

### Early Herbal Image of Cannabis Sativa

*Over a 6,000-year history, the cannabis plant has been used as a source of fibers for making cloth and rope. The leaves and flowering tops when smoked provide a euphoric, stimulating, but at times addictive drug. Dittrick Museum*

# Cannabis Sativa L.

The leaves and flowering tops of cannabis sativa when smoked provide a euphoric, stimulating, but at times addictive drug. The dried leaves and flowers are traded under the name marijuana. The resin of the flowering tops and leaves is named hashish. Cannabis extract was used in patent medicines in the 19th and early 20th centuries as a stimulant. It was also used as a medicinal at that time for migraine headaches. It was an official drug listed in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia up to 1942. Marijuana gained new popularity during the cultural and drug revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Today it is a pivotal drug in a movement to decriminalize its use and also that of other narcotic substances. Cannabis is pivotal because it is less addicting and less potent than other illegal drugs and therefore tends to be more acceptable to the general population. The outlawing of the use of marijuana in the United States is based on the Congress having designated marijuana as having no medicinal value and therefore no legal use. The U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that designation in 2001.



### Marijuana Paraphernalia

*Marijuana and hashish are sometimes eaten but are more commonly smoked. Fanciful pipes and cigarette papers have been popular ways to smoke the drug. It has been found that chronic smoking of hashish and marijuana leads to the same diseases that tobacco smokers face—cancer, bronchitis, and asthma. Although the total dollar value of cannabis used in the United States is lower than that of cocaine, heroin, or the chemical drugs of abuse, marijuana is the most used illegal drug.*



**Speedboat Transporting Drugs**  
 Currently, tons of cannabis are grown in the United States or smuggled in from Mexico and South America. Bundles of a hundred pounds or more are wrapped in plastic and transported by plane, boat, or truck. International trafficking of cannabis by international crime elements can result in the funding of terrorist organizations. DEA

**Cannabis Growing Indoors**

The marijuana plant has been bred over the past 30 years by traffickers to produce a shorter plant with an increased level of THC, the addictive ingredient in cannabis. THC levels have increased from 1 percent in 1974 to over 24 percent in 2001. The shorter plant was developed so it could be grown indoors in small spaces. Publishers Group, www.streetdrugs.org



**Old Man of the Mountains**

During four decades of the 11th century, the Persian Hasan-i-Sabbah, gained power through terrorism and controlled politics in central Asia. His followers, called fedavi, or self sacrificers, used poisoned knives to assassinate rivals. They reportedly used hashish before setting out on their grim tasks. They were also known as hashishin, from which the English word assassin is derived.