

Glossary of Cannabis Terms

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Produced by



<https://cannabis.org.je>

Glossary

adult use: see recreational use.

bud: a colloquial term for a flowering top from a female cannabis plant.

cannabinoids: a group of over 140 known chemicals produced predominantly in the flowers of the female cannabis plant, the two most prevalent and widely researched being CBD and THC.

cannabinol and cannabinol derivatives: a legal term for the psychoactive and controlled cannabinoids of the cannabinol type, which includes THC.

Cannabis: a genus of flowering plants in the family *Cannabaceae* (which includes hops). The number of species is disputed but generally three are recognised: *Cannabis sativa L.*, *Cannabis indica* and *Cannabis ruderalis*.

cannabis oil: a solvent extract of cannabis in vegetable oil, which may or may not contain controlled cannabinoids but is often used in a legal context to refer to oils containing THC.

cannabis resin: a compressed solid made from the resinous parts of the cannabis plant, also known as hashish.

Cannabis Social Clubs: non-profit cooperatives in which cannabis is cultivated, shared, and enjoyed collectively, usually for the purpose of relaxing or for social communion, such as in Spain.

CBD: cannabidiol, the most prevalent non-psychoactive cannabinoid present in the cannabis plant.

CBD oil: an extract of cannabis in vegetable oil dominant in CBD, in which the controlled cannabinoids have been largely removed or the CBD has been isolated.

CBPM: Cannabis-Based Product for Medicinal use, a term used to describe unlicensed cannabis medicines prescribed for use in humans.

chemotype: a chemical type of cannabis based on the prominence of CBD and THC; type 1 being high in THC, type 2 being a balanced ratio of CBD and THC, and type 3 being high in CBD.

chemovar: a chemically distinct type of cultivar of cannabis that reflects 1-2 of the most abundant cannabinoids and 2-4 of the most dominant terpenes.

coffeeshops: establishments in the Netherlands first established in 1976 where the sale and consumption of cannabis by the public is tolerated by local authorities.

controlled cannabinoids: a [list of twelve specific cannabinoids](#) of the cannabinol type recommended for control by the UK's Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs.

controlled drugs: substances regulated under Misuse of Drugs legislation.

cultivar: a plant variety that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding, of which many hundreds now exist of cannabis.

de facto: in guidelines, often used in conjunction with decriminalisation.

de jure: in law, often used in conjunction with decriminalisation.

decarboxylation: the process of activating the various cannabinoids by the application of heat to alter the precursor acidic forms present in the cannabis plant.

decriminalisation: a relaxation of the law that removes an act from criminal penalties, but which may leave in place civil penalties to dissuade people from the act.

depenalisation: the implementation of reduced penalties for a criminal offence, such as cautions.

diversion: referral to education and/or treatment instead of the imposition of a criminal penalty.

dronabinol: a pharmaceutical term for the molecule of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

edible: a food item that contains cannabis.

endocannabinoids: cannabinoids produced naturally by mammals and other animals, such as anandamide and 2AG.

endocannabinoid system: an active and complex cell signalling network composed of cannabinoid receptors within the bodies of mammals and other animals, thought to regulate homeostasis.

entourage effect: the way in which cannabinoids and terpenes act synergistically to modulate the overall psychoactive effects and therapeutic benefits of cannabis.

euphoria: the experience of pleasure or excitement and feelings of well-being and happiness.

GACP: Good Agricultural and Collection Practice.

genotype: the particular genetic makeup of an organism.

GMP: Good Manufacturing Practice.

grinder: a device used for grinding, which is often used to prepare dried cannabis flower.

grow lights: electric lights often used in the indoor cultivation of cannabis.

gummy: a type of cannabis edible in the form of confectionery.

harm reduction: refers to a range of intentional practices and public health policies designed to lessen the negative social and/or physical consequences associated with various behaviours.

hashish: see cannabis resin.

hemp: cannabis grown for fibre and/or seed, which contains only trace amounts of psychoactive cannabinoids, otherwise known as 'industrial hemp'.

high: feeling euphoric, especially from the effects of drugs or alcohol.

homeostasis: a self-regulating process by which a living organism can maintain internal stability while adjusting to changing external conditions.

hybrid: used to describe cannabis cultivars that have a mix of indica and sativa effects.

hydroponics: a type of horticulture that involves growing plants without soil using water-based mineral nutrient solutions, often used in indoor cannabis cultivation.

Indian hemp: an archaic term for cannabis, used in the [*Dangerous Drugs \(Jersey\) Law 1954*](#).

indica: generally used to describe cannabis cultivars that have a sedative effect.

industrial hemp: see hemp.

kief: a collective term for trichomes that have been dislodged from cannabis buds, often collected separately via a sieve inside cannabis grinders.

legal highs: see NPS.

legalisation: the action of making something that was previously illegal permissible by law.

marijuana: the dried flowers and leaves of the female cannabis plant.

medicinal cannabis: cannabis produced to EU GMP standards that has been prescribed by a medical practitioner, available in the form of dried flowers, oils, and capsules.

NPS: New Psychoactive Substances, otherwise known as ‘legal highs’, which have been designed to mimic established illicit drugs.

phenotype: the observable characteristics or traits of an organism that are produced by the interaction of the genotype and the environment.

phytocannabinoids: cannabinoids produced by cannabis and a small number of other plants.

prescribed cannabis: see medicinal cannabis.

prohibition: the action of forbidding something, especially by law.

psychoactive: a chemical substance that changes the function of the nervous system and can result in alterations of perception, mood, cognition, and/or behaviour.

recreational use: the use of psychoactive substances either for pleasure or for some other casual purpose or pastime, also known as ‘adult use’.

regulation: a law, rule, or other order prescribed by authority.

responsible use: using recreational drugs in moderation, setting reasonable limits on consumption and not allowing drug use to overshadow other aspects of life.

sativa: generally used to describe cannabis cultivars that have an energising and uplifting effect.

Sativex: a licensed medicinal cannabis extract produced by GW Pharmaceuticals in the form of an oral spray that contains a balanced ratio of THC and CBD in alcohol, also known as nabiximols.

sinsemilla: a female cannabis plant that has not been pollinated and therefore does not develop seeds, thereby increasing the concentration of cannabinoids and terpenes.

Skunk: a cultivar of cannabis developed during the 1990s and named for its strong scent, often used as a term to describe all high-THC varieties.

strains: see cultivars.

synthetic cannabinoids: lab-made substances that are chemically similar to those found in the cannabis plant, often found in NPS such as Spice.

terpenes: chemicals prevalent in cannabis that are responsible for aromas and flavours.

tincture: a solution of a medicinal substance in an alcoholic solvent.

THC: delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol, the most prevalent psychoactive cannabinoid present in the cannabis plant, which is associated with the euphoric effects of recreational cannabis consumption.

trichomes: epidermal appendages, which on the flowers of the female cannabis plant produce resin that contains cannabinoids.

vaporiser: a device that heats a substance to produce a vapour for inhalation without combustion, also known as a dry herb vaporiser or heated nebuliser.