

		NICOTIANA
BOTANICAL NAME	:-	Nicotiana tabacum
FAMILY	:-	Solanaceae
LOCAL NAME	:-	Sla Duma
HINDI NAME	:-	Tambaku



HABITS AND HABITATS :-

This is a half hardy annual plant cultivated in tropical countries.

PLANTS DESCRIPTION :-

It is a half hardy annual, may attain a height of 1.8m. Flowers are rose coloured. There are different varieties in it.

PARTS USED :-

Leaves

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES :-

Its green leaves are applied to skin to cure scabies, destroy lice and have a salutary effect in cases of neuralgic pains and toothache. As a rectal injection, it can act as a direct stimulant in obstinate constipation and helps to reduce hernia or as a repulsive in apoplexy and asphyxia.

CHEMICAL COMPOSITION:-

The most important constituent is the alkaloid Nicotine, nicotianin, nicotine, nicotine, nicoteline. After leaves are smoked the nicotine decomposes into pyridine, furfural, collidine, hydrocyanic acid, carbon-monoxide, etc. The poisonous effects of Tobacco smoke are due to these substances of decomposed nicotine.

PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY :-

Seed is propagated by surface sowing in a warm greenhouse about 10 weeks before the last expected spring frosts. The seed usually germinates in 10 - 20 days at 20°C. Keep the soil moist and pot up as soon as the plants are big enough to handle, planting them out after the last expected frosts. Prefers a well-drained deep rich moist soil in a sunny position. Plants are not very hardy in Britain, but they can be grown as biennials in areas where winter temperatures do not fall below about -5°C. A polymorphic species. Tobacco is very widely cultivated for its leaves, there are many named varieties. As well as being used as an insecticide, the leaves are used to make cigarettes, cigars, snuff and for chewing. There are many long-term health problems associated with these uses, especially from cancer, lung, circulatory and heart diseases. The plant accumulates potassium. Plant requires more than 14 hours daylight per day in order to induce flowering.