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Medicinal Plants in China

**A selection of
150 commonly used species**

Compiled by
The Institute of Chinese Materia Medica
China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine



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Preface

Herbal medicine is one of the important resources which can be mobilized for the attainment of WHO's goal of health for all by the year 2000. It has contributed significantly to man's struggle against disease and has been an important component of health care systems for thousands of years.

China has a long history of herbal medicine and has developed a unique system for using it. It is noteworthy that the use of many plants has withstood the test of time, and the safety and efficacy of some of them have been established by means of modern tests in a scientific framework.

There are a number of domestic publications on medicinal plants in China, but few are available in English. Some of these plants can also be found in other parts of the world, thus the knowledge about them accumulated in China could usefully be transferred. To this end, the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, together with the Institute of Chinese Materia Medica, China Academy of Traditional Chinese Medicine, started the project of this publication in 1985.

There are about 7000 species of medicinal plants in China and 150 of those most commonly used were selected, photographed and documented.

It is hoped that the booklet will contribute to the exchange of

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