

Drop



Drop. In English it probably means a drop of water. Or maybe I drop something. In Dutch it means candy. It is our national candy. It isn't a real Dutch invention like the tulip isn't Dutch either (we got them from the Turks) Drop is from Spain and China. It is made of the root of the liquorice-tree. Someday someone came up with the idea drying this root, grinding it, mix it with water, filter it fluid and at last pressing the water out to make it more compact. We Dutch think it is stupid to transport water. We have enough of it here in our 'under the sea level country'.

Nowadays we don't need the liquorice tree roots any more. Now we use starch. Much cheaper but to be honest the flavour isn't good like making drop from roots. But still the same: after boiling and mixing all the ingredients it still needs 2 days before the drop is ready: it needs this long to bake the liquorice substance.



In the old days drop was black and it tasted bitter sweet. A very distinguished taste. You have to love it. All the others hate it. Years ago I brought something with me during one of my trips to the USA. The result: some liked it but most of the foreigners didn't. The more friendly tasting ones are liked by Americans too: sweet-drop, salt-drop, sour-drop. Nowadays it is available in every flavour imaginable.

Most a this candy is sold by supermarkets but still there are some traditional stores here and there. Think about it: making money by selling only one kind of candy. Drop only in over 500 flavours. Some factory make (cheap) some handmade the traditional way (expensive) but for sure everyone can taste the difference.

Some figures: we (all Dutch citizen together) eat about 32.000.000 kg / year. Moneywise about € 176.000.000,- Men eat it in their car. Women eat it at home. It comes in a great variety:

- Sweet or sour or salt
- Soft or hard
- Black or red or green or yellow
- Strong- or mild flavours
- Pre-packed or self service
- Luxury or bulb item
- Box or bag or even single wrapped
- To chew or to lick

It is like this: in case a European visits America he/she simply has to taste a marshmallow In case someone from abroad visits the Netherlands it visit will only be complete after tasting drop. It completes the one and only Dutch experience (offered to you by ProHolland motor vacations).