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Handbook Of Medicinal Herbs, Second Edition



Synopsis

A Practical, Authoritative Compendium This handbook catalogs 365 species of herbs having medicinal or folk medicinal uses, presenting whatever useful information has been documented on their toxicity and utility in humans and animals. Plants from all over the world - from common cultivars to rare species - are included in these 700 pages. The toxicity of these species varies, but the safety of each has been formally or informally questioned by the Food and Drug Administration, National Cancer Institute, Department of Agriculture, Drug Enforcement Administration, or Herb Trade Association.

Easy-to-Locate Facts and Figures Designed to enable fast access to important information, this handbook presents information in both catalog and tabular forms. In the catalog section, plants are presented alphabetically by scientific name. (The index permits you to locate an herb by its common name.) A detailed sketch of the chief identifying features accompanies most catalog entries. For each species the following information, as available, is presented and referenced:

- Family and colloquial names
- Chemical content
- Uses and applications - present and historical
- Processing, distribution, and economic potential
- Toxicological agents and degree of toxicity
- Poison symptoms in humans and animals
- Treatment and antidotes
- References to original literature

Five Tables of Accessible Data Given a plant species, you can easily determine its toxins; or, given a toxin, you can discover which plants contain it. These and other data are presented in convenient tabular formats as appendixes to the handbook. Other information contained in these tables include toxicity ranking and other toxicity data (as applicable), such as mode of contact, organs affected, and lethal dose; and proximate analyses of selected foods. These tables are titled:

- Medicinal Herbs: Toxicity Ranking and Pricelist
- Toxins: Their Toxicity and Distribution in Plant Genera
- High Plant Genera and Their Toxins
- Pharmacologically Active Phytochemicals
- Proximate Analyses of Conventional Plant Foods

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Customer Reviews

This book is the defining standard by which other publications dealing with herbal medicine should be judged by. This a valuable resource book for anyone doing research in phytochemicals. Duke has written in a style that can be understood by individuals with limited scientific background and yet is still be a valuable reference text. Not only does this text cover the actual chemicals responsible for some of the activities observed, Duke also gives a significant reference to the herb's ethnobotanical history (how various societies have used this in the past). Unlike other books on 'medicinal herbs' Duke not only points out their benefits and the various phytochemicals credited with these effects, he also points out various poisons, phytotoxins, that are also found in the herb and can cause deleterious effects. Overall, it is an excellent reference book.

Duke has compiled a comprehensive review of a number of plants which delves extensively into the literature that is out there on these plants. This is a list of the medical properties of these plants that goes far beyond a casual herbal, and should be considered by anybody seriously trying to advance the medical use of plants

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