Cannabis Sativa Encyclopedia Article

Cannabis Sativa

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Cannabis Sativa

Cannabis sativa is the botanical name for the hemp plant, which originated in Asia. It is the source of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), which is the active agent in the drugs marijuana, hashish, ganja, and bhang.

An herb of the mulberry family, *Cannabis sativa* grows in tropical, subtropical, and temperate regions. Due to genetic differences, some plants produce strong fibers but little THC, and others produce a substantial quantity of THC but weak fibers. The fiber-producing plant is grown commercially for cloth, rope, roofing materials, and floor coverings. The drug-producing variety is widely cultivated in societies that approve of its use. Illegal crops are also planted, some in the United States. When harvested, the leaves often resemble lawn cuttings, which accounts for the slang term "grass."

See Also

Adolescents, Drug and Alcohol Use; Bhang; Marijuana; Marijuana Treatment.