

CRIME PREVENTION

ALERT | NOVEMBER 2025

Authorized for widest release without restrictions.

KRATOM CONTAINED IN BEVERAGES

Kratom (*Mitragyna Speciosa Korth*)

Kratom is a tropical tree indigenous to Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar and other areas of Southeast Asia used as a stimulant by laborers and farmers to overcome burdens of hard work. Today, kratom is promoted as a legal psychoactive product on numerous websites in the United States.¹ Due to its popularity businesses have developed new ways to consume the product aside from chewing its leaves.

There have been developments such as pills, vape juices, and resins. Also, due to its popularity, labs have begun creating semi-synthetic versions of kratom, which uses the natural component of *Mitragyna*, but synthesized in a lab to create a more potent version of the product. Based on a recommendation from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the synthetic version of kratom is being considered for classification as a Schedule I controlled substance.

Kratom Beverage Product

Due to the legal status of kratom and its effects on the user, it has become a popular opioid-like substitute for recreational use. Beverage companies are now capitalizing on the popularity, offering products such as energy, seltzer, and herbal drinks that contain kratom, many of which are available at gas stations and convenience stores. It may not be easily distinguishable that some of these products contain kratom. **Review all ingredients before consuming.**

Effects

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, kratom can produce opioid and stimulant-like effects. The National Institutes of Health states, "In case reports, clinicians report seeing patients with a wide range of rare but serious adverse effects associated with kratom exposure—including mental and neurological symptoms (confusion, tremors and seizures), heart and lung problems (high blood pressure and slow breathing), gastrointestinal problems (nausea and vomiting) and liver problems."²

Legal Penalties

While kratom is legal in the U.S. and other countries, possession, distribution, and use by U.S. service members is prohibited under Army Regulation (AR) 600-85, para 4-2, I, (1) and (9). Soldiers who violate this policy may be subject to UCMJ action under Article 92, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order or Regulation.

Service members may face: Up to two years confinement, loss of pay and benefits and dishonorable discharge.

¹ Drug Enforcement Administration, KRATOM (*Mitragyna speciosa korth*), April 2025

² National Institute on Drug Abuse, <https://nida.nih.gov/research-topics/kratom>, March 2022

Kratom beverage products



WHITE RABBIT

DRAGON BREWING



FEEL FREE

NEW BREW

ADVERSE SIDE EFFECTS²

- Addiction
- Death from overdose
- Withdrawal symptoms
- Hallucinations, confusion, tremors, seizures
- Slow breathing, high blood pressure or other cardiovascular effects
- Nausea & vomiting
- Liver problems



REPORT A CRIME
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