

MEDICINAL PLANT

INTRODUCTION → There are certain chemicals or compounds that control the growth of microorganism or killed them. They are able to control the physiological disorders of the system. Such chemicals are named as medicinal or drugs. These plants are important sources of medicine and they have been used for this purpose since the ancient times. In "India" the references in "Rigveda" "Charak Samhita" in which several medicinal plants have been described in details.

DEFINITION → The drugs or medicine are defined as chemicals having curative properties. They are used to cure disease.

Most of the drug plants are wild. The substances used as drugs may be alkaloids compound of carbon, Hydrogen, Oxygen and Nitrogen. They are present in the storage organs of plants such as root, seed, leaves, bark, stem and wood.

DRUG YIELDING PLANTS → Several drug yielding plants are known from India.

Some important drug yielding plants are the following

1) Aconite (Mitha Zaher).

Botanical name - *Aconitum napellus*

Family - Ranunculaceae

Drug yielding part - Root

Active compound - Aconite.

Uses →

1. The plant is cultivated for its medicinal value use in the treatment of neuralgia and rheumatism.
2. It is also relieves pain and fever.

2) Sarpgandha

Botanical name - *Rauwolfia serpentina*

Family - Apocynaceae.

Drug yielding part - Roots.

Active compound - Reserpine & different alkaloids.

Uses →

1. The plant has been used in ayurvedic system of medicine science last many centuries.
2. The reserpine has depressant action on central nervous system. It controls the blood pressure.
3. It extracts of root are used in Diarrhoea and dysentery.
4. The drug is used in the treatment of cholera and fever.
5. Roots stimulate uterine contraction and it is recommended during child

birth.

3) Withania (Ashwagandha)

Botanical name - *Withania somnifera*

Family - Solanaceae.

Drug yielding part - Roots

Active compound - Withanin, Withaferin

Uses →

1. The root has been recommended for cough and female disorders.
2. It is also useful in all types of skin problems and ulcer and boils.
3. It is important drug in the treatment of rheumatism pain and inflammation of joints.
4. It is also known to improve sperms and stimulate sex impulses.

4) Quinine

Botanical name - *Cinchona officinalis*

Family - Rubiaceae

Drug yielding part - Bark

Active compound - Quinine.

Uses →

1. It is used against Malaria.
2. It is also used in the treatment of different kind of fevers.
3. It is also used as a tonic.

5) Belladonna

Botanical name - *Atropa belladonna*

Family - Solanaceae
Drug yielding part - Leaves and roots.
Active compound - Atropine & Hyascyamine

Uses →

1. The drug is applied to relieve pain.
2. It is also taken to check whooping cough and excessive perspiration.
3. It is used in disease of eye.
4. It is also an antidote in poisoning by opium.

6) Datura

Botanical name - Datura stramonium

Family - Solanaceae

Drug yielding part - Leaves, seed and stem

Active compound - Scopolamine, Atropine

Uses →

1. It control parkinson's disease.
2. It is used in Asthama, whooping cough and in digestive disease.
3. It is also uses for relaxing the born child muscles.
4. The roasted leaves are applied to in large testicles, burn and boils and rheumatic sciatic nerves.

7) Mint (Pudina)

Botanical Name - Mentha piperita

Family - Labiateae

Drug yielding part - Leaves.

Active compound - Aromatic oil

Uses →

1. The oil obtained from leaves is used extensively in various medical preparation.
2. It is used as a carminative and stimulate.
3. It is also used against colds and for nausea and vomiting.

8) Nux - Vomica

Botanical Name - *Strychnos nuxvomica*

Family - Loganiaceae

Drug yielding part - Fruit and seed.

Active compound - Brucine and strychnine.

Uses →

1. The plant is cultivated in Karnataka, Maharashtra, W.B, U.P, Bihar and Orissa.
2. Small doses are useful as tonic and stimulant.
3. It is used for the treatment of nervous disorders and paralysis.
Higher doses are used as arrow poisoning.

9) Tulsi

Botanical Name - *Ocimum sanctum*

Family - Lamiaceae

Drug yielding part - Leaves and seed.

Uses -

1. The plant is herbaceous, perennial and widely distributed in India.
2. The juice of the leaves are given in malaria, disorders of liver and cough and cold.
3. Seeds are mucilaginous and have soothing effect on the mucous membrane.

10) Neem

Botanical Name - *Azadirachta indica*

Family - Meliaceae.

Drug yielding part - All parts of the plant.

Uses -

1. The juice of the leaf is used in Jaundice, various skin diseases and purification of the blood. Young leaves are also used in small pox.
2. Fruit are purgative which soothe the skin and mucous membrane.
3. The oil of the seed is used in skin diseases rheumatism and in Leprosy.

11) Kalmegh

Botanical Name - *Andrographis paniculata*

Family - Acanthaceae

Drug yielding part - entire plant.

Uses -

1. The plant is wild, annual and herbaceous.

2. The juice of root, leaves and stems are used to cure the stomach disease or an tonic for blood purification or in fever or in Jaundish.

12. Satmuli

Botanical Name - *Asparagus racemosus*
Family - Liliaceae.

Drug yielding part - entire plant.

13. Bosak

Botanical Name - *Adhatoda vasica*

Family - Acanthaceae

Drug yielding part - entire plant.

14. Bel

Botanical Name - *Aegle marmelos*

Family - Rutaceae

Drug yielding part - entire plant.

15. Harizora.

Botanical Name - *Cissus quadrangularis*

Family - Vitaceae

Drug yielding part - entire plant.