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NEUROLOGICAL STAMP

Humulus lupulus (hop)

The hop plant (*Humulus lupulus*) is a climbing vine of the hemp family of which cannabis is also a well known member. It has grown wild since ancient times in Europe, Asia, and America. From early antiquity its young shoots were eaten as a vegetable and its dried cone was used for its slightly narcotic effect to produce a sedation against mania, toothache, earache, and neuralgia. Hops were not commonly employed in beer making until the 14th century when they were used by the Dutch. In England the plant was looked on as an unwholesome weed that promoted melancholy and Henry VI and Henry VIII prohibited its use during their reigns in the 15th and 16th centuries. It was not until the 17th century that hops gained acceptance in England, both as an ingredient of beer and as a medicinal herb. A writer noted that the herb "preserves the drink, indeed, but replays the pleasure in tormenting diseases and a shorter life". In the late 19th century, hops were being recommended as a diuretic, a tonic, and a sedative.

The hop, along with other medicinal flowers, is shown on a stamp of Yugoslavia issued in 1955 (Stanley Gibbons 792, Scott 424).

L F HAAS

