

The necessity of large scale cultivation of some important medicinal plants using in the Iranian pharmaceutical industries

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The utilization of medicinal plants has been increasing even in the developing countries and it is now obvious that almost 90% of mankind takes medicine basically of natural origin. Nowadays the renaissance of medicinal plants becomes quite pronounced indeed in the developed, industrialized countries and many drugs with medicinal plant active substances are produced. In recent years many kinds of drugs are produced from natural active substances in Iran. Many drugs manufactured from medicinal plants in Iran which there are not the relative medicinal plants as raw materials for producing them in large scale. population increases, it seems that Iranian pharmaceutical industries hardly is supplied with medicinal plants as original raw materials of the drugs. The investigation of large scale production of medicinal plants are necessary and have to be considered by the Iranian investigators: Though some of these plants there are not in Iranian flora, but for their importance in pharmaceutical industries their seeds imported to our country. The most important of medicinal plants that have to be cultivated in large scale are as follow: Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) is a perennial plant belonging to the *Asteraceae* family. All parts of this plant contain active substances such as alkylamid compounds, cichoric acid and essential oil which are antiviral and used as human immunostimulant. It could be cultivated in the north of Iran. Medicinal pumpkin (*Cucurbita Pepo* convar. *Pepo* var. *styriaca*) is an annual plant belongs to the *Cucurbitaceae* family. The seed of this plant contains fatty oil, B-sitosterol and E-vitamin that used to cure prostatic hypertrophy. This plant can be produced in semi - arid regions of Iran. Hops (*Humulus lupulus*) is a perennial plant belongs to the *Cannabaceae* family that are sedative. We are able to cultivate this plant in north of Iran. The other important medicinal plants are ginseng, ergot, valerian and milk thistle.