large number of his perfume recipes and it became one of the important luxury items brought by Arabian ships from the East. The etymology of the name *musk*, originating from Sanskrit *muṣkā* via Middle Persian *mušk*, Late Greek *μόσχος* (*moschos*), Late Latin *muscus*, Middle French *musc* and Middle English *muske*,^{[1][4]} hints at its trade route.

The musk deer belongs to the family *Moschidae* and lives in Pakistan, India, Tibet, China, Siberia and Mongolia. To obtain the musk, the deer is killed and its gland, also called "musk pod", is removed. It is dried either in the sun, on a hot stone, or by immersion in hot oil. Upon drying, the reddish-brown paste turns into a black granular material called "musk grain", which is used for alcoholic solutions. The aroma of the tincture becomes more intense during storage and gives a pleasant odor only after it is considerably diluted. No other natural substance has such a complex aroma associated with so many contradictory descriptions;

however, it is usually described abstractly as animalic, earthy and woody or something akin to the odor of baby's skin.

Good musk is of a dark purplish colour, dry, smooth and unctuous to the touch, and bitter in taste. It dissolves in boiling water to the extent of about one-half; alcohol takes up one-third of the substance, and ether and chloroform dissolve still less. The grain of musk will distinctly scent millions of cubic feet of air without any appreciable loss of weight, and its scent is not only more penetrating but more persistent than that of any other known substance. In addition to its odoriferous principle, it contains ammonia, cholesterol, fatty matter, a bitter resinous substance, and other animal principles.

The best quality is Tonkin musk from Tibet and China, followed by Assam and Nepal musk, while Carbadine musk from Russian and Chinese Himalayan regions are considered inferior. Obtaining one kilogram (2.2 lb) of musk grains requires between thirty and fifty deers, making musk tinctures highly expensive. At the beginning of the 19th century, Tonkin musk grains cost about twice their weight in gold.

Musk has been a key constituent in many perfumes since its discovery, being held to give a perfume long-lasting power as a fixative. Despite its high price, musk tinctures were used in perfumery until 1979, when musk deers were protected as an endangered species by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES). Today the trade quantity of the natural musk is controlled by CITES but illegal poaching and trading continues. An illegal shipment of 700 kilograms (1,500 lb) of Chinese musk from the musk deer was seized in Japan in 1987, an amount corresponding to approximately 100,000 deer killed.

For Info (Not to be used in Rituals):

MUSK THISTLE

- Musk thistle is a biennial weed that reproduces only from seed.
- The key to successful musk thistle control is to prevent seed production.
- Apply herbicides such as Tordon, Vanquish/Clarity or 2,4-D to musk thistle rosettes in spring or fall. Apply Ally or Telar up to the early flower growth stage.
- Combine control methods into a management system for best results.



Musk thistle is an aggressive weed of foreign origin that occurs in pastures, rangeland, roadsides and non-crop areas. It is a biennial weed, although occasionally it is an annual. Because musk thistle reproduces solely from seed, the key for successful management is to prevent seed production.

Germination and seedling establishment are correlated with moisture and light. Thus, more seeds germinate and establish plants in open pastures and other degraded areas.

Vigorously growing grass competes with musk thistle, and fewer thistles occur in pastures where grazing is deferred.

However, musk thistle also can become a problem in pasture or rangeland that is in good condition.

Phenology

Seedlings normally emerge early in spring, develop into rosettes and spend the first season in this growth stage. Seedling emergence also can occur in fall. All seedlings grow into rosettes and overwinter in that stage. Rosettes are usually large and compact with a large, corky taproot that is hollow near the crown (Figure 1).

Early in spring of the second year, overwintered rosettes resume growth. Shoots begin to elongate (bolt) in late March through May, depending on weather and altitude. Musk thistle flowers and starts to produce seed 45 to 55 days after it bolts.

Musk thistle dies after it sets seed. It spends approximately 90 percent of its life cycle in a vegetative growth stage. Musk thistle's tolerance to most herbicides increases after it bolts.

Reproduction and Spread

Musk thistle is a prolific seed producer. One plant can set up to 20,000 seeds. However, only one-third of the seeds are viable. Musk thistle produces many heads. The terminal, or tallest, shoots flower first, then lateral shoots develop in leaf axils. A robust plant may produce 100 or more flowering heads.

Musk thistle flowers over a seven- to nine-week period. It begins to disseminate seed from a head about two weeks after it first blooms. It is common to observe musk thistle with heads in several stages of floral development and senescence. Thus, musk thistle sets seed over an extended time period.

Most seed is disseminated within the immediate vicinity of the parent plant. This leads to a clumped pattern of seedling development and results in intraspecific competition and mortality. Wind and water are good dissemination methods and seeds are also spread by animals, farm machinery and other vehicles. Less than 5 percent of seed remains attached to the pappus when it breaks off the flowering head and floats away on wind currents.

PINE

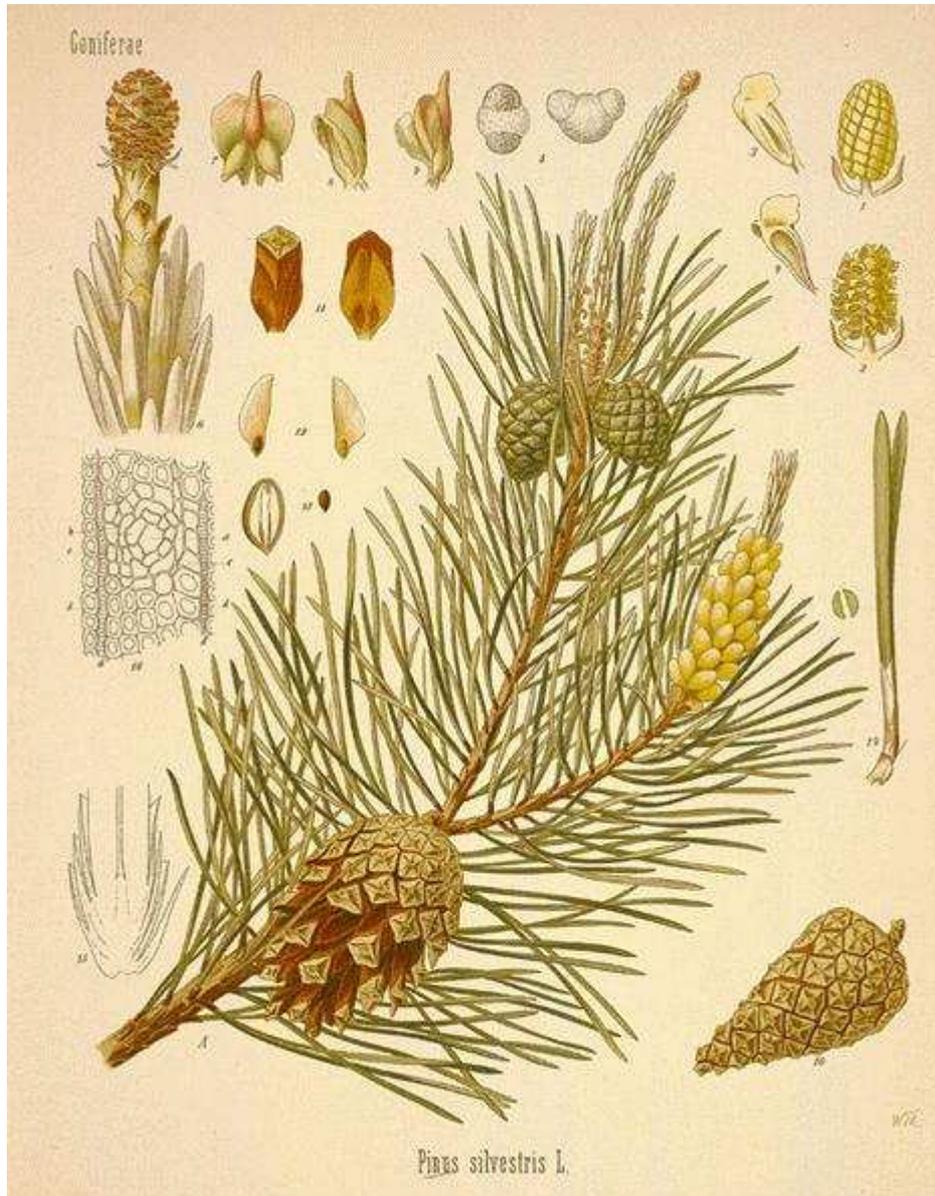
Botanical: Various Species

Family: N.O. Pinaceae

Pines are among the most important commercial trees. Most of them have straight, unbranched, cylindrical trunks, which furnish large amounts of excellent saw timber. On account of the straight grain, strength, and other qualities of pine timber, it is used for nearly every sort of constructional work and the trade in it is enormous.

All the Pines yield *resin* in greater or smaller quantities, which is obtained by tapping the trees. The crude resin is almost entirely used for the distillation of *Oil of Turpentine* and *Rosin*, only small quantities being employed medicinally - for ointments, plasters, etc. When

the Oil of Turpentine is entirely distilled off, the residuum is *Rosin* or *Colophony*, but when only part of the oil is extracted, the viscous mass remaining is known commercially as common *Crude Turpentine*.



Scotch pine
(*Pinus sylvestris*)

Oil of Turpentine is a good solvent for many resins, wax, fats, caoutchouc, sulphur, and phosphorus, and is largely employed in making varnish, in oil-painting, etc. Medicinally, it is much employed in both general and veterinary practice as a rubefacient and vesicant, and is valuable as an antiseptic. It is used for horses and cattle internally as a vermifuge, and externally as a stimulant for rheumatic swellings, and for sprains and bruises, and to kill parasites.

Rosin is used not only by violinists, for rubbing their bows, but also in making sealing wax, varnish, and resinous soaps for sizing paper and papier maché and dressing hemp cordage, but

one of its special uses is for making *brewer's pitch* for coating the insides of beer casks and for distilling resinous oils, when the *pitch* used by shoemakers is left as residuum. Pitch is also used in veterinary practice.

Tar is an impure turpentine, viscid and brown-black in colour, procured by destructive distillation from the roots of various coniferous trees, particularly from *Pinus sylvestris*. Tar is used medicinally, especially in veterinary practice, for its antiseptic, stimulant, diuretic and diaphoretic action. Tar-water is given to horses with chronic cough and used internally and externally as a cutaneous stimulant and antiseptic in eczema. Oil of Tar is used instead of Oil of Turpentine in the case of mange, etc.

A considerable industry has grown up in the United States in the distillation of Pine *wood* by means of steam under pressure. One of the products thus obtained, which has considerable commercial importance, is known as Pine Oil. It has a pleasant odour, resembling that of caraway or Juniper Oil, and has been largely used for making paints which dry without gloss and as a 'flatting' material. It flows well under the brush and is a powerful solvent, and is useful for emulsion paints such as are now employed for inside work.

Pine resins are largely employed by the soap-maker for the manufacture of brown soaps.

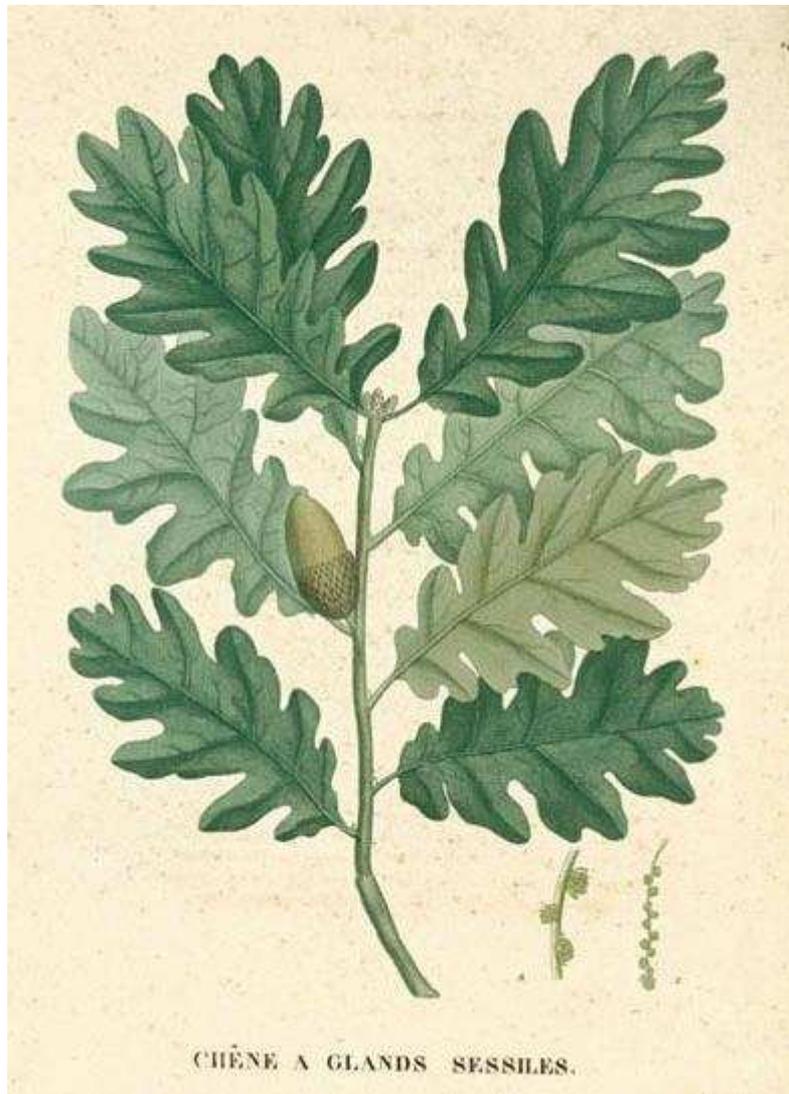
The trade in resins was for many years almost exclusively a French industry, and only in France were the Pine forests turned to account for the production of resin on a commercial scale. Now, however, Switzerland, Sweden, Russia and North America furnish quantities, though, from the point of view of quality, the Pines which flourish near Bordeaux furnish a resin still much in request, and the turpentine extracted therefrom is abundant and one of the best qualities produced.

---Medicinal Action and Properties---Rubefacient, diuretic, irritant. A valuable remedy in bladder, kidney, and rheumatic affections and diseases of the mucous membrane and respiratory complaints; *externally* in the form of liniment plasters and inhalants.

---Preparations and Dosages---Oil of Turpentine. Spirits of Turpentine, B.P., 2 to 10drops
As a vermifuge, 2 to 4 drachms. Tar, B.P., Pin. Sylv. Tar, U.S.P., Pin. Palust. Ointment Tar, B.P. Syrup Tar, U.S.P., 1 drachm.

Sun Sphere

Oak



CHÈNE A GLANDS SESSILES.

English Oak
(*Quercus robur*)

The Oak tree (*Quercus robur*) was thought to have been a primary focus of worship long before the Druids of ancient times give prevalence and significance to other trees. It was believed that the oak was the first tree created by god and its fruit, the Acorn, the first food of mankind. The English or Common Oak was for many centuries the main forest tree of England and is intimately bound up in its history and culture. As an emblem of Britain a spray of oak was engraved on the sides of our coins, the old sixpence and shilling pieces bore it, then later it was replaced by the British lion. The Oak today is widely cultivated and distributed across Europe and the Northern Hemisphere, but while British forests are somewhat depleted, it is still regarded quintessentially English.

Over the centuries the oak has been subjected to a good deal of variation and now there are over 400 hundred species. Oaks can now be found as far afield as Java, in the Mountains of Mexico and in South America. In Britain our parks and once proud forests are slowly being eroded and planted with a growing number of oaks from foreign origins. The two principal varieties native to England are the English or Common oak (*Quercus pedunculata*) and the Sessile or Durmast Oak (*Quercus sessiliflora*). The Common oak is distinguished by having acorns in ones and twos attached to its twigs by long stalks, the leaves having scarcely any stalk at all. The Sessile' leaves are bigger and are borne on long stalks while its acorns are attached to the bough instead of on stalks. The Sessile variety of oak is generally found in the lower parts of Britain and North Wales, and doesn't live as long as the Common Oak. Its wood has a straighter fibre and finer grain, and is generally thought to be less tough and less resisting than the Common oak.

Of the many foreign oaks now grown in Britain, the longest established variety is the Evergreen or Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*), which is common to the south of England and Europe. "Holm" is thought to be Anglo-Saxon for holly. Adding to this association the Holm is often found growing in close proximity to holly, as well as sporting holly shaped leaves. The Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) is the most prolific of the foreign oaks introduced into Britain. This is a beautiful tall tree, which when fully grown produces its acorns in very mossy cups.

The oak in general is a slow growing tree of imposing stature and lives to an incredible age. On average the tree will reach heights of 110 feet (33 meters) with girths of some 30 – 40 feet (9 – 12 meters) but there have been some notable exceptions down through the centuries. The most famous perhaps is the Major Oak in Sherwood Forest, once associated with Robin Hood. Still standing today though it requires support to prevent its collapse, it measures 64 feet (20 meters) around its girth. The Fairlop Oak in Hainault Forest measured 36 feet in girth, the spread of its branches extending above it reach out to some 300 feet in circumference. The trunk of the Newland Oak in Gloucestershire measured 46 feet 4 inches at 1 foot from the ground. The Courthorpe Oak in Yorkshire reportedly had the extraordinary girth of 70 feet, and tales from history tell us that King Arthur's Round Table was made from a single slice of oak, cut from an enormous bole.

Of old, the strength and elasticity of the oak made it particularly valuable for house building and shipbuilding. The "Wooden Walls of England" is an old phrase of many connotations; one meaning refers to the stately homes of England which gave rise to another phrase "hearts of oak", for the Englishman literally made his home from oak. Huge oaken beams were used in their construction and many of its rooms were panelled in fancy oak carvings, the buildings were secured by solid oak doors to keep out intruders and unwanted visitors. Oak was also used in the construction of churches and cathedrals. The roof beams of Westminster Abbey are of Sessile oak.

The "Wooden Walls of England" also refers to the coastal defences of England, "the forts and castles" constructed to protect us from invasion, and the "ships made of oak" used in our defence against the Spanish Armada. The oaks of the Forest of Dean provided much of the material used and Philip of Spain is said to have declared, "that all the oaks of the forest must be destroyed if victory is to be achieved". This he failed to do but some two centuries later, so many of its trees had been felled and dispatched to naval dockyards for use in building ships, that Nelson drew up a special petition to the Crown advising the need to replant the countries forests with oaks.

After the Oak has passed its first century, it increases by less than an inch a year. This slowness of its growth matures the wood in such a fashion that it becomes practically indestructible. As a timber the most valued qualities of the Oak are its hardness and toughness. While the Ebony tree may be harder, the Yew and Ash tree tougher, none of these trees possess both these qualities to such a degree as the English Oak. Although no longer used for the building of ships of war, it is still in great demand for other purposes, sharing with Ash in the making of railway carriages and other forms of transport.

As well as its strength for building purposes, the oak is much prized for the beauty of its grain and texture, and the richness of its colouring after polishing. As such it has always been a favourite wood of carpenters and cabinetmakers for use in panelling, doors and furniture. Beautiful cupboards, chests, tables and chairs were made of oak, and due to the wood's durability many of these have survived down through the centuries. Initially pale brown in colour, oak wood darkens with age.

Other uses of oak from olden times were the fighting clubs of ancient man, the hammers and long boats of the Vikings, and hafts for daggers and knives were made from its roots. Barrels and casks were also made from oak to store liqueur, wines and spirits, it being impervious to the effects of alcohol. Coffins were made of oak by using large sections of the trunk, these were split lengthwise and hollowed out to contain the body, but this was only done for state funerals or people of great stature and importance. The shrine of Edward the Confessor in Westminster Abbey is of Purbeck marble, but the tomb-chest or coffin (circa 1510) is of oak outlasting the changes of some 700 years.

Leaves, Fruit and Flowers:

The oak can take some 60 years to mature and produce its first full crop of fruit. Depending on seasonal conditions, tufts of pale green leaves appear on short stalks (English or Common oak) during April or May, which by June turn dark green and thick with a strong central vein and deeply lobed edges. Should the young leaves be damaged by frost or destroyed by insects, the oak has a canny ability to re-leaf itself. In August at the height of the summer when most other trees are wilting from the heat, the oak produces a new leaf called "Lammas shoots" thus adding new colour and freshness to the tree. These new leafy shoots are golden-pink when young, turning from pale to dark green as they harden. In autumn the oak tree is at its most majestic as its leaves change colour again turning from dark green to various shades of yellow, orange, russet and a pale golden brown. The leaves sometime stay on the tree until the following spring or until the new buds forming for the next year push them off.

In April together with the leaves, the flowers of the oak form in clusters of male and female catkins. By May the males have grown in size to 1 - 3 inches, becoming long and pendulous and filled with pollen. At this stage the female catkins open as upright flowers awaiting pollination from the males. Each has cup-shaped scaly involucre containing the seed vessels which produce as fruit an acorn 1/2 to 1 inch long. The acorn ripens in the autumn changing colour from green to pale yellow to dark olive brown. Once ripe the oak drops its fruit providing food in abundance for many of the forest's animals. Left uneaten, the acorn will sprout tiny shoots and root in any fertile earth, thus producing a new sapling tree and the cycle of life and growth begins again.

In time of old the acorn was a valued source of food for livestock, and particularly for feeding swine. There was also much famine in England during those times and the starving peasantry

was thankful for a share, even making bread from it. This naturally depleted the crops resources and as land was measured and valued for its swine feeding capabilities, by the end of the seventh century special laws were enacted called pannage or pannage, relating to the feeding of swine. This was later recorded in the Domesday Book, (the record of a survey ordered by William the Conqueror (1086) to determine economic conditions in England). Acorns contain a substantial proportion of carbohydrate and fat, and in many country districts are still collected in sacks and given to pigs, but they must also be mixed with other vegetable food to counteract their binding properties.

Medicinal uses:

Most parts of the tree are used medicinally and its healing effects are many and varied. The distilled water of the oak leaf bud can be taken internally or used externally to relieve minor inflammations. Bruised oak leaves applied externally to wounds and haemorrhoids will also help reduce and ease inflammation. The bark of the tree is the part most used in medicine being tonic, astringent and antiseptic. As with other astringents it is recommended for use in agues and haemorrhages.

The medicinal qualities of the bark can be extracted both by water and by spirit. As a decoction it has a strong astringent and bitter taste with a slightly aromatic odour. To make it, collect some bark (best in the spring April or May) from some young trees and dry it in the sun before chopping it. Use 1 oz. of bark in a quart of water and boil it down to a pint. It can then be taken in a wineglass measure or dose, and used as a gargle mouthwash for chronic sore throats, or applied locally to bleeding gums and piles. Also used in hot baths for chilblains and frostbite or as a hot compress for inflamed glands, hernias and haemorrhoids. A stronger decoction taken by the spoonful is useful in chronic diarrhoea and dysentery.

Oak bark when finely ground and powdered makes a remedial snuff that can be inhaled to arrest nosebleeds. It has also proved beneficial in the early stages of consumption. Sprinkled onto bed sheets it will help to alleviate bedsores. A pinch of powdered oak bark mixed with honey and taken in the mornings will help and aid ladies with menstrual problems. Ground and powdered acorns taken with water was considered a useful tonic for diarrhoea, and a decoction of acorns and oak bark made with milk, was used as an antidote to poisonous herbs and medicines. In old times, the thin skin of the acorn was used to cover open cuts or wounds, and ground and powdered acorns taken in wine was considered a good diuretic.

Magical Uses:

Due to the oaks many associations and characteristics, it is used symbolically on many ritual occasions, for instance in February during the festival of Imbolc, the spirits of the oak tree can be invoked to aid and lend strength to the goddess as she sleeps having given birth to the new god. It can also be asked to aid and acknowledge the new God as he grows in strength to become the new light of the year. In March at the festival of Ostara (the Spring Equinox) when the Goddess returns from the Underworld, the oak tree can be invoked to aid her as she blankets the earth with fertility bringing new life to the lands and pastures, also to lend strength to the new god as he stretches and grows to maturity inducing all living creatures out of hibernation to mate and reproduce.

The Beltane festival in May marks the courtship of the Goddess and God and the renewal of the ancient marriage of polarity. The oak tree is invoked for its associations with weddings

and fertility. In June, Litha the Summer Solstice festival embraces the beginning of summer when earth is awash with the fertility of the Goddess and God. The oak is again invoked for its associations with the gods of thunder and rain to aid the growth of crops. At the Lammas festival in August it's the time of the first harvest and the time when the plants of spring begin to shrivel and die. At this time the oak is called for its regenerative powers, for as the other plants begin to wither and die the oak produces its Lammas shoots in conformation that the cycle of life will continue.

September (Mabon) is the Autumn Equinox and completes the harvest begun at Lammas. Nature declines and draws back its bounty in readiness for the winter and it's time of rest. At this time the oak is revered for now it drops its own harvest of acorns, these then feed and nourish the forest animals as they stock their larders ready for hibernation and the bleak cold months of the coming winter. The God now dies as a willing sacrifice and descends into the earth to the Underworld, there to await his renewal and rebirth by the Goddess. The oak trees spirits can be invoked and all the trees attributes called upon to ease the gods decent with strength, courage and comfort while aiding the goddess with its male procreative qualities and powers of fertility.

The protective qualities of the oak were well known and used in magick, and many of the old customs are still practiced in country villages. Carrying a small piece of oak on your person will bring about a sense of security and well-being as well as protection from harm. Two twigs of oak tied together with red thread to form an equal armed cross is an age old talisman that can be worn or hung up in the home for protection, strength and security against evil. Acorns placed on window-ledges will guard against lightening strikes. As the oak tree is so firmly planted and deep-rooted it symbolizes permanency, and as our feet are constantly in touch with the ground this symbolism can be used magically to aid our feet. Before going on a long journey, be it in your own country or abroad, soak your feet in a footbath infusion of oak bark and leaves. This will not only relieve weary feet, but also guide you on your journey and ensure you're save return.

To catch a falling oak leaf will bring you luck and prosperity, and you shall suffer no colds throughout the winter. If someone is sick or poorly in the home, place an oak log on the fire to warm the house; it will help to "draw-off" the illness. Carrying an acorn is thought to guard against illness and pain, it is also thought to aid longevity and preserve youthfulness. The acorn with its symbolic representation of the glans penis was much used in love magick and fertility rites, for which use phallic shaped wands were made and tipped with an acorn. In olden days young women would place two acorns in a bowl of water to find out if she had found true love, if they moved together "yes" if they moved apart "no".

The ancients and druids of old used the oak tree for divination purposes when planning the next seasons farming work. By carefully studying the leafing sequences of different trees, they could determine when to plant the next seasons crops. An old proverb relating to this has been passed down through the centuries and is still used to predict the weather in many country districts:

“If the Oak's before the Ash,
Then you'll only get a splash;
If the Ash before the Oak,
Then you might expect a soak.”

Another more precise method of divination is the use of “oak galls” or “oak apples” as they are commonly known. I can do no better here than to quote a paragraph from one of the many books I have used to compile this writing, a brilliant book called “Tree Wisdom” in which “Jacqueline Memory Paterson” quotes from “Gerard” who states:

“Galls were broken into at specific times of the year (probably spring and autumn) and what was found in them foretold the sequence of the coming seasons. If an ant was found inside the gall it foretold plenty of grain to come, if a spider, there would be “a pestilence among men”, if a white worm or maggot, there would be a “murrain” of beasts or cattle. If the worm flew away (presumably found at its metamorphic stage of becoming a gall-wasp or flying insect), it signified war, if the worm crept, it foretold scarceness of harvest, and if it turned about, it foreshadowed the plague. Such a record also gives us an indication of the harsh concerns of earlier times.”

Venus Sphere

SANDALWOOD



Sandalwood
(*Santalum album* LINN.)

Botanical: *Santalum album* (LINN.)

Family: N.O. Santalaceae

Description: A small tree 20 to 30 feet high, with many opposite slender drooping branches, bark smooth grey-brown. Young twigs glabrous; leaves opposite, without stipules, petiole slender, about 1/2 inch long, blade 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 inches long, oval, ovate-oval or lanceolate, acute or obtuse at apex, tapering at base into petiole entire, smooth on both sides, glaucous beneath. Flowers small, numerous, shortly stalked in small pyramidal erect terminal and axillary, trichotomus paniculate, cymes panicle, branches smooth, bracts small passing into leaves below.

Perianth campanulate, smooth, about 1/5 inch long, divided into four (rarely five) triangular, acute, spreading segments, valvate, in bud rather fleshy, at first straw coloured, changing to deep reddish purple provided at the mouth with four erect, fleshy, rounded lobes. Stamens four, opposite, perianth segments, filaments short, inserted in mouth of perianth alternating with erect lobes. Anthers short, two-celled, introrse, ovary half, inferior, tapering, one-celled, an erect central placenta, rising from base and not reaching to the top, to the summit of which are attached three or four pendulous ovules without the usual coverings, style filiform, stigma small, three or four lobed on a level with anthers.

Fruit concealed about size of a pea, spherical, crowned by rim-like remains of perianth tube, smooth, rather fleshy, nearly black, seed solitary.

The trees are felled or dug up by roots; the branches are worthless, so are cut off. It is usual to leave the trunk on the ground for several months for the white ants to eat away the sap wood, which is also of no value; it is then trimmed and sawn into billets 2 to 2 1/2 feet long and taken to mills in the forests, where it is again trimmed and sorted into grades. It is heavy, hard, but splits easily; colour light yellow, transverse sections yellow to light reddish brown, with alternating light and dark concentric zones nearly equal in diameter, numerous pores, and traversed by many very narrow medullary rays. Odour characteristic, aromatic, persistent; taste peculiar, strongly aromatic. Indian Sandalwood is a Government monopoly.

Medicinal Action and Uses: Used internally in chronic bronchitis, a few drops on sugar giving relief; also in gonorrhoea and gleet; in chronic cystitis, with benzoic and boric acids. Much used as a perfume for different purposes. The wood is used for making fancy articles and is much carved.

Fluid extract, 1 to 2 drachms. Oil, 5 to 20 drops.

Adulterants: Castor oil is often added, and on the Continent oil of cedar, made by distilling the chips remaining from the manufacture of lead pencils.

Other Species: *Pterocarpus santalinus* or *Santalum rubrum* (Red Sandalwood), solely used for colouring and dyeing. Other varieties come from the Sandwich Islands, Western Australia and New Caledonia.

HAZEL

The Hazel tree (*Corylus avellana*) is member of the birch family (*Betulaceae*), and is one of the sacred trees of Wicca/Witchcraft revered by the ancients and contemporaries alike. In Celtic lore the Hazel was considered a tree of knowledge, particularly in Ireland where its nuts became a symbol of great mystical wisdom. There are some 15 species of Hazel native to the Northern temperate zones and variously called filbert, hazelnut or cobnut depending on the relative length of the nut to its husk. The large cobnut variety is of the European species.

Common throughout Britain and Europe, Hazel can also be found in America, North Africa, Turkey, and in Central and Northern Asia. More of a large shrub than a tree, its average height is 12–20 feet (3½-6 meters) though it has been recorded to have grown up to 60 feet (18 meters). Its preference is to grow in copses, oak woods and hedgerows, and thrives in

damp places near to ponds and streams, however it will fruit better if grown where the land has good drainage.



American Witchhazel
(*Hamamelis virginiana* LINN.)

The wood of the Hazel is a whitish red and has a close and even grain. Today it is mainly grown and coppiced for its smooth reddish-brown stems, which have a great toughness and elasticity; well-veined veneers are produced from its larger roots. Its wood was of particular use to the countryman, its flexibility being used for hampers, hoops, wattles, walking sticks, fishing rods, whip-handles and a multitude of like other uses. Rustic seats and baskets for gardens were made of Hazel, varnished with the bark on they were found to be very durable. Hazel also makes good oven-wood; its charcoal is also suited for making crayons and for gunpowder.

The bark of the Hazel is light brown in colour and smooth, except for speckles of spongy light brown lenticels acting like pores which draw apart the bark allowing the tree to breathe. The leaves of the Hazel grow quite large 2–4 inches (5-10 cm), and are slightly heart-shaped with

toothed edges rounding into a long point. In the bud they are folded into several longitudinal plaits. The leaves open in early spring growing singly on a short stem, at which time they tend to be lime-green in colour and are bright and pleasing. During the summer they turn from mid-green in colour to tints of green, yellow-brown and pink in autumn. The leaves stay with the tree much longer than most other trees, sometimes well into December by which time they turn to shades of yellow, dull orange and red.

The flowers of the Hazel appear in January, or sometimes even as early as October given the right climatic conditions, though more frequently they won't open until March. Male and female flowers form on the same tree but in distinct clusters or catkins. The male catkins are pendulous and first appear as minute sausage-shaped buds of a dullish brown colour. As they mature they turn a pale greenish-yellow or primrose colour and when its



pollen has been shed to green. The catkin consists of a number of bract-like scales each bearing eight anthers on its inner surface; from these fine-grained yellow pollen is shaken by the wind, after which they are discarded. The female flowers are grouped in little egg-shaped buds that sit sessile on the branch. The flower itself is a two-chambered ovary surrounded by a velvety cup-like bract, which later grows into the large leafy husk or cupule of the nut. It is surmounted by a short style with two long crimson stigmas forming a tassel at the top of the cluster.

The fruit of the Hazel tree has a peculiarity in its growth that is worthy of note. The male flowers or catkins are mostly produced on the ends of the year's shoots, while the female flowers are produced close to the branch where they are completely sessile or un-stalked. In most fruit trees when a flower is fertilized the fruit is produced in exactly the same place, but with the hazelnut a different arrangement takes place. As soon as the flower is fertilized it starts away from the parent branch and a fresh branch is grown bearing the new leaves and nuts at its end, thus the new nut is produced several inches away from the spot on which its parent flower originally grew.

Hazelnuts generally ripen by September and can be eaten directly off the tree. They also provide a rich source of food for many of the smaller animals, such like squirrels and dormice. Birds, in particular nut-hatchers (a variety of small passerine birds of the family "*Sittidae*") are partial to the nuts, wedging them in crevices and beating at them with their beaks until they crack. Left un-eaten the nuts fall to the ground where they germinate. After the winter their shells crack and from it springs a root followed by a new stem still joined to the nut and drawing sustenance from it by two thick fibres. As the root grounds into the earth and becomes established, the stem rises and a new sapling is born.

Mythology and Folklore:

Of old, Hazel trees were cultivated by the Romans and because they were so plentiful in Scotland, they called Scotland by the Latinized name Caledonia, a term that comes from Cal-Dun, which means "Hill of Hazel". Hazel was also plentiful in Europe where wild Hazel has grown abundantly since pre-historic times, there its nuts appears to have formed part of the staple food diet of the Swiss lake-dwellers. Another old custom was to use Hazel-twigs to bind vines to stakes. The vines being sacred Bacchus (the Roman god of intoxication and

liberation) and any goats found feeding on them were caught and sacrificed to him on spits made of Hazel.

Since mediaeval times trees have been considered sacred. In Ireland in particular three trees gained special prominence, the Apple tree for its beauty, the Hazel for its wisdom and the Oak for its strength. Indeed so sacred were these trees regarded that any unjustified felling of an Apple Hazel or Oak tree carried the death penalty. Through their associations with beauty, wisdom and strength, the wood of these trees was often combined to make funeral pyres. At which times particular respect seems to have been paid to the Hazel in relation to its wisdom, for many cases have been recorded both in England and on the Continent of Hazel-wands being found in the coffins of notables. Among the chiefs and rulers of ancient times, a Hazel wand was considered a symbol of authority and wisdom.

In mythology the Hazel was attributed to the Roman god Mercury (Mercurius), who is associated with the Greek god Hermes. Mercury/Hermes was the messenger of the gods and also the god of commerce, manual skill, eloquence, cleverness, travel and thievery. Of old he was often depicted with a staff or wand of Hazel called a caduceus, and wearing a broad rimmed travelling hat and sandals. As the Greek legend has it, when he was only a few hours old he escaped from his cradle and went out in search of adventure. During which time he stretched cords across a tortoise shell and invented the lyre. Later that same evening perhaps feeling hungry, he stole two oxen from Apollo (the god of the sun) and hid them in a cave where he killed them. When Apollo discovered what had happened, Hermes charmed him by playing on his lyre and Apollo allowed him to go unpunished. In gratitude Hermes gave his lyre to Apollo who in return gave Hermes a magic wand, the caduceus, which bestowed wisdom, wealth and prosperity, and turned everything it touched into gold.

Mercury/Hermes as the messenger of the gods could move swiftly through the air and sea. As such the artistic impression of him changed, wings in his hair replaced the broad rimmed hat and the sandals became wings at his ankles to aid him as he travelled on the wind. The caduceus was often depicted with two ribbons tied to it indicating speed as he flowed through the air. Later the ribbons changed to serpents as the caduceus was adopted by the medical profession and became the symbol of the healing arts. The two serpents entwined around the staff are symbolic of illness and health, and life and death, for in ancient symbolism the venom of a snake could be used to heal or to poison.

Many other Irish legends concerning the Hazel have been passed down through its association with water and salmon. One is a description of Connla's Well, believed to be the source of the River Shannon. The well is surrounded by nine Hazel trees which produce both flowers and fruit (beauty and wisdom). As the fruit (the nuts) fall into the well, the salmon that live there eat them and whatever number of nuts they eat, so the same number of spots appears on its body. The salmon also became the recipient of all knowledge. The Hazel's association with the element Air and speed of movement, is also replicated through its association with salmon, for salmon swim swiftly through the water and at times can be seen taking huge leaps out of the water appearing to fly through the air.

Magickal Use.

Down through the ages the Hazel has always been considered magical, and was used primarily for its powers of divination. The use of Hazel to detect water and mineral veins comes down from antiquity. Typically a divining rod (dowsing rod) had two forks off its main

stem shaped like the letter “Y”. The two forks were gripped in the fists with the fingers uppermost, so that the tail end pointed downward toward the object sought. In other cases the rod was peeled and simply laid on the palm of the hand. Before the 17th century Hazel rods were also used to find thieves, murderers and treasure.

The art of divination by dowsing is called “rhabdomancy”. According to Evelyn (John Evelyn, 1620-1706. An English author who’s “Diary” (1640-1706) was considered an important source regarding late 17th-cent English politics and religion) the art of rhabdomancy is: "Very wonderful by whatever occult virtue, the forked stick (so cut and skilfully held) becomes impregnated with those invisible steams and exhalations, as by its spontaneous bending from a horizontal posture to discover not only mines and subterranean treasure and springs of water, but criminals guilty of murder etc. Certainly next to a miracle and requires a strong faith." Even Linnaeus (Carolus Linnaeus (orig. Carl von Linne) 1707-78. The Swedish botanist considered the father of modern botany) confessed himself to be half a convert to this belief.

The practice of dowsing is still common today in Cornwall and other western counties. According to local superstition, the rod is guided to water or mineral lodes by guardian piskies, or the kobolds of the German miner. The dowser or rhabdomancer is said to feel a sudden acceleration or retardation of the pulse, or a sensation of great heat or cold at the moment of discovery. Other woods such as the Willow have also been used with success for dowsing.

It is probable from this use of Hazel rods in divination, that the nuts of the Hazel became associated with fortune telling. In Scotland an old custom of love divination still prevails on Halloween, in which two hazelnuts are given the names of lovers and placed on burning embers. If they burn quietly and remained side by side, the lovers were considered faithful, but if the nuts crack, spit and roll apart, they were considered to be ill-matched and one of them unfaithful.

In ritual Hazel wands are used in connection with mercurial energy from which poetic and magical inspiration is gained and imparted. Hazel wands can also be used to divine suitable places in which to work magick. An old method of cutting a wand was to find a tree that has yet to bare fruit, and at sunrise on a Wednesday (the day ruled by Mercury), to cut a branch with a single stroke from a sickle. The Hazel is considered to be at its most powerful during early spring while its sap is rising, and in autumn when its sap and energy is fully contained within it, ready for its harvest of nuts. A good divining rod is said to “squeal like a pig” when held under water.

The nuts of the Hazel were commonly used to bring luck by stringing them together and hanging them in the house. Such a string of nuts were often given to a new bridesmaid as a gift, to wish her good fortune. Eaten the nuts give wisdom and are said to increase fertility. They were also of old, eaten before divination to increase inspiration.

Also of old, supple twigs if Hazel were woven into crowns and called “wishing caps”. When worn and if you wished very hard, your desires would come true. Sailors, believing them to offer protection against bad storms at sea, also wore wishing caps. The ancient druids believed they could induce invisibility by wearing them. Twigs of Hazel placed on window ledges give protection against lightening, and three pins of Hazel hammered into a wall of the house would protect it from fire.

Medical use.

The physical medicinal uses of the Hazel are but a few, but its main virtue being that of wisdom, its nuts in particular, these were often worn talismanically (to coin a phrase) for a healthy life gained through that wisdom. Some say it has the power to cure fevers, diarrhoea and excessive menstrual flow, but I can find no further evidence to back this up (an old wife's tale perhaps?).

Carrying a double hazelnut in a pocket was an old country charm used to prevent toothache. If bitten by a snake, an equal armed cross made of Hazel laid upon it, was an ancient remedy said to draw out the poison. The kernels of the nut ground fine and mixed with mead or honeyed water is said to be good for coughs that won't clear, and when mixed with pepper in a decoction will clear a muzzy head.

The Hazel is known by the folk names: Coll, the Poets Tree and Dripping Hazel. Its deity associations are with: Mercury, Hermes, Thor, Mac Coll, Aengus, Artemis and Diana. Its ruling planets are the Sun and Mercury. Its associated element is Air, but it also has a great affinity with Water. Its gender is masculine. It is used to attract the powers needed for: Protection, Fertility, Luck, Anti-Lightening, Wishes, Inspiration and anything associated with the element Air.

Astrologically hazel people (i.e. those who are born during the month of July) have the soul of a pioneer, but they waste too much energy on competitive thoughts and fighting abuses instead of letting their own gifts and skills ripen. Hazel people can be impatient for things to happen, and hurry things along when they should sit back and let things take their own course. They are sometimes too intent on running around trying new things, that they forget the older values of patience that would help them. When Hazel people listen to their own natural rhythms, they find they are happier and more prepared spiritually and physically. They are generally charming, undemanding, very understanding and know how to make an impression. They can be active fighters for social causes, are popular but can be moody. They are capricious lovers but are honest and tolerant partners. They also have a precise sense of judgment about what is right and wrong.

Mercury Sphere

SULPHUR



Rough sulfur crystal



Sulfur crystal from Agrigento, Sicily.

Description: Sulfur (Sanskrit, *sulvari*; Latin *sulfur* or *sulpur*) was known in ancient times, and is referred to in the Biblical Pentateuch (Genesis).

English translations of the Bible commonly referred to sulfur as "brimstone", giving rise to the name of 'fire and brimstone' sermons, in which listeners are reminded of the fate of eternal damnation that awaits the unbelieving and unrepentant. It is from this part of the Bible that Hell is implied to "smell of sulfur", although as mentioned above sulfur is in fact odorless. The "smell of sulfur" usually refers to either the odor of hydrogen sulfide, e.g. from rotten egg, or of burning sulfur, which produces sulfur dioxide, the smell associated with burnt matches.

Sulfur was known in China since the 6th century BC, in a natural form that the Chinese had called 'brimstone', or *shiliuhuang* that was found in Hanzhong.^[1] By the 3rd century, the Chinese discovered that sulfur could be extracted from pyrite.^[1] Chinese Daoists were interested in sulfur's flammability and its reactivity with certain metals, yet its earliest practical uses were found in traditional Chinese medicine.^[1] A Song Dynasty military treatise of 1044 AD described different formulas for Chinese gun powder, which is a mixture of potassium nitrate (KNO₃), carbon, and sulfur. Early alchemists gave sulfur its own alchemical symbol which was a triangle at the top of a cross.

In 1777 Antoine Lavoisier helped convince the scientific community that sulfur was an element and not a compound. In 1867, sulfur was discovered in underground deposits in Louisiana and Texas. The overlying layer of earth was quicksand, prohibiting ordinary mining operations, therefore the Frasch process was used.

Characteristics: At room temperature, sulfur is a soft bright yellow solid. Elemental sulfur has only a faint odor, similar to that of matches. The odor associated with rotten eggs is due to hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and organic sulfur compounds rather than elemental sulfur. Sulfur burns with a blue flame that emits sulfur dioxide, notable for its peculiar suffocating odor. Sulfur is insoluble in water but soluble in carbon disulfide and to a lesser extent in other non-polar organic solvents such as benzene and toluene. Common oxidation states of sulfur include -2, +2, +4 and +6. Sulfur forms stable compounds with all elements except the noble gases. Sulfur in the solid state ordinarily exists as cyclic crown-shaped S₈ molecules.

The crystallography of sulfur is complex. Depending on the specific conditions, the sulfur allotropes form several distinct crystal structures, with rhombic and monoclinic S₈ best known.

A noteworthy property of sulfur is that its viscosity in its molten state, unlike most other liquids, increases above temperatures of 200 °C due to the formation of polymers. The molten sulfur assumes a dark red color above this temperature. At higher temperatures, however, the viscosity is decreased as depolymerization occurs.



Sulfur melts to a blood-red liquid. When burned, it emits a blue flame.

Amorphous or "plastic" sulfur can be produced through the rapid cooling of molten sulfur. X-ray crystallography studies show that the amorphous form may have a helical structure with eight atoms per turn. This form is metastable at room temperature and gradually reverts back to crystalline form. This process happens within a matter of hours to days but can be rapidly catalyzed.

Henbane

See Saturn Sphere for Henbane (Poison) page 3

Moon Sphere

PETRIOCHOR



"Smell of rain" redirects here.

Petrichor (from Greek *petros*, "stone" + *ichor*) is the name of the familiar scent of rain on dry earth.

Petrichor? It's the wonderful smell we've all experienced during the first rain after a long dry spell. It originates from an oily substance in plants, rocks and clay soils.

“The word comes from Greek *petros*, a stone, plus *ichor*, from the Greek word for the fluid that flows like blood in the veins of the dark gods.’

The term was coined in 1964 by two Australian researchers, Bear and Thomas, for an article in the journal *Nature*. In the article, the authors describe how the smell derives from an oil exuded by certain plants during dry periods, whereupon it is adsorbed by clay-based soils and rocks. During rain, the oil is released into the air along with another compound, geosmin, producing the distinctive scent. In a follow-up paper, Bear and Thomas (1965) showed that the oil retards seed germination and early plant growth.

The scent is generally regarded as pleasant and refreshing, and is one of the most frequently cited "favourite smells". In desert regions, the smell is especially strong during the first rain after a long dry spell. The oil yielding the scent can be collected from rocks and concentrated to produce perfume. However, it has yet to be synthesized, perhaps due to its complexity. It is composed of more than fifty distinct chemical substances.

Other, But Bizarre Scents

Pipe and Cigar Smoke



This is another rather common scent preference. Many people who have a fascination with this odour had a grandfather or father who smoked a pipe or a huge cigar and have positive memories of the experience. Pipe smoke might be a comfort idea, somewhat similar to special food.

Gasoline Smell or Scent



This is actually a fairly common odour preference. What makes this interesting is that the ingredients in gasoline are actually toxic in high doses which makes this a very maladaptive smell association. Most likely, this positive smell association stems from a pleasant car trip taken in the past.

Body Odour



Why should this be an odour preference? No one knows for sure, but persons who have a strong body odour are likely sweat profusely because they are hard workers and good bread winners. This may make this scent attractive to the opposite sex who sees this as a positive attribute. Which raises the question as to why the antiperspirant and deodorant industry is so lucrative?

Mildew Odour



This is another strange odour preference, although not as common as the love of skunk or gasoline smells. Fortunately, as of yet, there's no one marketing a cologne called “Eau de Mildew”.

Conclusion:

Everyone has their own unique smell preferences, some of which are stranger than others. Why do some people seem to prefer odours that others find to be strange or downright offensive? Some of these odour preferences are based on memories or experiences from childhood.

A Most Common Drug

CANNABIS



A dried flowered bud of the *Cannabis sativa* plant.

Cannabis, also known as **marijuana** or **ganja** (from Hindi: *gānjā*), is a psychoactive product of the plant *Cannabis sativa*. The herbal form of the drug consists of dried mature flowers and subtending leaves of pistillate ("female") plants. The resinous form, known as hashish,¹ consists primarily of glandular trichomes collected from the same plant material.

The major biologically active chemical compound in cannabis is Δ^9 -tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol), commonly referred to as THC.



Humans have been consuming cannabis since prehistory, although in the 20th century there was a rise in its use for recreational, religious or spiritual, and medicinal purposes. It is estimated that about four percent of the world's adult population use cannabis annually and 0.6 percent daily. The possession, use, or sale of psychoactive cannabis products became illegal in most parts of the world in the early 20th century. Since then, some countries have intensified the enforcement of cannabis prohibition while others have reduced the priority of enforcement.

Medical use for your information.

A synthetic form of one chemical in marijuana, Delta-9 Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), is a controversial treatment for medical use. The American Marijuana Policy Project, a pro-cannabis organization, claims that cannabis is an ideal therapeutic drug for cancer and AIDS patients, who often suffer from clinical depression, and from nausea and resulting weight loss due to chemotherapy and other aggressive treatments.

A recent study by scientists in Italy has also shown that cannabidiol (CBD), a chemical found in marijuana, inhibits growth of cancer cells in animals.

The FDA and comparable authorities in Western Europe, including the Netherlands, have not approved smoked marijuana for any condition or disease. The current view of the United States Food and Drug Administration is that if there is any future of marijuana as a medicine, it lies in its isolated components, the cannabinoids and their synthetic derivatives.

A synthetic version of the cannabinoid THC named Dronabinol has been shown to relieve symptoms of anorexia and reduce agitation in elderly Alzheimer's patients.^[26] Dronabinol has been approved for use with anorexia in patients with HIV/AIDS and chemotherapy-related nausea.

Glaucoma, a condition of increased pressure within the eyeball causing gradual loss of sight, can be treated with medical marijuana to decrease this intraocular pressure. There has been debate for 25 years on the subject. Some data exist, showing a reduction of IOP in glaucoma patients who smoke marijuana, but the effects are short-lived, and the frequency of doses

needed to sustain a decreased IOP can cause systemic toxicity. There is also some concern over its use since it can also decrease blood flow to the optic nerve. Marijuana lowers IOP by acting on a cannabinoid receptor on the ciliary body called the CB receptor. Although marijuana is not a good therapeutic choice for glaucoma patients, it may lead researchers to more effective, safer treatments. A promising study shows that agents targeted to ocular CB receptors can reduce IOP in glaucoma patients who have failed other therapies.

Medical marijuana is used for analgesia, or pain relief. “Marijuana is used for analgesia only in the context of a handful of illnesses (e.g., headache, dysentery, menstrual cramps, and depression) that are often cited by marijuana advocates as medical reasons to justify the drug being available as a prescription medication.” It is also reported to be beneficial for treating certain neurological illnesses such as epilepsy, and bipolar disorder. Case reports have found that cannabis can relieve tics in people with obsessive compulsive disorder and Tourette syndrome. Patients treated with tetrahydrocannabinol, the main psychoactive chemical found in cannabis, reported a significant decrease in both motor and vocal tics, some of 50% or more. Some decrease in obsessive-compulsive behavior was also found. A recent study has also concluded that cannabinoids found in cannabis might have the ability to prevent Alzheimer's disease. THC has been shown to reduce arterial blockages.

Another use for medical marijuana is movement disorders. Marijuana is frequently reported to reduce the muscle spasms associated with multiple sclerosis; this has been acknowledged by the Institute Of Medicine, but it noted that these abundant anecdotal reports are not well-supported by clinical data. Evidence from animal studies suggests that there is a possible role for cannabinoids in the treatment of certain types of epileptic seizures. Marijuana "numbs" the nervous system slightly, possibly preventing shock. A synthetic version of the major active compound in cannabis, THC, is available in capsule form as the prescription drug dronabinol (Marinol) in many countries. The prescription drug Sativex, an extract of cannabis administered as a sublingual spray, has been approved in Canada for the treatment of multiple sclerosis.

How is Cannabis Taken

Cannabis can be smoked a number of different ways, it can also be eaten. Firstly smoking Cannabis, this is done by making a joint (hand rolled cigarette), depending on what cigarette papers are used a joint is usually made up of three standard paper, two joined together and one stuck at the back. Tobacco is then placed along the length of the joint, the Cannabis is then added. Cannabis is usually in the form of a block of resin and needs to be warmed so it becomes brittle and can then be broken down into small particles which are spread evenly along the joint, the papers are then rolled to form a cigarette. One end of the cigarette is twisted a round to seal the end, then a roach would be added to the other end to compact the tobacco and Cannabis inside the joint. A roach is a small piece of rolled up thin card, possibly part of the packaging of the Rizla papers. The joints are this size as usually they are shared between a few people. The person smoking the joint would take a large inhale of the smoke and hold it in the lungs for as long as possible to enable the smoke to travel round the body in the blood stream like oxygen does, eventually reaching the brain giving them the high.



Cooking Cannabis

This drug can also be cooked, usually in the form of a cake, biscuits etc. The Cannabis is broken down into small pieces and mixed with the cake mixture and cooked as per the instructions on the cake mixture packet. Once the cake is made and ready for eating it would then be cut into pieces and shared.

Inhaling Cannabis

Inhaling just the smoke off Cannabis is done in a couple of ways. On the market there is plenty of smoking devices such as pipes with mesh grills. The Cannabis is placed onto the mesh grill, heat is applied the pipe is then sucked so that all the smoke off the Cannabis is inhaled. This method of inhalation tends to burn the throat as the smoke is rather warm when inhaled.

Using a Bong



Another way of inhaling this drug is to use a bong, with this method the smoke is drawn through water in a bottle causing the smoke to be cooled down before it is inhaled and obviously more enjoyable for the user. A bong is a bit like an Indian's piece pipe.

For a user to make a bong is fairly simple, the materials required are all found around the home, small plastic bottle, cigarette filter, plastic tube, i.e. a pen with the inside taken out, and a receptacle for burning the Cannabis in, for instance the outsides of a TV aerial plug.



**We
are best punished
by our virtues**

Effects of Cannabis

Cannabis is a widely used drug and has been for some time in the UK. The effects of Cannabis is determined on the individual, the state of mind the individual was in before taking the drug, i.e. depressed or happy etc. Main effects of a user would be very talkative, relaxed and happy. Colours and sounds also play a big part in the state of users, as these are more pronounced and usually help relax the user. Like other drugs Cannabis can have its bad side of effects, especially when higher dose's are taken. Some side effects include hallucinations and the user may become disorientated. This in turn can also lead to the user being anxious or depressed and possible suicidal. Some users will also become paranoid especially if taking the drug at parties with a lot of other people around. Nausea and vomiting can be present when too much of the drug is taken at once. When smoking Cannabis it usually hits the spot fairly quickly and can last from 1 to 3 hours depending on the amount taken. Just like heroin users, Cannabis users also get the munchies and dry mouth. Cannabis is classed as a drug that is fairly safe to use without any serious long lasting damage to physical or mental health. Cannabis is still dangerous due to the damage to the lungs through smoking, it is also said that it is not a drug that is addictive, to some people it is, also using cannabis with tobacco the user could get addicted to the nicotine in tobacco and get dependent on cigarettes.

AMYL NITRITE – POPPERS

Amyl nitrite is a clear, yellowish liquid that is sold in a cloth-covered, sealed bulb. When the bulb is broken, it makes a snapping sound; thus they are nicknamed "snappers" or "poppers." Amyl nitrite is used for heart patients and for diagnostic purposes because it dilates the blood vessels and makes the heart beat faster. Reports of amyl nitrite abuse occurred before 1979, when it was available by prescription. When it became available by prescription only, many users abused butyl nitrite instead.

Inhaling nitrites relaxes smooth muscles throughout the body, including the sphincter muscles of the anus and the vagina. This causes the blood vessels to dilate (which causes a sudden drop in blood pressure), increases heart rate, and produces a sensation of heat and excitement that usually lasts for a couple of minutes.

Alkyl nitrites are often used as a club drug or to enhance a sexual experience. The head rush, euphoria, uncontrollable laughter or giggling, and other sensations that result from the blood pressure drop are often felt to increase sexual arousal and desire. At the same time, the relaxation of the sphincters of the anus and vagina can make penetration easier. It is widely reported that poppers can enhance and prolong orgasms.

While anecdotal evidence reveals that both men and women can find the experience of using poppers pleasurable, this experience is not universal. Some men report that poppers can cause short-term erectile problems.

Amyl nitrite is a stimulants of short duration.

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