

Profile: Marijuana

What is marijuana?

Marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug in the United States. Its main psychoactive chemical is *delta-9-tetrahydro-cannabinol*, or THC. Due to the variety of effects it can produce, marijuana can be categorized as a stimulant, depressant, or hallucinogen.



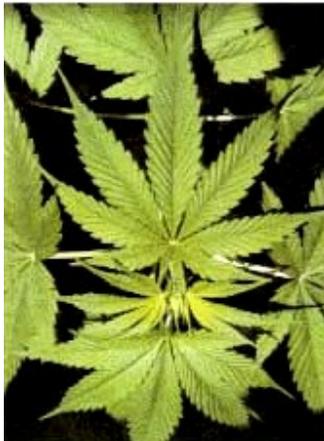
Dried Marijuana Buds and Seeds

How is marijuana used?

The most common way users ingest marijuana is by smoking it in joints (marijuana cigarettes), blunts (marijuana put into a hollowed-out cigar), pipes or bongs (water pipes). It is also eaten alone or cooked into food, most notoriously in hash or pot brownies. Finally, it can be brewed into tea.

What does marijuana look like?

Marijuana comes from the leaves and flowering tops of the *Cannabis sativa* plant, that appear greenish-gray when dried. It also comes in a more concentrated, resinous form, hashish or hash, and as a sticky black liquid known as hash oil.



Marijuana Leaves

What are some street terms for marijuana?

Weed	Reefer
Pot	Ganja
Bud	Green
Herb	Mary Jane
Grass	Cheebea

Potency-related slang

Low-grade:		High-grade:	
Schwag	Dirtweed	Kindbud	KB
Mid-grade:		Hydro	Trees
Middies	Skunk	Dank	

Lacing Marijuana

Marijuana is sometimes laced with other drugs, often without the knowledge of the user. Some of these drugs include powder and crack cocaine, PCP, and LSD.



Hashish

Laced with other drugs

PCP:	Powder or Crack
Dippers	Cocaine:
Boat	Chronic
Loveboat	Turbo
Killer Weed	Bazooka
Fry	Crack Back
Frios	Fry Daddy
Wet	Woolies
Water	

How can I tell if someone has taken marijuana?

Users who smoke marijuana experience the effects within a few minutes. The effects peak in 10 to 30 minutes, and the high generally wears off in 2 to 3 hours. When eaten, users feel the effects in 30 to 60 minutes, and they can last up to 6 hours. Someone high on marijuana might experience:

Mood elevation
Increased

awareness of senses
Dry mouth (cotton mouth)
Increased appetite (munchies)
Sleepiness
Dizziness & clumsiness
Bloodshot eyes
Anxiety & paranoia
Poor short-term memory
Racing heartbeat

Is Marijuana a Gateway Drug?

A recent study found that 99% of those who use illicit drugs other than marijuana had previously used marijuana. However, a majority of marijuana users studied (63%) did not go on to use other illicit drugs.



Paraphernalia– Pipes, Joints, Bong

Online Resources

Center for Substance Abuse Research

www.cesar.umd.edu

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.nida.nih.gov

Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Diversion Control

www.dea.gov/diversion

Partnership for a Drug-Free America

www.drugfreeamerica.org

American Council for Drug Education

www.acde.org



Dried Marijuana

Adapted from www.justfacts.org, a website designed to provide sexual health, alcohol and other drug education. Provided by:



The Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR)
University of Maryland, College Park
4321 Hartwick Road, Suite 501
College Park, MD 20740
Phone (301) 405-9770
Fax (301) 403-8342