



Drug Fact Sheet

Salvia Divinorum

WHAT IS SALVIA DIVINORUM?

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

WHAT IS ITS ORIGIN?

Salvia divinorum 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.

What are common street names?

Common street names include:

- Maria Pastora, Sally-D, and Salvia

What does it look 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.



Leaves of the *Salvia divinorum* plant

How is it used?

Salvia can be chewed, smoked, or vaporized.

What is its effect on the 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, paranoia, and hallucinations.

People typically experience rapid onset of intense hallucinations that can impair judgment and disrupt sensory and cognitive functions.

Salvinorin A is the principal ingredient responsible for the psychoactive effects of *Salvia divinorum*.

What is its effect on the body?

Adverse physical effects may include:

- Loss of coordination, dizziness, and slurred speech

Which drugs cause similar effects?

When *Salvia divinorum* is chewed or smoked, the hallucinogenic effects elicited are similar to those induced by scheduled hallucinogenic substances but can have a faster onset and be more intense.

What is its 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 divinorum* is not controlled under the Controlled Substances Act. *Salvia divinorum* is, however, controlled by a number of states. Since *Salvia divinorum* 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.