

# Mandrake

(*Mandragora officinarum*)



In all the medieval herbals the mandrakes were always drawn with heads, then the bodies would be the roots with the legs crossed.

**Origin:** It grows in arid areas around the Mediterranean and Middle East.

**Element:** Air, Water      **Gender:** Feminine

**Planet:** Jupiter      **Zodiac:** Virgo

This plant was rumored to grow under the gallows of murderers and sprung forth from the blood that dripped from them below. Legends say that mandrake could only be harvested after sunset and that a circle must be drawn three times around the plant with a magickal sword before it is harvested.

## Magical Properties

**Protection and Prosperity:** A dried mandrake root will protect a home and bring happiness. If you place mandrake on top of money, it will make the money symbolically multiply.

**Love Spells:** The berries attract love when they are carried, and so does the root of this plant. They are also known to increase fertility.

## Medicinal Properties

**Poison:** Mandrake is poisonous. Historically it was used for medicinal purposes, but today there are many much safer options available.

**Hallucinogen:** In large doses it can incite delirium and madness, even though many people once used as a sleep aid and anesthesia.

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**Contraindications:** *Mandrake root is a hallucinogen and extremely toxic. It should never be eaten. If ingested, immediately go to a hospital.*