

Drug Fact Sheet

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Salvia Divinorum

Overview

Salvia divinorum is a perennial herb in the mint family that is abused for its hallucinogenic effects.

Street names

Maria Pastora, Sally-D, Salvia

Looks like

The plant has spade-shaped variegated green leaves that look similar to mint. The plants themselves grow to more than three feet high, have large green leaves, hollow square stems, and white flowers with purple calyces.



Methods of abuse

Salvia can be chewed, smoked, or vaporized.

Affect on mind

Psychic effects include perceptions of bright lights, vivid colors, shapes, and body movement, as well as body or object distortions. Salvia divinorum may also cause fear and panic, uncontrollable laughter, a sense of overlapping realities, and hallucinations. Salvinorin A is believed to be the ingredient responsible for the psychoactive effects of Salvia divinorum.

Affect on body

Adverse physical effects may include: loss of coordination, dizziness, and slurred speech.

Drugs causing similar effects

When Salvia divinorum is chewed or smoked, the hallucinogenic effects elicited are similar to those induced by other hallucinogenic substances.

Overdose effects

Adverse physical effects may include lack of coordination, dizziness, and slurred speech.

Legal status in the United States

Neither Salvia divinorum nor its active constituent Salvinorin A has an approved medical use in the United States. Salvia is not controlled under the Controlled Substances Act. Salvia divinorum is, however, controlled by a number of states. Since Salvia is not controlled by the CSA, some online botanical companies and drug promotional sites have advertised Salvia as a legal alternative to other plant hallucinogens like mescaline.

Common places of origin

Salvia is native to certain areas of the Sierra Mazaleca region of Oaxaca, Mexico. It is one of several plants that are used by Mazatec Indians for ritual divination. Salvia divinorum plants can be grown successfully outside of this region. They can be grown indoors and outdoors, especially in humid semitropical climates.

This content came from a United States Government, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) website, www.getsmartaboutdrugs.com.

