

241. *NICOTIANA TABACUM* L. (SOLANACEAE) — Tobacco, Virginia Tobacco, Tabac

Tobacco is primarily grown for the leaves. When cured, leaves are used for smoking, as cigars, cigarettes, or in pipes, or chewed, or used as snuff along with other ingredients. Cured tobacco is classified as flue-cured, fire-cured, air-cured, cigar filler, cigar binder, and cigar wrapper, and each of these categories can be broken into finer groups. Tobacco dust is widely used on vegetable crops as an insecticide, or made into a liquid form, commonly known as black leaf 40. Tincture of tobacco is used in Latin America to remove ticks.³² Extracts proved strongly molluscicidal.²¹⁷ Removal of leaf proteins could yield a nutritious food and a safer smoking product, with carotenoids as a by-product.

According to Hartwell, the plant, usually the leaves, is used in folk remedies for cancer, carcinomata, cirrhosis, indolent ulcers, scirrhi, and tumors.⁴ Reported to be anodyne, anorexigenic, antidotal, CNS-stimulant, intoxicant, laxative, narcotic, parasiticidal, psychedelic, purgative, sedative, and vermifuge, tobacco is a folk remedy for asthma, backache, boils, catarrh, cholecystosis, colds, coughs, debility, dysentery, earache, epistaxis, flu, gastrostis, headache, head cold, lethargy, lumbago, malaria, menorrhagia, paralysis, pediculosis, puerperium, rheumatism, scabies, snakebite, sores, spasm, stomachache, tetanus, toothache, ulcers, and wounds.³² Medicinally, leaves are sedative, narcotic, emetic,