

# Kratom

## What is Kratom?



### Street names for Kratom

Thank, Kakum, Thom, Ketum and Biak

Well is it a drug or not? Is it safe or are people sending themselves into a panic because it looks like Marijuana. According to the Drug Enforcement Administration, Kratom leaves from the Kratom tree has been used as an herb for centuries. The Thailand natives who live in Southeast Asia used these leaves to help laborers and farmers overcome muscle pains and strains but it was also used as a substitute for Opium when Opium was not available. In 1943 the Thai government made it illegal for anyone to plant a Kratom tree, classifying it as a narcotic. This placed Kratom in the same category as Marijuana.

Kratom is not new to the United States. For decades, people have been using it as an herbal tea to help boost their level of energy as well as to help with concentration issues similar to the herb Ginkgo Biloba. So what is all of the fuss about and why is it just starting to surface after decades of use?

Scientists haven't studied the effects of Kratom in full detail so they are still questioning why the effects are so different depending on the size of the dosage.

The effects of Kratom vary greatly throughout the strains. It also varies according to the amount a person uses. It is thought that it has something to do with certain alkaloids present in the herb. Alkaloids are a group of naturally occurring chemical compounds. For example, alkaloids occur naturally in coffee beans. The consumption of caffeine is seen to have its benefits to some people. It produces positive effects on the person's mental state including increased alertness, elevated moods, decreased fatigue, and can improve a person work performance.

**We will keep you informed when more information becomes available on this topic.**