

## Introduction to production of Valerian in Iran

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Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis* L.) is one of the oldest medicinal plants. Valerian is an important raw material in modern pharmaceutical industries. The rhizome and root of valerian accumulated active substances. The most important of them are iridoid compound named Valepotriates that discovered in 1966. The Valepotriates mainly affect on the central nervous system and used as sedative and tranquilizer and cure the hysteria and hypochondriasis.

Nowadays the modern pharmaceutical industries are producing different types of medicines such as Nervenruh, Balddriparan, Valerian, Cardiosan, Balderian and etc; from the root of valerian plant.

The plant is cultivated for its important active substances in large scale in many countries like, Japan, Germany, England, Holland, Belgium, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and France.

Newly, in Iran many drugs are produced from this plant. In this context, the studies on the production of this plant started in 1993 and its cultivation has begun in 1994.

All the field experiments were conducted on sandy soil in Zardband region, located in the north of Tehran. In our experiment trials, we have used seeds of *Valeriana officinalis* produced in Germany.

In these trials the seeds are sown directly in the field with 50cm spacing in the row on the first of spring (March) of 1994, 1995 and 1996. The seeds also sowed in row 15cm apart in special nursery bed in the middle of summer (August) in 1994, 1995 and 1996. Then the seedlings were transplanted to the 1500m<sup>2</sup> field in rows 50cm apart with 25cm distance between each successive plant in autumn of the same year and spring of next year. Irrigation and fertilization the soil by suitable amount of N.P.K was regulary