

# THE CIA'S LSD ATTACK

An entire French town mysteriously went insane in the summer of 1951, and for nearly 60 years, there's been no concrete explanation of exactly what happened. Until now—according to a new book, the incident was the result of a Cold War experiment gone horribly wrong, an experiment using a recently discovered drug called LSD. The cause of this tragedy has been one of the CIA's most closely guarded secrets—and a US Army scientist was murdered to keep it hidden. **By Steven Hager**

Friday, August 16, 1951, was a day unlike any other in the ancient town of Pont-Saint-Esprit, a close-knit community on the banks of the Rhone River, founded in the fifth century and filled with Roman and medieval architecture. The first victims in what soon became known throughout France as *le pain maudit* ("the accursed bread") were animals. An astonished Laurain Moulin watched her cat suddenly go into convulsions and keel over dead in the kitchen. Moulin opened the door to the barnyard and saw several ducks staggering by, while others marched in unison, acting more like penguins. Another was lying dead on the ground.

By early evening, the local doctors' offices were filled with patients complaining of nausea, upset stomachs, insomnia and chills; their pupils were dilated, their temperature and blood pressure below normal. By morning, hundreds more were exhibiting the same symptoms. One woman in her twenties began having seizures. That night, two of the town's three doctors met to compare notes and concluded that over 200 people had been stricken by some sort of food poisoning that was linked to the town's favorite baker, Roche Briand. Wide-eyed and babbling, townspeople began appearing on street corners at all hours, some acting paranoid, others wearing beatific smiles and speaking of universal love; still others were dizzy, confused and had trouble executing the simplest chores. A few were hallucinating so wildly that they could barely distinguish fantasy from reality. An ambulance was called for an elderly man named Felix Mison, who seemed on the verge of a heart attack.

At 6 a.m. on Sunday morning, Emile Testevin was spotted lying naked on the ground near his home, writhing as if in intense pain. He was brought inside by his mother. Although Emile's father was already hallucinating, he took a wobbly bicycle ride to fetch the nearest doctor. The physician was puzzled by the behavior of the elder Testevin, who seemed positively bursting with euphoria while reporting his son's condition. Emile's father hadn't slept for two nights and was alternating between fits of depression and bursts of incredible energy and strength. As it turned out, barbiturates and other sleeping medications had little impact on Pont-Saint-Esprit's growing population of insomniacs, although they did seem to help with some of the convulsions. It was at this point that the doctors began to suspect ergotism as the cause of the mysterious outbreak.

Ergot is a parasitic mold that can form on rye, wheat and other cereal grains in high humidity. During the Middle Ages, epidemics of ergotism had appeared sporadically in Europe, usually after heavy rains during the harvest season. Symptoms included convulsions, seizures, nausea and vomiting. Many of the afflicted also experienced strange hallucinations, and their fingers and toes became gangrenous. The disease became known as "St. Anthony's fire," named after the order of Roman Catholic




The bridge at Pont-Saint-Esprit was built around 1300.

monks who became famous for treating the illness (although their treatment consisted of little more than putting patients in a hospital filled with religious icons). In 1650, a fungus was first suspected as the cause of the epidemics, but it wasn't until 1676 that the first mention of ergot appears in the English language. The most severe outbreaks took place in Gatinais in 1694 and Wurttemberg in 1735, although today some researchers believe that the Salem witch trials of 1692 were also the result of ergot poisoning.

Felix Mison died on August 20, the outbreak's first human casualty. By Monday morning, the 14th Mobile Brigade of Montpellier and other police officials and toxicologists began filtering into town in the first attempts to restore calm and determine the cause of the illness. However, things were destined to get significantly worse before they got better. One hour before midnight on Friday, August 23, shrieks and screams began resounding throughout the town—screams that would continue into the morning. The next day, the streets were filled with people in various states of undress, some completely naked, babbling incoherently. Some people believed they were being eaten alive by snakes or insects; others became violent and tried to strangle their friends or relatives. It was especially wrenching to see children in the throes of such psychic distress. Homes were trashed as the residents piled furniture against the doors and windows to protect themselves from imaginary invaders.

Unfortunately, the police responded with the worst possible tactic: tackling and restraining the delusional people and forcing them into overflowing barns and other makeshift hospitals that were being set up all around town to isolate the sick. At times, it took a dozen men to capture and subdue a single person. The following day, reinforcements arrived in the form of the militia, armed with more ambulances and more straitjackets. It was decided to move the most delusional people into secure asylums, a strategy that merely amplified their desire to escape, while isolating them from the comfort of their familiar surroundings. Those who resisted violently were given electroshock therapy at the asylums, increasing their pain and confusion.

The police arrived at Emile Testevin's home and insisted that he be taken to the asylum despite his family's objections. Although Emile was calm now, he'd experienced some violent moments, and the police were concerned about what might happen should the 200-pound giant become agitated again. Emile was loaded into an ambulance already filled with psychotics who couldn't understand why they were being removed from their homes or where they were going. One old man cried out, "My belly is full of snails! I am sending out radio messages everywhere. Get me an X-ray and you can see!"



Hundreds were captured in nets used to subdue wild dogs and at least 50 were later taken to asylums.

When the ambulance arrived at the asylum outside Marseilles, Emile was the last to be unloaded. Seven men couldn't remove him from the vehicle. The orderlies approached with a straitjacket, but when they tried to put it on him, Emile grabbed it and ripped it in half. The militia arrived with more men and more straitjackets. Emile tore through six more jackets before he could be subdued. He was taken inside, strapped to a bed and locked in a secure room. But when an orderly came back to check on him, Emile had somehow eaten through the leather straps (breaking many of his teeth in the process) and was bending the iron bars in the window so he could escape. Six orderlies were needed to move him to a subterranean room with no windows. By now, two other men had died, along with a woman who suffered from hyperthyroidism. The woman reportedly showed the early stages of gangrene on some of her toes, an almost certain indicator of ergot poisoning. Depending on whose statistics you trust, between five and seven people (most of them elderly and frail) would eventually die from the mysterious illness.

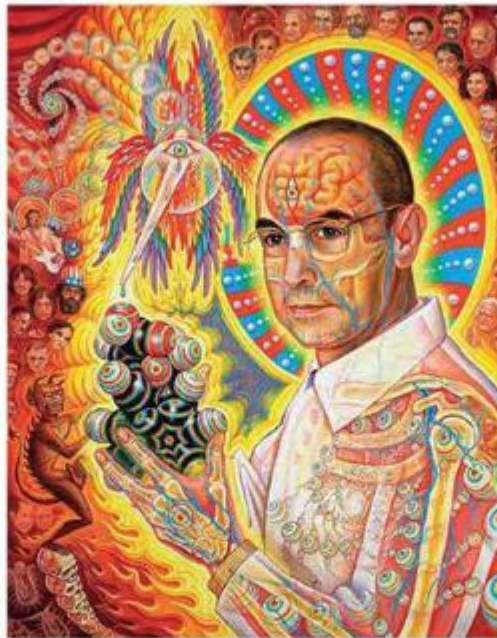
But just as the ergot theory was taking hold, an autopsy of Felix Mison, the first victim, indicated traces of mercury in his system. Although no traces of mercury would ever be found in bread samples or any of the other victims, many of the investigating scientists rushed to conclude that mercury-treated seeds were the culprit. Case closed.

Unexpectedly, however, two scientists from the prestigious Sandoz Laboratories in nearby Switzerland turned up in Pont-Saint-Esprit at the height of the outbreak: Dr. W. Arthur Stoll, a psychiatrist and the nephew of one of Sandoz's directors, and Albert Hofmann, the chemist who discovered LSD-25. Hofmann had stumbled across the hallucinogen while investigating the active molecules in ergot, minute amounts of which had been used by European midwives after the 1700s to heighten contractions and stop postpartum bleeding. Sandoz wanted to know whether the active ingredients in ergot had any significant medical applications. Hofmann and Stoll had come to Pont-Saint-Esprit, they claimed, because the townspeople's symptoms were much closer to LSD-25 than ergotism. At the time, however, no one had ever heard of LSD. Hofmann described it as potentially "appalling, frightful and shocking." He added that if LSD were ever used improperly, it might cause more destruction than the atomic bomb.

Both Hofmann and Stoll seemed certain that ergot in the flour had somehow broken down to LSD-25. Ergot alone, they reasoned, couldn't be the cause of the outbreak, because large amounts were needed to cause such widespread symptoms, and any bread tainted with such high concentrations would be discolored and obviously rancid. LSD, on the other hand, was odorless, colorless and thousands of times more potent. Both scientists agreed that mercury poisoning wasn't the answer either, because no kidney or liver damage had been found in any of the patients.

The events at Pont-Saint-Esprit would re-

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Albert Hofmann produced the LSD used at Point-Saint-Esprit, and participated in the cover-up after the incident went awry.

### Hofmann added that if LSD were ever used improperly, it might cause more destruction than the atomic bomb.

main a mystery for years to come. The victims formed an association to sue the cartel that controlled flour distribution in France in the 1950s, but this powerful group would be very successful in delaying, appealing and subverting their case. That left only the baker, Roche Briand, to sue, but he'd already lost his business (no one wanted his bread anymore) and had become an insurance salesman. Ten years later, none of the victims had received any compensation for their suffering, and there still wasn't a scientific consensus on the cause of the outbreak.

In 1968, John G. Fuller published a book titled *The Day of St. Anthony's Fire* (Macmillan). He focused exclusively on Briand's bread as the cause of the outbreak, dismissing other theories that the townspeople put forward (including the possibility of a chemical-warfare experiment). However, today many researchers will be inclined to look at Fuller as a person of interest in a possible cover-up. Immediately prior to his book on Pont-Saint-Esprit, Fuller had published an account of Barney and Betty Hill, the first recorded case of alien abduction, an incident that allegedly took place as the New Hampshire couple returned from a vacation trip to Canada in the early 1960s. Many researchers have come to the conclusion that thousands of Americans were secretly hypnotized and dosed with LSD in the 1950s and early '60s as part of the CIA's mind-control experi-

ments, and the Hills may have been two such victims. According to this scenario, the alien-abduction story was planted through hypnosis to mask the activities of government scientists. The current alien-abduction mythology may, in fact, be largely an invention of the national-security establishment to cover such experiments. (This might also explain why investigations into UFOs are so prevalent on the major cable channels, while investigations into real political events are so rare.)

There are several other connections that cast suspicion on Fuller's work, including his relationship with hypnotist Dr. Andrija Puharich (a.k.a. Henry K. Puharich), a parapsychology researcher most famous as the man who introduced spoon-bender Uri Geller to the world. Puharich has been linked to the CIA's MK-ULTRA mind-control program and was also involved in a series of bizarre séances with some of our country's wealthy elite. Another connection is Dr. Karlis Osis, founder of the Parapsychology Foundation in New York City, a research institute that worked closely with the Pentagon and the CIA over the years. In the late 1950s, Osis offered Fuller the opportunity to be the first journalist to try LSD and write about its effects. (Fuller turned down the offer.) While these connections certainly don't prove that Fuller was a witting accomplice of the CIA, they do suggest that he may have been a writer that the agency employed whenever a story needed containment.

In 2008, the events at Pont-Saint-Esprit were further investigated by Steven L. Kaplan, a professor of European history at Cornell University and an internationally recognized authority on French bread. Although it was written entirely in French, Kaplan's *Le Pain Maudit* was the subject of a feature in the *New York Times*. Kaplan went to Pont-Saint-Esprit after the book was published to give a talk about the incident. Although 30 chairs were set up for his appearance, over 400 people attended, demonstrating that the town has not yet forgotten the experience. According to the *Times*, "The government did its best to smooth over the incident and after many inquiries and court cases the affair was finally dropped in 1978. Explanations abound, none of which Kaplan finds satisfying. The most popular one, poisoning by a form of ergot fungus, he finds unconvincing. Mercury poisoning caused by Panogen, a cleansing agent used in wheat containers, was disproved although Kaplan says the government used it as a cover-up."

And there the matter would have rested, were it not for a researcher named H.P. Albarelli Jr., whose book *A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Secret Cold War Experiments* (TrineDay) finally broke the case wide open. Albarelli has spent the last 10 years investigating the death of Olson, a US Army biochemist who allegedly killed himself in New York City on the night of November 28, 1953. Initially, Olson's family was told that he had jumped through a closed window (wearing only his underpants) from his room on the 10th floor of the Hotel Statler. What the CIA didn't mention, however, was that Olson had been dosed with LSD

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without his knowledge six days earlier and had then been interrogated for 48 hours by mind-control experts in an attempt to determine how much of a security risk he posed. Olson, it seems, had grown weary of his job, which involved weaponizing chemical and biological agents for the CIA at Camp Detrick (now Fort Detrick) in Frederick, MD, and was planning to ditch his career and start over as a dentist. However, before he could gracefully exit his high-security position, Olson made a "terrible mistake"—one that would bring about his untimely death. Albarelli is convinced that fatal mistake was mentioning the Pont-Saint-Esprit incident to someone at Camp Detrick who wasn't cleared for the information, who then reported him to the camp commander as a potential security risk.

*A Terrible Mistake* will probably become the definitive account of what happened to Frank Olson. Over 800 pages long, it's a riveting exploration into the CIA's mind-control and chemical-weapons programs. When revelations about these programs threatened to emerge, then-CIA director Richard Helms made sure that most of those files were burned. But Helms was sacked by Richard Nixon during Watergate, and the new CIA chief, James Schlesinger, seemed determined to clean up the agency. William Colby, who took over the CIA after Schlesinger, was also convinced that the abuses needed to come out so that mistakes wouldn't be repeated.

A congressional commission controlled by then-Vice President Nelson Rockefeller was eventually created in 1975 to investigate allegations that the CIA was illegally operating inside the US. Colby was called to the White House by Rockefeller at the start of his investigation. According to Albarelli, Rockefeller lashed out at Colby during the meeting. "What the hell are you doing?" he said. "Why are you revealing all this stuff? Don't you realize this commission is a dog-and-pony show?" The commission would eventually reveal that a Camp Detrick employee had died as a result of being secretly dosed with LSD. Although the report took great pains not to mention Olson by name, it soon became clear just who this person was.

One of the primary reasons why the existence of these programs had to be concealed is that they revealed secret connections between the CIA and the Mafia. The key person in establishing this connection was a former OSS counterintelligence operative and narcotics agent named George Hunter White. White was the person who brokered the deal that set Lucky Luciano free and opened the doors for the French Connection to flood the US with heroin. White operated safe houses in New York and San Francisco where hundreds of people were dosed with LSD and then interrogated as White observed the sessions behind a two-way mirror. Low-level Mafia operatives were frequently the victims; meanwhile, upper-level Mafia members seemed to enjoy a very close relationship with White.

When Olson was brought to New York, White was supposed to take charge of his security, but he suddenly and unexpectedly had to depart for Los Angeles to attend his mother's funeral. In his place, White selected Pierre Lafitte, a CIA

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Frank Olson weaponized the LSD used at Pont-Saint-Esprit and was murdered by the CIA shortly after attempting to resign. Olson was judged a security risk because he'd leaked information about Pont-Saint-Esprit.

**'It should not be a difficult trick to sink a small container of [LSD] near the main outlet of water storage reservoirs, and 'excrete' a steady flow of the material over a period of many hours or days.'**

operative who was also a member of the Corsican Mafia, to guard Olson and make sure that he didn't escape. Olson was probably moved to the Statler (now the Hotel Pennsylvania) because Lafitte had a cover job as a security guard there. When it came time to move Olson out of the hotel, Lafitte brought along another Corsican Mafia associate, François Spirito, to help him. Then things got out of hand.

"Lafitte and Spirito killed Frank Olson," Albarelli says. "Some people have misunderstood my book and think it was a planned assassination. In my view, it wasn't—I think the intent that night was to take Olson to Rockville, MD, where the CIA maintained an asylum for troubled people they didn't know what to do with. And it wouldn't have surprised anyone if Olson would have ended up hanging himself or dying from some drug overdose a few days later. But to plan an assassination where two guys throw someone through a closed window? It doesn't make any sense—especially considering the guy they murdered just spent the last 10 years figuring out how to kill people with a pinprick. It's just too dirty and too quick to have been planned."

The smoking gun that Albarelli obtained through the Freedom of Information Act was an undated White House memo sent to CIA director William Colby that mentioned "George H. White,

Pierre Lafitte, FNU Spirito and the Pont Saint Esprit incident (Olsojn)." (The "j" in Olson's name is undoubtedly a typo.) This White House memo helped Albarelli put all the pieces of the puzzle together for the first time. He was also able to establish two of the key players in the 1975 cover-up: Donald Rumsfeld, then chief of staff to President Gerald Ford, and Rumsfeld's top aide, Dick Cheney. On July 11, 1975, Cheney wrote a memo to Rumsfeld titled "The Olson Affair." The memo included statements that the president should make about Olson's death at an upcoming press conference. Although the US government eventually reached a settlement with Olson's family, Ford himself always maintained that the death was a suicide.

While working on this story, I came across an illuminating quote in Albarelli's book from one of the CIA's scientists, Dr. Henry K. Beecher, in which he discusses the use of LSD in doses "so small that one can calculate that the water supply of a large city could be disastrously and undetectably (until too late) contaminated with quantities apparently readily available .... It should not be a difficult trick to sink a small container of [LSD] near the main outlet of water storage reservoirs, and the container arranged to 'excrete' a steady flow of the material over a period of many hours or days."

At the time, some government scientists believed that LSD could be a major advance in "non-violent" war. They were certainly interested in exploring its effects on civilian populations, especially at high doses.

Although a number of other large-scale LSD attacks were in the planning stages, most seemed to have been suddenly dropped. A Detrick employee said, "There was an adverse effect [in France]...what would be called a 'black swan' reaction. However, the Special Operations Division did aerosol spraying through the exhaust pipe of an automobile driven around New York City (Operations Big City and Mad Hatter). "Although White's records of the experiments were destroyed by the CIA in 1973," says Albarelli, "We know he twice detonated aerosol devices filled with LSD, and also did at least one LSD experiment within a New York City subway car."

But why Pont-Saint-Esprit, out of all the towns and villages in the world? "I never asked that question about any of the CIA's LSD experiments," Albarelli says. However, it turns out that there were two US Army bases located near the town, and one of them may have housed Frank Olson and other members from the Special Operations Division at Camp Detrick for a few days during the experiment. Olson's presence in Europe at the time was conclusively established after Albarelli examined his passport.

Unfortunately, Albert Hofmann, the man who discovered LSD, has since passed away. It would have been interesting to quiz him about the incident, which is curiously absent from his memoirs. When I told someone who knew Hofmann about these revelations (and Hofmann's own possible role in the cover-up), he responded by saying: "Albert always said he wasn't any angel. I wonder if this incident is what he was talking about when he said that." ✨

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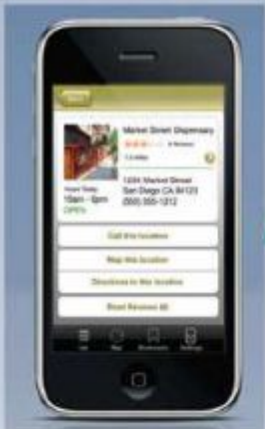
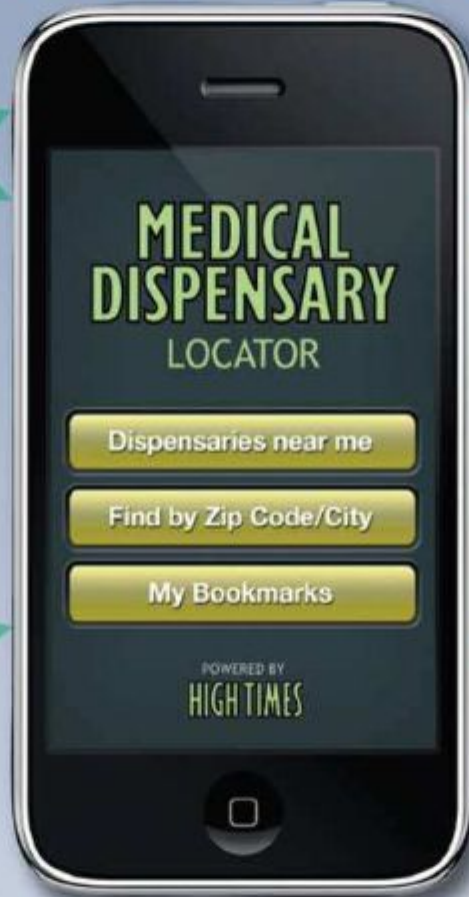
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Sen Dog, B-Real and Eric Bobo smoke out the house.

Animal

# CYPRESS HILLS

## *New Joint*

Hip-hop's trichome triumvirate returns with *Rise Up*. By Justin Hampton • Photos by Steve Payne

Sen Dog is sprawled out on a couch watching ESPN on a flat-screen TV as we enter "The Temple," the multi-room recording studio that Cypress Hill share with Fear Factory. So far, he's the only guy here. "It's weird, because I'm usually the last to turn up to these things," he informs us. Covering the wall behind him are a series of platinum and gold LPs indicating the 20 million units that Cypress have sold worldwide during their two-decade-long career. And positioned prominently on a countertop near the entranceway as the rest of the band arrives are the foremost components to their identity and continued success: two turntables and a three-foot bong.

Here in the 21st century, b-boys and b-girls often forget the role that Cypress Hill have played in enshrining marijuana as a key element of the hip-hop lifestyle. Granted, pot has been a presence in hip-hop ever since the days of "cheeba cheeba, y'all," but Cypress took it a step further with their debut LP in 1991 by embracing weed as a part of their brand—as inseparable from the band's character as B-Real's nasal flow and DJ Muggs's forbidding, gothic production skills. Their second LP, *Black Sunday*, went double platinum and turned the band into international superstars; they also made forays into metal, salsa and reggae, further expanding their fan base. Now, as the first group signed by Snoop Dogg to the revived Priority Records, B-Real, Sen Dog and percussionist/live orchestrator Eric Bobo have resurfaced after a six-year hiatus with *Rise Up*, a diverse, sprawling sonic attack that features production and appearances by Mike Shinoda (Linkin Park), Jim Jonsin (Lil Wayne, J-Lo), Pete Rock, Tom Morello, Daron Malakian, Pitbull, Marc Anthony, and their DJ/producer emeritus, Muggs. As longtime veterans of the hip-hop and legalization scenes, Cypress Hill still have plenty of spit left in 'em, and as an old friend of the band, HIGH TIMES was privileged to get their special perspective on both. So let's do this:

**Six years is a long time between albums. Was there any reason you made it now as opposed to earlier, or even a year later?**

B-REAL: After our last record [*Till Death Do Us Part*], which was our last record with Sony Music, we decided to just take some time off from doing anything. Our whole career has been: put an album out, tour for a few years, come back, chill for a few months, and start recording again. At the end of that record, we didn't have an obligation to really go back and record an album at any particular time. So we all did our individual projects.

Throughout that time, we regrouped to figure out what we were gonna do when we brought the Cypress Hill camp back together to make the next record—because a lot of people thought we broke up. But really, we've been doing shows sporadically in Europe and here in the States and in between recording. So we've been active, but just not on a tour circuit. And we kept hush-hush about making the record because we weren't gonna go and get a record deal, then work on the record—we didn't want that pressure. We did it when we felt it as opposed to having to force it, and we felt really good about it in the end. So we said, "Okay,

it's time to really get serious and put another joint out there" ... because a rumor *can* come true if you sit on your ass too long.

**With *Rise Up*, you've covered almost all facets of the Cypress Hill sound with the exception of reggae. Talk about that.**

B-REAL: We didn't really hit the reggae too hard on this one, and I love reggae—but I felt like on this particular record, we needed to get a more raw sound on it; I didn't want it to be so laid-back. So that's sort of the direction that we went with all of the hip-hop stuff and the more aggressive songs with Tom Morello and Daron [Malakian]. We try to make everything a rollercoaster ride, but with this one, we tried to be more up-tempo. We focused on the more hip-hop and metal aspects of what Cypress Hill is, rather than the irie ... because we're always irie, man.

**Is Muggs still a part of the group?**

B-REAL: Yeah, he's still in the group.

**It sounds like his role has changed, however.**

B-REAL: Yeah, we still have been working a lot to-

gether. I've been on his Soul Assassins records; he and I are gonna work on something next year, one of his "versus" records. But the man's busy. He's constantly in the studio making beats, so he pretty much let us take reign over this album, and he took on a lesser role. And I feel good about the direction, because we stood within the realm of what Cypress Hill is, but we pushed it a little bit further.

**Who is your audience nowadays? What works for them?**

SEN DOG: In recent years, with the shows that we've done overseas, we've seen fans that now come to the gigs with their 10-, 11-year-old kids and have them right there in front of them, watching Cypress Hill get down. It's rare when you have a hip-hop band that has that kind of appeal. It's not one particular race, or two or three races—it's a universal thing. And that's one of the great things that I like about being in Cypress: You can touch down anywhere and, in any language, they know how to sing "I Wanna Get High" [laughs].

**Obviously, marijuana can unite disparate groups of people, too. Your stance on marijuana hasn't changed, but a lot about marijuana has, especially here in California. How do you see the evolution of marijuana as an above-board industry?**

B-REAL: The evolution has definitely been great. Obviously, people want more, but it's a step-by-step process: You can't have it all at once, because there's so many different things that you have to explore before you actually legalize it. Because it's going to affect many things, especially the economy—and that's the best part, because obviously it's in the shitter pretty much everywhere. So they definitely need to get it done. But California is the test model right now, because I think it's the closest state to legalization. Up in Northern California, they have a different kind of model when it comes to the collectives than we do here. [Los Angeles] is looking at their model because it's so much more advanced than what we have. So they're taking pieces of that model

Glass with class.



**B-REAL: ‘We were asking [Cheech & Chong] if they would host the Cypress Hill Smoke-Out. Chong was like, “Yeah, fuck, for sure I’ll do it, on one condition: We get an ounce of B-Real’s greenest weed.”’**

and applying it to a couple of the dispensaries here that have been running the longest—and if that works, you’ll see all of the existing medical dispensaries doing what they’re doing.

There are already 15 states that have medical-marijuana or decriminalization bills in place. I think if this new regulation works, you’ll see a lot of states roll over. It’ll turn from 15 to about 35 to 40, I think. The Southern states will be the last ones to roll over—but everywhere else, you’ll start seeing everybody implement those bills, because it generates capital for the [state], and the federal tax will get theirs. It’s always [a matter of] trying to convince the conservatives and the religious voters that it’s the right thing to do—and I think if the test models work, it will be more convincing. But we’re going in the right direction. I believe that California will be the first state to legalize marijuana, if it happens.

Here in LA, they’ve estimated the number of dispensaries at 1,000. The City Council wants to narrow it down to about 70.

B-REAL: I don’t think that’s gonna happen. They’re going to have to doctor in more collectives, because that would be ridiculous—some people would have to drive 50 to 100 miles to come get medicine. You don’t have to do that for

any other goddamn prescription drug; you can get them at a fucking Rite-Aid right down the street, or a CVS. They’re cutting the revenue stream in half anyway if they do that. They just don’t know how many collectives there actually are, and how much marijuana those collectives hold—so they’re trying to get control of that, so that they know nobody’s making money under the table.

**It’s like prostitution in Nevada: You have it legal in some places, but that doesn’t stop a black market.**

B-REAL: No, because people are paranoid: “I don’t wanna be on a list, man, fuck that!” [laughs] But you gotta get out of that way of thinking. Look, we’re born, we’ve got a Social Security number ... ERIC: You’re *already* on a list.

B-REAL: You’re on a list from the day you were brought in. *Fuck*.

**On your YouTube page, B, you favorite some Alex Jones videos, and you also recommend William Cooper’s *Behold a Pale Horse*—both infamous conspiracy theorists. They’re known for inveighing against the system, yet we’re asking the same system to legalize marijuana. What do you see when you look at the power structure? Do you agree with Jones and Cooper about it?**

B-REAL: A lot of it’s very possible; some of it’s



B-Real puts his mola where his mouth is.

true, some of it’s a little unbelievable. So you just kind of gotta weed through it yourself—no pun intended—and see if you can see any of this stuff that these guys are talking about. And I think people have seen some of these things that these people spoke about in their books and lectures. And I think that’s why the movement is so much bigger than what it used to be. Now, on YouTube, there are so many conspiracy videos on there for everything, man—and some of it’s far-fetched, but some of it is true. And I think that’s why they let so much of it be out there, so you can say,



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“Well, this is just so ridiculous, all this is bullshit” ... so they can mask themselves *under* all the bullshit.

So it's hard to tell what's real and what isn't nowadays. But I gotta tell you, with William Cooper and the things that Alex Jones has been talking about for the last 10, 15 years, those are all factual fucking things. They proved all their shit.

**Have you ever thought about releasing any Cypress Hill-branded pot paraphernalia?**  
 B-REAL: Yeah, it's always been something in the back of our minds, to create things like that. Let's be realistic: Not only do we have the hip-hop and alternative following, but we've also got the pro-legalization culture that follows what we do because of what we talk about on the record. So, obviously, you wanna do something for them, like create a bong or whatever you can put out that people might like, so we're doing something with Roor Bongs. They've created two bongs for us. One is called Excalibur—it's actually our second version of Excalibur.

**That eight-footer?**

B-REAL: Well, this one's just over six feet, but they also made another one that's rare. I've rocked that one because the other one, it's in a travel case—you need a truck to bring it. But we're putting out these bongs with Roor close to the release of the album. And we're also releasing the Funky Feel Tip [joint filters]. So we're putting little things out there, but we've never really gone full-grown on it—because, really, at our base, we're about music. The music comes before anything else.

**Tell me about the skits Cheech & Chong did for the LP.**

B-REAL: We had Chong on the previous LP; we couldn't use half of the shit because I was laughing through the whole thing, so I fucked it all up. But getting them for this, we were lucky, because we were asking them if they would host the Cypress Hill Smoke-Out. Chong was like, “Yeah, fuck, for sure I'll do it, but on one condition: We get an ounce of B-Real's greenest weed.” [laughs] So I obliged him, gave them their shit, and they hosted the Smoke-Out and then came and did these drops for the album. They're really funny still, to this day—like, they just *ad-libbed* it. They were like, “Okay, let's talk about what we're gonna do real quick. Okay, yeah, this, that, that, okay, let's go.” And they knocked it out in minutes.



Lord of the strings.

**B-REAL: ‘Not only do we have the hip-hop and alternative following, but we’ve also got the pro-legalization culture that follows what we do because of what we talk about on the record.’**

**Has it gotten easier to do Smoke-Outs over the years? I don't know if you had any resistance to it in the beginning.**

B-REAL: When it really got off the ground, we had a little resistance from the authorities in the city we were throwing it in at that point, because they didn't really understand what we were doing; they thought we were just trying to throw it in their face. But when we brought it back just recently, they were so cool about it, you barely noticed they were there—they didn't really mess with anybody, because they understood what we trying to accomplish. And there was no violence of any sort. Not that many people were taken to jail. Certain people got their marijuana confiscated, but you don't wanna blow smoke in a cop's face. If he's letting you be in the spot smoking, don't rub it in his fucking face. Those were probably the people that went to jail, the people that were rubbing it in his face—or maybe they had more than herb, who knows? But it was a great event, and the authorities were pretty helpful on the whole shit. So I can't really say that when we relaunched it this year, anybody put up any resistance. There was one group that said they were gonna picket our event, but they never showed up [laughs]. So we didn't take it seriously.



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**Have there been any pitfalls that have come with being so visibly aligned with pot? If so, how have you dealt with them?**

**SEN DOG:** Well, the pitfalls of it are when you're taking your kids on vacation to Disney World, and some Texas lawman pulls you over and figures out who you are and tears your RV apart, swearing you've got weed on you. But that's minimal compared to the perks of it. There's a lot of people like me around the world, and everywhere I go, there's always somebody willing to have some good herb or some hash or a good spliff to share with you. And that's cool. We've had our points where we've gone into countries, and they swear it's hard getting into certain countries, or going out or whatever—but, for the most part, we've never gotten no major shit.

**ERIC:** We never really have disrespected ...

**SEN DOG:** Except for that time in France when they caught you fuckers with four pounds of shit on the bus. Remember that? When you had that little bag with like 10 balls of hash in it? Remember the dog found it on you?

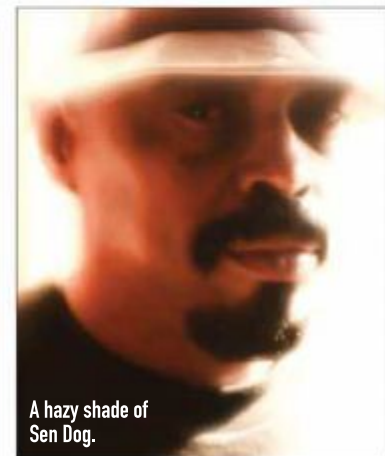
**ERIC:** Do we have to talk about that? [laughs]

**SEN DOG:** Except for *that* time.

**ERIC:** Except for that one time. But yeah, it's been crazy. We've gotten out of a lot of things, let's put it that way. I remember one time we were driving to the airport—and this was right after 9/11—and we were smoking out a van. And then there was a checkpoint, right? And we kind of totally forgot about it, and so it was: "Oh, whoa—*shit*, they're gonna check us!" The dude opened up, and all this smoke just came out. He looked in and he said, "'Oh, y'all ain't got nothing—y'all ain't got no *bombs* or anything. You all are good.'" [laughs]

**B-REAL:** We were bombed out!

**ERIC:** We just looked at him with a smile. We're like, "*Hee-ey!*"



A hazy shade of Sen Dog.

**SEN DOG: 'I love when people think you're done and you know you're not, and you come back and slap them in the face once again.'**

**What keeps Cypress Hill going after two decades?**

**B-REAL:** We still love doing this shit. We love to make music, we love performing it. We're blessed to be able to do what we do. And we've always been competitive, so we hear other shit out there and we're like, "Oh, we gotta make something that's gonna kill that." *That's* what keeps us going.

**SEN DOG:** I love when people think you're done and you know you're not, and you come back and slap them in the face once again. And to be able to have a band 20 years old—and our friendship goes back even further than that—that's some special shit that I don't feel like fucking stopping. And I'd like to accomplish some more goals with the group as well. Because there's only one Cypress Hill, and I'm in it. And it's a pretty kick-ass feeling to be part of a group that has the longevity that we have, the history ... *and* we smoke weed wherever we go. 🌿

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R.K. is a grand master grower of high profit plants from Santa Rosa, California. For over 15 years he used the same 3-part General Hydroponics fertilizer in his 20-light grow room.

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- Using the formulas which have been proven, in multiple scientific studies, to get more color, more aroma, more size, and more potency from our plants ...
- And using formulas which are not only highly-advanced and easily customizable, but easy to mix and use ...

In fact, Grand Master Growers have found Grow-Micro-Bloom (GMB) from Advanced Nutrients is the only 3-part formula on the market which meets all these criteria. Here's why the others don't measure up ...

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**Big Problem #1:** Most 3-part formulas are NOT made for the types of plants we grow because you'll discover they're about the same as the little \$3.50 bottles of granulated fertilizers the average homeowner uses on their garden flowers. They're made in generic ways with generic ingredients.

**Big Problem #2:** Is directly related to the fact other 3-part formulas are not made for high-value plants like ours ... and that is ... they're hard to mix and monitor and are the direct cause of many of your plant growing problems.

Many include artificial dyes of an unknown amount and molecular structure which could harm your plants (instead of harmless, organic dyes) ... they don't have the right PPM or pH ... they burn roots ... they don't feed plants the right nutrients leading to slow growth and reduced harvests ... and they may contribute to other growing problems. The bottom line? They basically wreck crops and waste your garden's potential!

**Big Problem #3:** If you're using other, different, formulas ... even if ... you do manage to get a formula with nutrients which are good for you plants (which, as you've seen, most don't have) ... then ... you're probably still wasting most of those nutrients because those formulas don't have carrier molecules to drive those nutrients straight into your plants faster and more efficiently. This is actually a big problem because most of your nutrients are not getting into our plants which wastes your money ... and ... this causes longer crop cycles which wastes your time. But it doesn't need to be this way ...

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The fact of the matter is: GMB offers you more value for your money than any other 3-part formula on the market and it's simply because you get 5-products-in-one with this formulation.

Here's how ...

- GMB now contains Wet Betty which is an organic surfactant that lowers the surface tension of your water, allowing easier spreading and uptake of nutrients into your plants.
- The second ingredient is humic acid which provides natural carrier compounds that transport nutrients and vitamins into your plants more efficiently, so they grow faster and have stronger cellular processes.
- The third ingredient is fulvic acid which gives you quicker nutrient absorption, nutrient transport, and more cellular metabolism. Together, these two acids work synergistically to maximize the time your plants spend in bloom.
- The fourth ingredient in GMB is the highly-potent bud-potentiating nutrients themselves that feed your plants exactly what they need for fast, high-powered growth and impressive finishing harvests.
- And the fifth and final ingredient is the specialized "chelates" we've already talked about that get these high-powered nutrients into your plants as fast and as efficiently as possible!

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This is a Super Silver Haze clone that we picked up in Reseda, CA, and grew out in Palm Desert, all done organically in soil.—Yer Fuct



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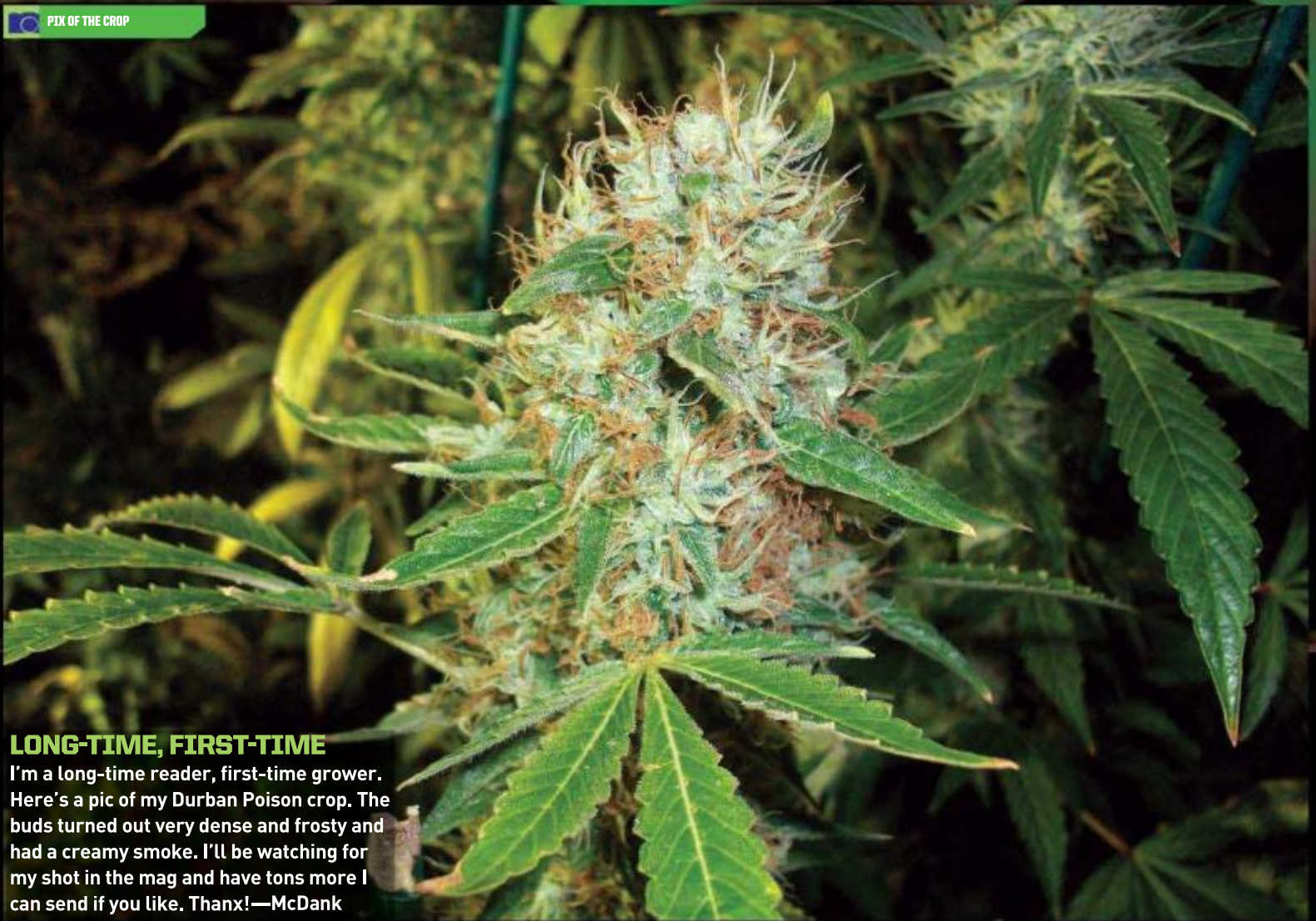
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### LONG-TIME, FIRST-TIME

I'm a long-time reader, first-time grower. Here's a pic of my Durban Poison crop. The buds turned out very dense and frosty and had a creamy smoke. I'll be watching for my shot in the mag and have tons more I can send if you like. Thanx!—McDank



### BLUE RHINO (above)

I hope you like my Blue Rhino close-up. Bronco Rob says it's always 420!—BR

### BIG BEAR BUDZ (left)

Growing the American Dream: six Bubba Kush plants in beautiful SoCal. They're only two months old and six feet tall already! Growing organic using fish emulsion, kelp meal, Superthrive, Budweiser, Coca Cola and molasses.—The Greenscotsman and Pops

Pix of the Crop is reader-driven. Your submissions make all the stoners of the world dream of kind nugs. Send pictures (no Polaroids), tips, questions and stories to: HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Digital photos can be e-mailed to [maibag@hightimes.com](mailto:maibag@hightimes.com) and must be hi-res for publication. Remember, by submitting photograph(s) you thereby grant permission to the publisher to reprint photograph(s) in HIGH TIMES, as well as in any other Trans-High Corp. publication.

# SENSI BLOOM

## The Bodybuilding Secret That Gives Your Plants Bigger, More Potent Buds!

In the sport of bodybuilding, athletes supplement with amino acids to help fuel muscle growth because they're the essential "building blocks" on which protein growth is based.

But your plants can benefit from the addition of amino acids too! That's why the 4th ingredient in this one of a kind 2-part base nutrient is amino acids. These amino acids are the building blocks of proteins that fuel metabolic pathways for enhanced floral and essential oil production.

Ingredient #5 is, of course, the actual plant-maximizing nutrients themselves. But, you should know ...

## How To Get The Optimal Amounts of Micro and Macro Nutrients For a Bigger Yield

To ensure your plants get the most out of the nutrients you're feeding them, the scientists rely on chelation to enhance absorption. In fact, this 5-in-1 formula contains the optimum number of chelated macronutrients that your plants need for faster growth and bigger blooms.

In addition, the following micronutrients are 100% chelated: iron, zinc, manganese, molybdenum, copper, boron and cobalt ... which of course means ... your plants more easily absorb and use these nutrients—giving you bigger buds and more yield from the same bloom time!

## How This New Plant Growing Technology Maximizes Your Bloom Phase So You Get A Huge Harvest You Can Be Proud Of

This team of respected scientists and their graduate assistants worked around the clock to ensure this nutrient worked unlike any other:

- You get earlier flowering with more budding sites ...
- You get a shorter internode length and more buds per stem ...
- You get thicker diameter flowers with better floral structure because the powerful, pure ingredients feed your plants more effectively ...
- You get more time in peak bloom because your plants flower earlier giving you more weight, more aroma, more color and more potency ...

If they had stopped there, you would still have seen an impressive increase in your total yield.

However, in developing this advanced 2-part bloom fertilizer – Sensibloom — this team of scientists went the extra mile!

## The Ideal Ratios, Already Dialed In For You ...

It's a known fact that the further you move away from feeding your plants their ideal nutrient ratios, potency and yield rapidly deteriorate.

You see, your plants use a small amount of phosphorus during flowering, but what they really love to use is nitrogen and potassium. The scientists at Advanced Nutrients discovered this only after taking thousands of weekly tissue samples from buds, stems, leaves and roots of many varieties using gas chromatography analysis throughout all phases of plant growth.

Other nutrient companies are over-using phosphorus in hydroponic bloom fertilizers. And to compound problems, they use high levels of ingredients like mono ammonium phosphate (MAP) or diammonium phosphate (DAP). These substances are what give some plants their harsh taste.

But the good news is: with Sensibloom you're guaranteed to have the correct nutrient ratios for your plants!

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Here's the story: recently, a respected team of over a dozen plant scientists and graduate assistants discovered, after 109 man-years of research, how to combine 5 different plant improving formulas into one breakthrough 2-part bloom base nutrient.

What's more: you'll never have to worry about pH issues again because these scientists have completely eliminated the need for pH-PPM metering or even adjusting pH levels with their patented pH-Perfect™ Technology.

All this in effect means it is now possible for even the most inexperienced hydroponics rookie to start experiencing "pro level" juicy yields and buds!

## The "Secret" 5 Part Plant Maximizing Formula and How Science Ensures Get You Bigger, Juicier Buds From Your Plants Because of It!

Ingredient #1 ensures that the nutrients in this formulation get into your plants as quickly as possible. It's an organic surfactant called Wet Betty and it does something every plant grower wants ...

... Surfactants are wetting agents that lower the surface tension of a liquid (in this case, nutrient-rich water) allowing easier spreading and uptake of nutrients into your plants. Which of course means your plants will get the organic nutrients they crave faster and more efficiently than ever before — which greatly increases your plant's bloom yield.

Ingredients #2 and #3 are humic and fulvic acids. These organic acids give your plants an edge when it comes to growing quicker, stronger, and bigger ... with less stress ... than with any other formulation. Here's how .

The humic provides natural carrier compounds that transport nutrients and vitamins into plants more efficiently, so your plants grow faster and have stronger cellular processes. In addition, the fulvic here gives you quicker nutrient absorption, nutrient transport, and more cellular metabolism. Together, they work synergistically to maximize the time your plants spend in bloom.

And ingredient #4 completes the package because it's ...

BY NICO ESCONDIDO

# EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our mini-section devoted wholly to medicinal strains, news, uses, developments, activism, politics ... everything and anything, really, that is medically related to marijuana. This is your *Cannabis Clinic!*

## Cannabis Deficiency?

As humorous as it may sound, cannabis *deficiency* in humans may actually be a serious medical condition, according to a growing body of scientific evidence that points toward such a possibility.

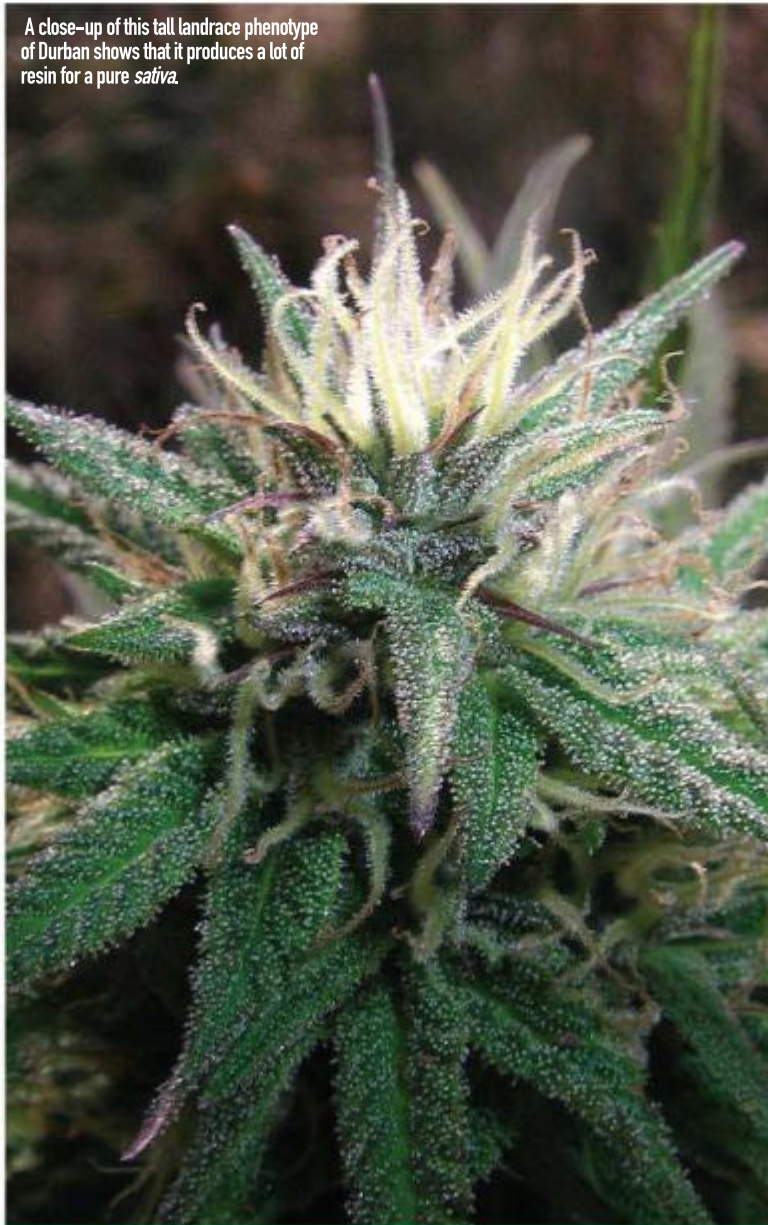
For over 20 years, doctors and scientists have known about receptors in the brain that can accommodate the more than 50 active cannabinoids in marijuana. These cannabinoids bind to particular neurological sites, almost as though the brain was specifically designed to utilize this plant.

Scientists also know that when receptors exist in the brain for a particular type of compound, that compound will be produced in the body. This is true of many important agents that work to transmit brain messages of all types. So a hunt began to find such a compound and to answer such questions as “Did nature toss cannabinoid receptors into the brain by random chance?” and “Are cannabinoid receptors part of an intelligent design for deriving maximum benefit from cannabis?”

To that end, in 1992, researchers in Israel isolated the cannabinoid anandamide in the human brain. Unlike THC, the main psychoactive compound in marijuana, anandamide is an endocannabinoid (i.e., manufactured in the brain); the name itself is derived from the ancient Sanskrit word *ananda*, which means “bliss.” In the brain, anandamide functions as a bliss molecule, enhancing greater well-being and emotional satisfaction. It also plays a role in proper appetite and memory, as well as in mitigating inflammation and pain.

Interestingly, cannabis also affects these same functions. Cannabis has been used successfully to treat such ailments as migraines, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syn-

A close-up of this tall landrace phenotype of Durban shows that it produces a lot of resin for a pure *sativa*.



## MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH

# Durban

Once again highlighting the medical benefits of *sativas*, this month’s medicinal strain comes to us straight out of South Africa and is a dark, pure landrace *sativa*: Durban. Also known as Durban’s Poison, this plant loves the outdoors and lots of sunlight. She often grows dark green leaves with hues of brown, amber and even purple if the conditions get cold enough.

A second hybrid version called Early Durban was also put out by the Flying Dutchmen Seed Company in Amsterdam and exhibits a whiter color with less hairs and more resin. This hybrid was likely bred with an *indica*, making its medicinal tilt slightly different than the pure Durban.

In terms of its medicinal effects, the pure Durban possesses a strong yet functional high that is very cerebral. It’s often used by patients to treat high anxiety, depression and muscle spasms, or as an appetite stimulant for patients undergoing cancer treatments such as chemotherapy.

drome and glaucoma, just to name a few. So should cannabis be considered a medical replacement in cases of deficient anandamide?

Some people think so, including Dr. Ethan Russo, who believes that endocannabinoid deficiency might actually be a significant cause of the types of health problems listed

above. His paper “Clinical Cannabinoid Deficiency,” published in the journal *Neuroendocrinology Letters* in 2004, delved deeply into the various ways that cannabinoids function in the body and proposed that a deficiency in these compounds can lead to a broad range of diseases. Since the publication of that paper, a num-

ber of studies have further confirmed the effectiveness of cannabis for many health disorders.

The concept of clinical cannabinoid deficiency is a new idea that not only lends itself to current medical applications but also to a broader range of mood disorders and general issues of well-being. As state and local laws continue to evolve and change in favor of greater tolerance, perhaps cannabis will find its proper place in the home medicine chest right next to the aspirin!



## HIGH TIMES Launches Medical-Marijuana App for iPhone

Introducing CANNEX, the HIGH TIMES medical-marijuana locator application for iPhones and patients everywhere! Need to find a dispensary near you? Want to know which club has your favorite strains? Want to do some comparison shopping *before* you leave your house? This app has everything you could ever want and more!

There has not been and likely never will be a more definitive medical-marijuana application than this one from the good folks at HIGH TIMES. CANNEX aims to serve medical patients by providing accurate and comprehensive information so that those in need of treatment can get the service they deserve. CANNEX provides complete dispensary listings, reviews, and in-depth menu information and prices—updated in real time by the dispensaries themselves!

The CANNEX app is available now for download through the iTunes App Store. For more information, visit [hightimes.com/cannex](http://hightimes.com/cannex). Check it out and let us know what you think! ✨

Got medical questions? Pass ‘em over to Nico at [nico@hightimes.com](mailto:nico@hightimes.com).

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## COUNTER CATERING

Glycerin-based treats deliver the buds without the butter. By Ashley Boudreaux

“Dedication to Medication”—that’s the motto over at Counter Catering, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit medical-marijuana collective. Although they only started producing their “I Can’t Believe It’s Pot Butter” edibles and Chronic Tonic ganja drinks in 2009, their patient load has already exploded, doubling in the first quarter of 2010 alone. They’ve built a good reputation around a diverse yet consistently tasty product line and a strict adherence to food-safety protocols.

Anticipating the inevitable government regulations on medical-cannabis food in California, the folks at Counter Catering plan to be ahead of the curve long before the hammer comes down.

“Everything is made in a licensed kitchen—licensed by the Los Angeles County Health Department—and handled by licensed food handlers and packaged in FDA-approved packaging,” explains Adam, a board member of the Counter Catering collective. He expresses genuine concern over the notion of people mass-producing medical edibles in their homes without either training or oversight. All of the dispensaries that the collective serves have a copy of its commercial-kitchen license.

“There are people who do it right and there are people who do it wrong, just like in any other industry,” Adam states emphatically. “There are a lot of collectives out there that seek a huge profit margin, and that’s the antithesis of where we should be heading. People need medicine, and they deserve to have it at a fair price—and they deserve to have edibles that won’t make them sick.”

Counter Catering strives to master the art of titration while eliminating the taste of marijuana in their products. And while they haven’t fully eradicated the ganja flavor yet (hey, I like that flavor), they have managed to successfully



Take the glycerin challenge.

downplay it. Adam believes that the ubiquitous use of trim can negatively affect the taste of ganja food, so Counter Catering opts to use bud shake instead, filtering their butter or kosher glycerin multiple times before adding it to their goodies.

Adam says that the key to ganja cooking is to go long, slow and at low temperatures. He explains that while cannabis butter requires digestion, the glycerin in Counter Catering’s ganja drinks is rapidly

absorbed, providing a quick, light buzz—a head lift without the couchlock. Although tinctures can also be made with alcohol or oil, the collective prefers to use glycerin for several reasons. For one thing, the distribution of an alcohol tincture requires an alcohol permit in California. For another, “with glycerin, there’s zero fat, and it doesn’t raise blood-sugar levels, so it’s diabetic-friendly. And glycerin is water-soluble, whereas oil is not.

“Our Lazy Lemonade is always a *sativa*,” Adam continues. “We’ve found that with the glycerin-based drinks, it makes a difference, because it’s a lighter medication—whereas when you eat a brownie, you’re making a commitment for the night.” He affirms that people can easily work with food-grade glycerin in their own kitchen at home. “It’s a steeping process similar to butter—you make it the same way you’d make butter, and the patient would have to find the ratio that works for them.” Adam admits that while they have their own “golden ratio” at Counter Catering, “and things that work perfectly,” their products might not work for everyone, since every patient doses differently. So they pay attention to feedback and hope for the best, working many hours each day with one goal in mind: “We’re committed to things being properly made so people can be properly medicated.” ✨

### CANNABIS GLYCERITE

Although Counter Catering understandably wouldn’t share their proprietary recipes or “golden ratio” with me, I believe the following recipe for a basic glycerite is a good place to start. Despite the ubiquitous postings on the Internet regarding methodology, I do NOT think that simply steeping cannabis in glycerin is optimal. I believe that heat is also important, for both decarboxylation and general-extraction purposes. USP food-grade glycerin (also spelled “glycerine”) is available online from distributors like Starwest Botanicals, the Essential Oil Company and More Than Alive.

¼ oz high-quality ganja shake  
5 oz USP food-grade glycerin  
3 oz water

Simmer at a very low temperature (shoot for 180°F) for two and half hours. Cool until it can be handled. Wear latex gloves. Strain, then squeeze the ganja glycerite well through unbleached cheesecloth (ideally—I’ve heard that pantyhose and coffee filters also work, but cheesecloth is perfect). This makes seven to 14 servings, depending on the desired dose. Use it instead of sugar in your favorite drink, but keep in mind that glycerin is sweeter, so be prepared to experiment.

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# HIGH HURDLES

**Obstacles still hinder marijuana-law reformers in the battle for cannabis freedom.**

Despite the remarkable strides made over the last decade toward cannabis legalization in the United States, some *major* challenges remain, and much hard work will be required before cannabis consumers achieve parity with our Dionysian brethren who responsibly imbibe (and pay taxes on) alcohol. And so, from the trenches of the cannabis-law reform movement (and in no specific order of importance), here are the top five challenges that NORML sees ahead for total cannabis legalization in the next five years.



1) If the Democrats lose control of Congress in 2010, and/or President Obama loses to a social conservative in 2012, trouble will likely follow as, historically speaking, Democrats support cannabis-law reform far more than Republicans.

2) Save for NORML, organizations working for cannabis-law reform need to better diversify their funding base and not become reliant on non-stakeholder, hyper-partisan, elite billionaires for financial support. When an organization's (or movement's) funding basically comes from a billionaire who is also spending tens of millions annually trying to unseat a political party and its candidates, the side being opposed tends to see the organization as simply another partisan player, and so they are instinctively less inclined to support its cause—in this case, much-needed cannabis-law reforms.

Also, without a diverse funding base, organizations dependent on a single bankroller are subject to the whims and demands of often-mercurial individuals. And if scandal strikes the organization, the funder may withdraw his or her philanthropy. For example, the employee scandal at the Marijuana Policy Project this January led to cuts in a grants program that left numerous important and worthy MPP-dependent

organizations and projects in jeopardy.

3) Amazingly, whether it's a concerted strategy of the prohibitionists or a true indicator that the public no longer supports the untenable status quo of cannabis prohibition, it's becoming increasingly difficult to identify opponents of marijuana-law reform to publicly debate. This "high-class problem" frustrates reformers on two levels, since both media outlets and university settings often require a debate format when it comes to airing views on supposedly controversial public-policy topics.

4) The good news is that more Americans than ever before support ending prohibition laws and finally legalizing cannabis, with most polls showing that 45 percent of citizens now support such a policy. The challenge will be chipping away at the 55 percent of the population that still supports prohibition. Polling from NORML indicates that the primary groups of citizens in opposition to cannabis-law reform self-identify as Republicans, Christians (notably "New Born," Baptist and Methodist), Hispanics, Asian-Americans, the poorly educated and low-wage earners.

5) Sadly, less than 1 percent of cannabis consumers actively support their own liberation, often due to fears of the criminal-justice system, making political organizing a distinct challenge for groups like NORML. If the stakeholders for cannabis-law reform matched the level of involvement of past social-justice movements, such as women's suffrage, civil rights, and gay/lesbian equality, cannabis prohibition would come to a screeching halt almost overnight.

Always remember that cannabis freedom is possible for those willing to work for it.— **Allen St. Pierre**, Executive Director of NORML. Contact NORML at [norml.org](http://norml.org) or call 888-67-NORML.

## Ask Dr. Mitch



Dr. Mitch, I'm getting the "marijuana leads to crime" rant again. Help me out!

Ian T.

**Hi Ian,**  
A study in Norway followed the same group of people for 14 years, from ages 13 to 27. Although the cannabis users in the group were busted more often than other folks, it was only for crimes like cannabis possession. In other words, if cannabis weren't illegal in the first place, cannabis users would be as law-abiding as anyone else.

This is going to sound weird. My girlfriend and I are older, and we've already been married to other people before. She says she wants to get remarried all the time—except when she gets high. What's that about?

Ron P.

**Hi Ron,**  
Wow! Some research on women in their twenties has shown that those who get high are less obsessed with getting married than those who don't; this is really just a reflection of conservative social attitudes, though. In your case, I'd ask if there's some other way to provide what she wants. Many people think that bells will ring and birds will sing once they're married, but her first marriage probably showed her what a lie that is. Perhaps a little meditation with the plant makes her realize that things are good right now, even without a ring on her finger.

I have a friend with a vaporizer, and I swear it doesn't do anything different from smoking a joint—it still makes smoke that gets people coughing.

DJJ

**Hi DJJ,**  
Your friend may have the heat turned up too high. New data out of the Netherlands confirm that vaporizers provide a better ratio of cannabinoids to junk (read: potential respiratory irritants) than smoking. But if your pal is cranking the heat, that's just smoke coming out.

Dr. Mitch Earleywine, Ph.D., is an associate professor of psychology at SUNY Albany. He's the author of *Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana*. Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at [420research@gmail.com](mailto:420research@gmail.com).

## FREEDOM FIGHTER

### NORML'S OWN PAUL ARMENTANO

Paul Armentano serves as NORML's deputy director and contributes our compelling analyses of medical cannabis and marijuana-law reform. His annually updated paper, "Emerging Clinical Applications for Cannabis and Cannabinoids," is a scientific defense of medical marijuana. His "Real World Ramifications of Cannabis Legalization and Decriminalization" examines the results of marijuana-law reform worldwide, while "Breathe, Push, Puff? Pot Use and Pregnancy: A Review of the Literature" allayed the fears of many expectant mothers and "Cannabis and Driving: A Scientific and Rational Review" tackled a controversial subject with reason and calm. He is also the co-author of the popular polemic *Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink?*

In addition to his scholarly works, Armentano finds time to submit testimony and sometimes appear personally before state legislatures considering marijuana-law reform. He's also frequently sought as an expert witness in court, particularly on the topic of drug testing. Armentano's reviews and analyses of the scientific data have led to reduced sentences and even acquittals for many cannabis defendants, including one Los Angeles woman on probation who'd failed nine consecutive urine tests for marijuana metabolites. Armentano testified that frequent cannabis users can test positive for metabolites weeks after stopping use and can even fail a urinalysis after successfully passing several of them due to the fluctuating rate at which THC-COOH is flushed from the system.

Armentano lives in the Bay Area of California with his wife and baby, and he can also be found lecturing as a member of the faculty at the famous Oaksterdam University in Oakland.



Paul Armentano

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# Let It Snow

Even Mother Nature can't stop the perfect SSDP mid-Atlantic conference.

By Nathan Johns and Jason Matthys

With over a foot of snow in the forecast, we weren't sure what to expect, but in January of this year, four SSDP members from Northern Virginia Community College headed south to Richmond to attend the regional SSDP event that we had been planning for months.

Upon arrival, we stopped to pick up a few pizzas for the potluck dinner that we had planned for the night before the event. Arriving at the party, we were immediately greeted by the welcoming faces of some of the best people in the world: fellow SSDP members from four states in the mid-Atlantic region. We found ourselves immersed in the positivity of the get-together, and while we were having such a great time, the looming threat of a massive snowstorm vanished from our minds. Then the various SSDP members—from West Virginia University, the College of William and Mary, and Virginia Commonwealth University, in addition to our contingent from NVCC—headed to the hotel. It was getting late, and the first flakes were beginning to fall.

In the morning, we woke up to a lovely continental breakfast and over a foot of snow on the ground. The school that was supposed to host our conference was closed, plus chapter members from four additional colleges weren't coming anymore—and all of our scheduled speakers were snowed in. Making the best of a bad situation, we asked the front desk if they had a meeting space that we could use, and they kindly let us have their impressive official conference room. The 15 of us who had been able to make it to the hotel before the storm then convened the first-ever SSDP mid-Atlantic strategy summit.

Popping open a Mac, we set up our first event of the day, a video chat with Aaron Houston of the Marijuana Policy Project. Aaron recommended the use of some unconventional lobbying techniques, such as waiting in a statehouse cafeteria to catch representatives that you'd like to speak with (but never interrupt a representative already in conversation with another person, he added, and be assertive yet courteous when speaking with them).

Next, we watched the film *Ecstasy Rising* and afterwards had another video chat session, this time with Rick Doblin, the executive director of MAPS (the Multidisciplinary Association of Psychedelic Studies), who was interviewed in the film. Doblin informed us of the current—and fascinating—research going on regarding the use of Ecstasy (MDMA) in the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which may lead to MDMA becoming an FDA-approved medicine.

Then, thanks to SSDP's connections with Flex Your Rights, we watched an exclusive pre-release screening of the film *10 Rules for Dealing with Police*. It was filled with tons of useful information for asserting your rights when the cops



Nathan (left) and Jason at the SSDP mid-Atlantic summit.

## The crazy thing was, even with the blizzard, we still managed to have an amazing conference.

try to go beyond their proper bounds. One of the most important of the 10 rules is: If the police are questioning you, be polite but firm in saying, "I do not consent to searches."

The next morning, we all went outside to dig our cars out. After making angels and a huge "SSDP" in the snow, we checked out of our rooms and met up for a last lunch before our departure. Then we walked back to our cars, said our goodbyes and parted ways.

The crazy thing was that, despite the blizzard (and with more than half the attendees unable to make it), we still managed to have an amazing conference. Not only "amazing"—I would even say "perfect." We rose above a very significant obstacle and, instead of scattering and falling apart, became a tight-knit group of students with a common passion who managed to improvise and pull off an extremely productive event. We blended together and got along tremendously, without a single disturbance. It was truly a great experience, and it spoke volumes to me about what this organization is all about: good people fighting for a good cause. We refuse to let anything—including the occasional blizzard—get in the way of our dedication to ending the War on Drugs. ✨

Nathan Johns is freshman at Northern Virginia Community College (NVCC). Jason Matthys is a senior and the founder and president of NVCC SSDP.

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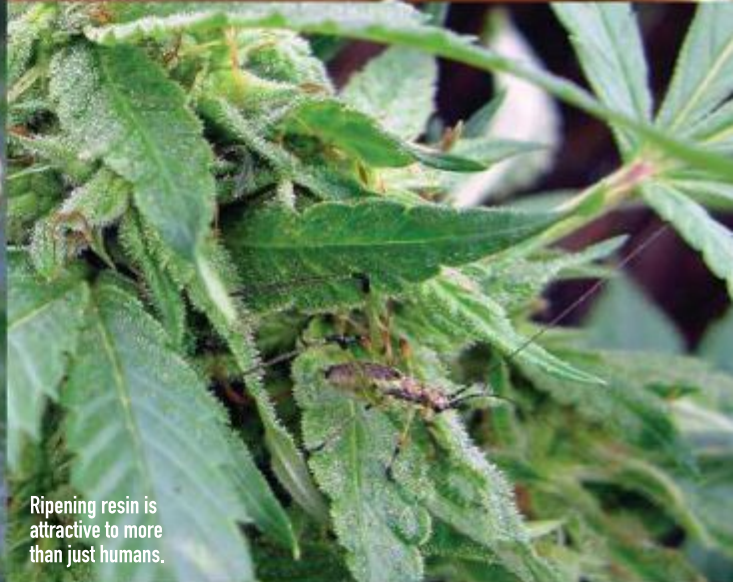


# INDOOR ORGANIC PEST CONTROL

PART 1: PREVENTATIVE MEASURES.  
STORY BY HUGH JIËLDER



Hand held inspection of this bud reveals bud rot, or *botrytis*, within the flower.




Ripening resin is attractive to more than just humans.



Ladybug beetles (*Hippodamia convergens*) can actually help prevent problems by eating harmful pot pests.

Like anything else that can't be seen by the unaided eye, controlling pests is tricky business. Fully grasping the underlying biology of pest control can take years of study. Listening to the experiences of other growers can be helpful, but growrooms differ greatly, and people tend to fill in what they can't see with guesses posing as facts. Complicating the flow of information, the corporations selling pest-control chemicals are occasionally mindful of lawsuits. The growers' quest for good information on this subject can be a truly humbling experience that tests our intellectual abilities to judge information, follow directions and learn from experience.

In the first installment of this two-part series, we're going to introduce you to some known scientific facts on how plants defend themselves against pests, then discuss the most fundamental techniques for *avoiding* pest problems in the first place. In our second installment, we'll go over some particularly effective nontoxic techniques for containing or eradicating pests once they crash your party.



Much to a breeder's dismay, this sucker knows exactly what it wants going directly for a mature seed ovule.

## THINKING LIKE A PLANT

To master the concept of pest control, we must first shrink ourselves and enter the miniscule world of bugs and plants. In a general sense, pests are after the sugars that your plant produces. A cannabis plant's goal, on the other hand, is to seed at least one single flower before it succumbs to winter. The grower's goal is to trick the female cannabis plants into thinking they're about to reproduce without ever providing them with the male pollen necessary to do so. Tricks aside, the plant and its caretaker share a common symbiotic goal: Resist the pests that will limit the plant's ability to generate flowers. The grower should not expect to be a mere spectator in this process. By studying how plants already tend to fight off pests, he or she can assist and fortify the plants' pre-existing defenses.

A typical plant is covered in millions of bacteria per square inch. Once a plant is damaged or weakened, these microorganisms will compete for the plant's sugars. Clearly, the plant's first line of defense is its skin. Plant skin is really like a

waxy-scale armor that covers both leaves and stems. Different plant strains differ in the waxes they exude to protect themselves from pests. This wax also prevents the plant from becoming too wet or dry, and even directs condensation to the advancing root tips. The plant moves gases and water vapor through this armor.

This is why growers are required to use surfactants (soaps and detergents) when applying pest-control chemicals onto plant leaves. The surfactant breaks up water droplets into an extremely thin layer, which the plant can take its time in absorbing. Without the surfactant, chemicals will often just roll off the plant like water off a windshield. It would appear that nature hasn't much use for foliar sprays on plants. But nature plays a numbers game, while the indoor grower's garden must work every time.

Plants are also covered in little hairs, whose purpose differs with each type of plant. When growers spray their cannabis plants with fluid, any beads that become suspended above the leaf can act as a miniature magnifying glass and burn the

leaf if exposed to intense light. Strong light may also induce the plant to take in the chemicals too quickly, which can have a similar result. For these reasons, pest control is always performed in the absence of intense grow lights, and plants are generally permitted a number of hours to absorb the chemicals according to their own preferred schedule.

The application of any pesticide onto a plant's leaves will disrupt its waxy armor, and it can take as long as three weeks for the plant to regenerate it. But although, at this point, it may sound counter-productive to spray anything at all on your plants, the absence of a balanced ecosystem in an artificial indoor-grow environment arguably leaves the cannabis grower with little alternative. What this means, however, is that an ineffective pest-control spray will do more harm than good. It also means that indoor growers will want to supplement *all* of their plant feed with a silicon additive in order to strengthen their plants' cell walls. It's worth noting that young cuttings, which have yet to grow a waxy layer, can be damaged by the application of *any* chemical other than water to their leaves.

Plants do not have immune systems like humans. Healthy plants will respond to any chink in their armor with *exudates*—a fluid that's transported by the circulatory system to problem areas. Plant exudates can seal up a wound much like a human blood clot. Some plants have evolved exudates that possess very special pest-control properties, and these chemicals can even be extracted from one plant for the purpose of introducing them into others via the roots or leaves. Neem oil and its extracted form, Azatrol, are actually neem-tree exudates. These differences in waxy-scale armor and exudates tend to explain why various kinds of plants have different bugs that enjoy eating them.

## DISINFECTANTS & ENZYMATIC CLEANERS

When it comes to the tiny world of bacteria and fungi, biologists often talk about disinfectants in terms of electricity. For example, chlorine works by grabbing electrons from proteins and enzymes, which in turn interferes with the flow of electricity through membranes that many microorganisms require to survive. As growers, we need not concern ourselves with such granular details. Cannabis growers can be incredibly effective at what they do without fully comprehending the underlying science of *everything* they do. Often, it's enough to be fluent only in what works and how to best use it.

Disinfectants are a great example. When it comes to cleaning grow gear, some of the best chemicals are those that people are already quite familiar with: bleach, hydrogen peroxide, alcohol and flame. Fire can be useful for sterilizing small metal instruments like pruning scissors, but it's useless for cleaning the plastics in most of the grow gear that growers typically use. Isopropyl alcohol kills both fungi and bacteria, but it's similar to the common disinfectant, Lysol, in that it will not destroy fungal spores. Isopropyl alcohol is typically used only to sterilize small instruments.

A 10:1 bleach-to-water solution is an excellent and inexpensive disinfectant for cleaning a grow-





Growers need to be diligent in inspecting gardens as pests can come in a variety of camouflage.



Slugs and snails leave web-like holes in leaves and will devastate any vegetation, even roots!



Check leaf undersides for whiteflies that will inhibit chlorophyll production and plant growth.

room's surfaces, but even miniscule amounts of residue can destroy beneficial microbes if it's used on reservoirs, tubing or grow pots. Thus, surfaces that come into contact with plants, nutrients or beneficial microbes should instead be sterilized between grow cycles with a solution of hydrogen peroxide ( $H_2O_2$ ).

$H_2O_2$  (specifically, a 35% solution) should be mixed into water at a ratio of 100 (water) to 1 ( $H_2O_2$ ). Be sure to check the label and make sure that it's the 35% solution, as hydrogen peroxide comes in many different concentrations; the more common 3% solution sold in convenience stores will require a 10:1 ratio. Not only does hydrogen peroxide kill both fungi and bacteria, but it does so without leaving any toxic residue; it breaks down into water and oxygen very quickly when exposed to light, so plants love the stuff. Growers can purchase 35% hydrogen peroxide in bulk online—but be careful when using it, since it can burn both skin and plant tissue at this concentration.

All of these disinfectants will kill beneficial microorganisms along with the bad ones if introduced into your plants' root zone. Therefore, when building an artificial ecology to support root functions with compost tea or a soil filled with helpful living organisms, growers should look elsewhere when it comes to "cleaning" their media mid-cycle. Enzymatic cleaners like Hygrozyme, Canazym and SensiZym can be added to nutrient mixes because they don't actually kill anything; instead, they facilitate the breakdown of dead organic matter (like dead roots), which can help prevent rot and disease. (Enzymatic cleaners were originally developed for hospitals to clean surgical operating equipment.) However, plant pests can also use this material for food to gain strength and stage an attack, so be careful using these products if you have known or suspected pests around, such as insects.

Unlike its competitors, the manufacturer of Hygrozyme claims that its product can even be added to a hydrogen-peroxide solution at a ratio of 1% to 2%. Not only might this improve the cleaning of gear between cycles, but it also means that the two can be used together in a recirculating grow system.

### PEST-CONTROL PROTOCOL

Experienced growers who value their time always keep their growrooms clean. That's because they know from experience that pest problems always start out small and invisible just before they become out-of-control and devastating—and most problems are already serious by the time you notice them in a room with many plants. When it comes to dealing with these virtually invisible pests, the grower's best weapon is a strict adherence to cleanliness and an anti-pest protocol designed to prevent the most serious threats administered on a regular schedule.

Rule no. 1 is: Keep your indoors separate from your outdoors. This applies to pets, clothes, tools, fluids and media. To the extent that you can achieve this, your pest-control knowledge and preventative measures will become less and less necessary! Remember, pests frequently arrive on clones. If you want to avoid them altogether, set up a sealed room and start from seed. Let's face it: Buying clones from strangers is promiscuous behavior.

Next, keep your environment proper and stable. Even if your plants might enjoy higher humidity, moisture is a germination signal for spores—and since air holds different quantities of water at different temperatures, large temperature swings can induce condensation in your growroom, which can germinate spores. Thus, smart growers keep humidity in check *throughout the room* in order to control fungi. This can mean wrapping cold-air ducts in

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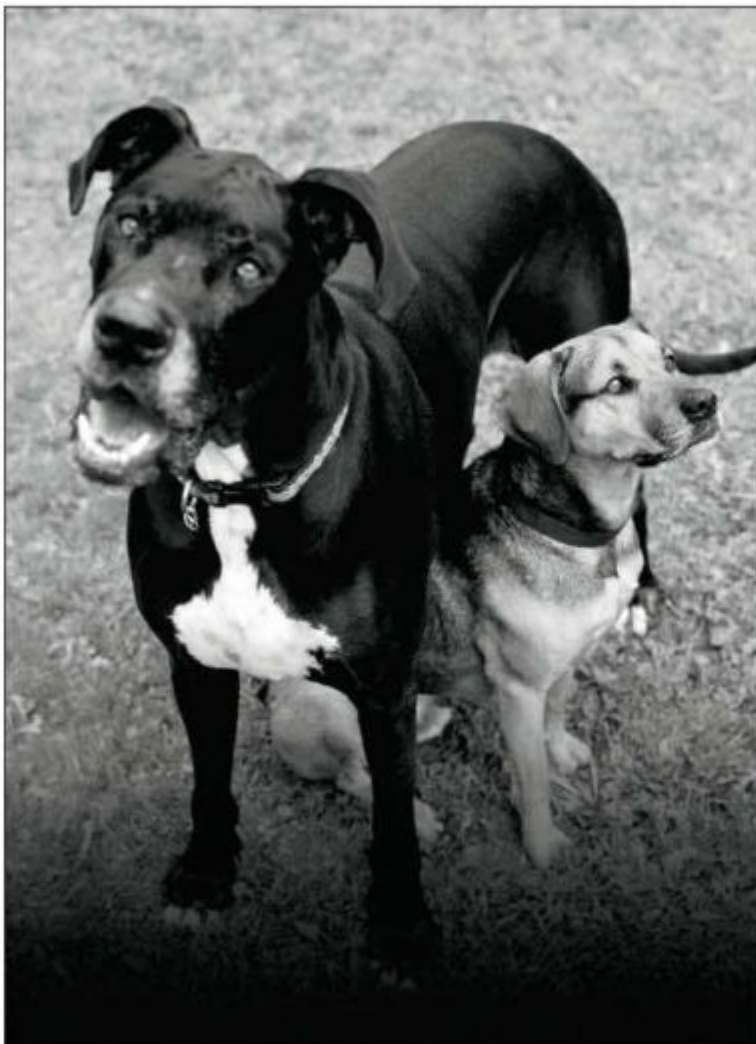
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Powdery mildew grows in gardens that have high humidity and temps below 70 F.

insulation in order to avoid condensation. Stay within 60% to 70% relative humidity (RH) during the vegetative phase, and 40% to 60% RH during flower.

Regulating temperature controls insect reproduction as well. Hot rooms require more treatments to control or eradicate pests simply because they replicate more bugs. Keep the plant-canopy temperature where the plant prefers it, around 76°F to 78°F.

Here are a few more important strategies:

- Don't imagine that you're mixing together some witches' brew. Creative pest-control mixtures can both alter the characteristics of the chemicals and damage your plants or yourself.
- Don't reuse your soil or soilless media unless the manufacturer has suggested it. Nature reconditions soil with microorganisms through a composting process. Don't try to bring outdoor compost inside your growroom, as this can introduce all sorts of unwanted house guests that have no natural controls indoors.
- Keep air moving over all the surfaces of your growroom in order to distribute moisture evenly throughout. At the same time, don't blast any particular plant with air to the extent that it has to struggle to maintain moisture, since any damage to your plants is an opportunity for pests to steal their sugars. Oscillating fans are perfect for satisfying both of these requirements, but a digital recycling timer will accomplish the same thing with stationary fans.
- Grow systems should always be thoroughly cleaned between cycles. If possible, water your plants by hand to avoid the use of plastic plumbing, which has tiny crevices inside that can accumulate dead matter over time. If the use of plumbing is unavoidable, replace it in its entirety every few grow cycles.

● Although it's no reason to avoid the challenge, keep in mind that hydroponic and aeroponic recirculating systems are generally more problematic in the root zone because recycling water favors the natural transportation of water molds and bacteria. Sterility can be a serious issue when you're trying to create a balanced microorganism ecosystem (i.e., organic hydroponics); in part, that's because pythium spores have tails that they can use for transport. Nutrient temperatures should be kept cool (below 70°F) in order to minimize pathogen issues in such systems.

● Some highly successful growers avoid creating a biological ecosystem altogether. Since hydrogen peroxide breaks down into oxygen and water as it kills pests, these growers top their recycling nutrients off with enough H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> to sterilize the fluid of all microorganisms at all times. Since the H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> degrades with exposure to light, this will work far better if the recycling nutrients are *never* exposed to light. This technique can create very large bundles of bright white roots.

## MASTER GROWERS ARE STUDENTS OF THEIR PLANTS

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BY ERIC SCHONER



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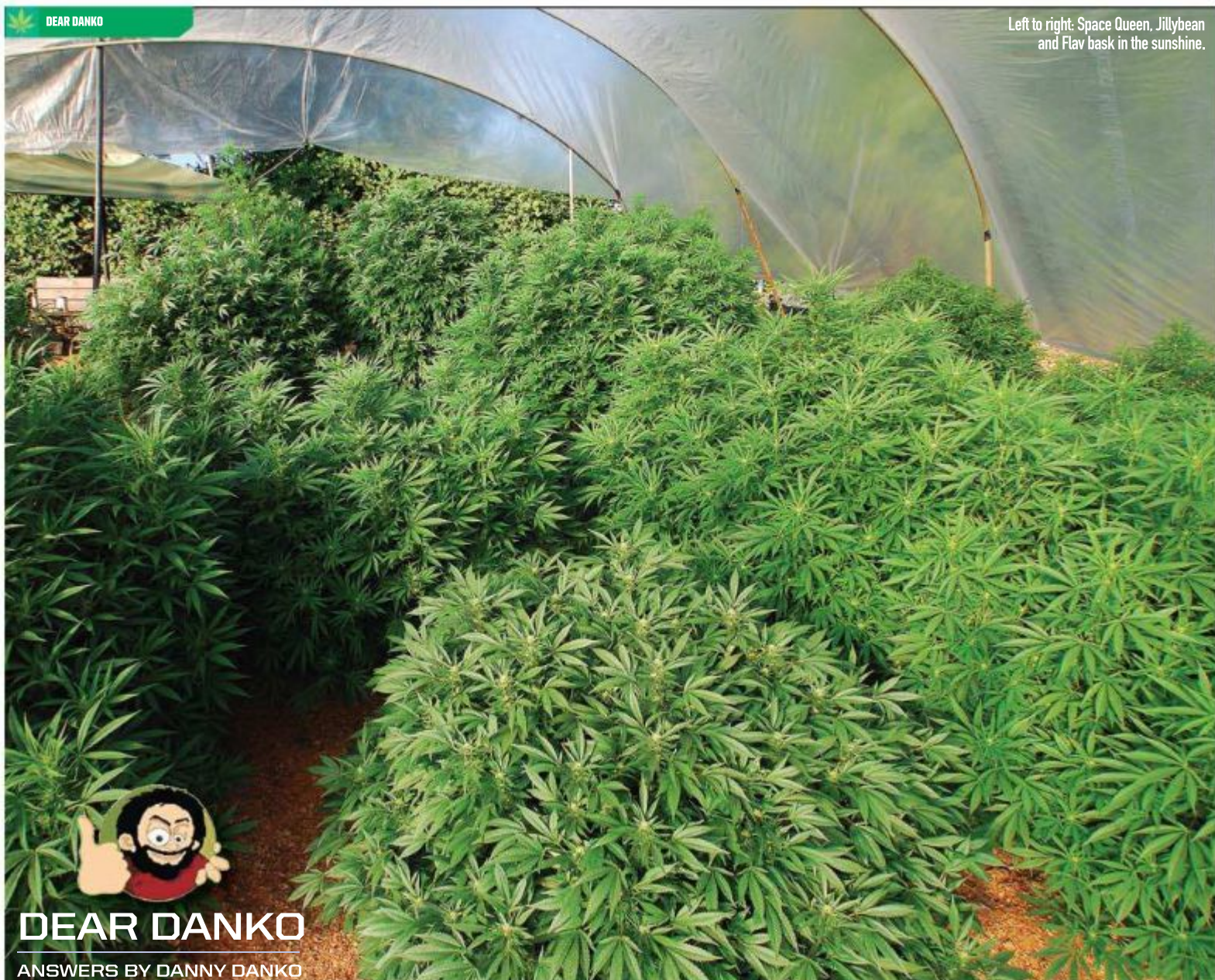
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## DEAR DANKO

ANSWERS BY DANNY DANKO

### LIGHTING FOR VEGETATIVE GROWTH

Which light is the best for seedlings and clones until they get growing? The light I'm using now is a 400-watt metal halide (MH), and it makes the seedlings grow so tall and skinny that they fall over. I've grown outside before, but I'm trying inside now for the first time. Please help!

*Terry*

Dear Terry,

Vegetative growth is the first stage of a pot plant's growth, extending from the seedling stage until you begin flowering by cutting the light cycle to a 12-hours-on/12-hours-off schedule. Plants require at least 18 hours of light during the vegetative stage in order to thrive, and also to avoid the stretching that you describe.

The high-intensity discharge (HID) lamp you're using—a 400-watt metal halide—is perfect for vegetative growth due to its intense blue-spectrum light, meant to simulate the summer sun. My suspicion is that your grow light is placed too far away from your seedlings, or else you aren't using it for the full 18 hours or more per day. If you determine that the former is true, lower the lamp and reflector closer to the seedlings—12 to 18 inches is best. If you find that the latter is true, use a timer to ensure

that your young vegetating plants receive at least 18 hours of full light per day. Either way, your seedlings should then start growing shorter and thicker stalks.

### AUTOFLOWERING MOTHER PLANT

I've got three Blueberry mothers (three months old) that are growing well and have provided me with several clones. The problem is that one of the females doesn't want to stay in the vegetative stage despite 20 hours of light per day. She's in full bloom, and it's difficult for me to clone her because of the buds and not enough stem and leaves. Even her clones don't want to grow—they just sit at about 4 to 5 inches tall and then bloom regardless of the light cycle. The daytime temperature is quite low at 65°F to 75°F and dry at 45% to 55% humidity. The other two Blueberry mother plants are doing well, however, and so are my two Kali Mist mothers; they're all about 3 feet tall. What should I do?

*Preecha*

Dear Preecha,

Your auto-flowering mother plant is pretty much worthless. Let her finish flowering and focus on maintaining the health of your remaining mother plants. The problem is that she and any clones

you manage to take from her will revert to the flowering stage no matter what the light situation. This is why auto-flowering plants are grown from seeds.

Clones taken from any flowering plant will have a difficult and strenuous time switching back to the vegetative stage, but clones taken from an auto-flowering plant almost never do. The only thing you could potentially do with your plant is to try to breed with it, but even that is probably best left to the experts. Be thankful for your four other normal mother plants and take clones from those to your heart's content.

### WHITE-POWDER BLUES

I have a serious problem that I've never experienced in my years of farming: My plants' leaves have a fuzzy white film on them, and some have stopped growing altogether. What is this stuff, and why is it happening?

*Apple Jack*

Dear AJ,

Sounds like you have a problem with powdery mildew (PM). This airborne fungus is a plague to farmers in many regions, with the Pacific Northwest being particularly vulnerable. The mold attacks during both humid and dry

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DEAR DANKO

Once clones are showing roots poking through the bottom, they are ready to be placed into their growing medium.

weather and forms patches of gray or white fuzz. PM spreads quickly under the right conditions and causes reduced yields and even plant death when left untreated.

Many treatments exist to reduce the spread of PM, including sulfur burners, Floramite, various fungicides and neem oil, but most only control the problem without fully eliminating it. The best preventative is to provide plenty of air circulation, as stagnant air makes a perfect incubator for molds.

A company called Dutch Master makes two products called Zone and Penetrator that have shown promise when plants are dunked fully in diluted solutions made from them. Another useful new product for dealing with PM is called Eagle 20EW—but keep in mind that it is a systemic poison and should *never* be used on flowering plants. Due to the potential toxicity of this product (and others like it), I find it tough to recommend it in all but the most severe and devastating outbreaks of “the powdery,” as it’s sometimes called. Consider it only as a “nuclear

option” and, no matter what, always rotate the products that you choose to use against PM or pests of any kind.

Another more reasonable and forward-thinking approach is to try to grow strains that are naturally more resistant to PM. Many varieties bred in Canada and other parts of the Pacific Northwest boast this quality as a matter of necessity. Do some research on the cannabis strains acclimated to your area and you should be able to find something that fights off PM better.

## WHAT'S CLONING?

I've always grown from seeds, and it's sometimes annoying not to know exactly what I'm gonna get. How would I go about taking cuttings or clones in order to have reliable strains growing that I can trust to be females and act alike? Thanks!

*Beanie Man*

Dear BM,  
Cloning is the process of taking a shoot from a plant and creating a new plant from it identical to

the "parent" by inducing it to grow roots. This process ensures that each clone will be an identical duplicate of the mother plant, resulting in uniform growth and a level canopy height.

Cloning is done by using a sharp blade to remove a 3- to 5-inch branch from your mother plant, cutting at a 45-degree angle just below the node (the place where a branch protrudes from the stalk). Clones should be taken with at least three sets of leaves above the cut, and the cut end must immediately be dipped in a rooting hormone (typically a powder or gel) and then placed in the moistened medium of your choice. Some people like to put them into a shot glass of water in order to keep an air bubble from penetrating up the stem and killing the young cutting.

Clones need to be kept under lights in warm, moist conditions. Within one to two weeks, you should see roots emerging from the bottom of your cloning medium. Your cuttings are now ready to be transplanted into larger containers and start their full-fledged vegetative growth.

### MICROBES IN HYDRO

**Quick question about beneficial organisms:** My friend is an organic inspector in California. He tells me that in order to maintain beneficial life in my medium, I must use only organic fertilizers, and I believed him for a while. But now I see all these new products containing beneficial fungi and bacteria meant to be used in hydro systems in conjunction with synthetic fertilizers. What's the deal? Can beneficial organisms survive when using standard (synthetic) hydroponic nutrients? Thanks a lot!

*Dr. Stern*

Dear Dr. S.,

It's true that beneficial bacteria thrive in organic environments, but there are also synthetic formulas in which they'll survive and multiply (as long as some organic materials are present). Many of the newer formulations of hydroponic nutrients are a combination of organic and synthetic chemicals in which helpful microorganisms will flourish.

Beneficial organisms can also be applied directly to the leaves using a foliar-feeding system. This way, even chemical nutrients in the root zone have no effect on your microbes, yet they can still help growth as well as pest and disease resistance. Always be sure to limit chemical-pesticide use during applications of bacteria. My favorite way to do this is with an oxygenated compost tea. It's cheap, easy to use and hard to overdo.

### CROWDING STRAINS

Hello, I'm a first-time grower preparing a cannabis-cultivation cycle in the near future. I plan to use a small and simple hydroponic system. My question is this: Can I grow three or four different strains in my system close together? What can go wrong?

*Fish*

Dear Fish,

What you're attempting to do is difficult, especially for a first-time grower. You can have several strains in the same unit, but you need to keep a few things in mind. First of all, strains have different growth traits, meaning that some will grow taller more quickly or branch out more than others. Also, different strains require different amounts of nutrients, so it can be hard to dial in a

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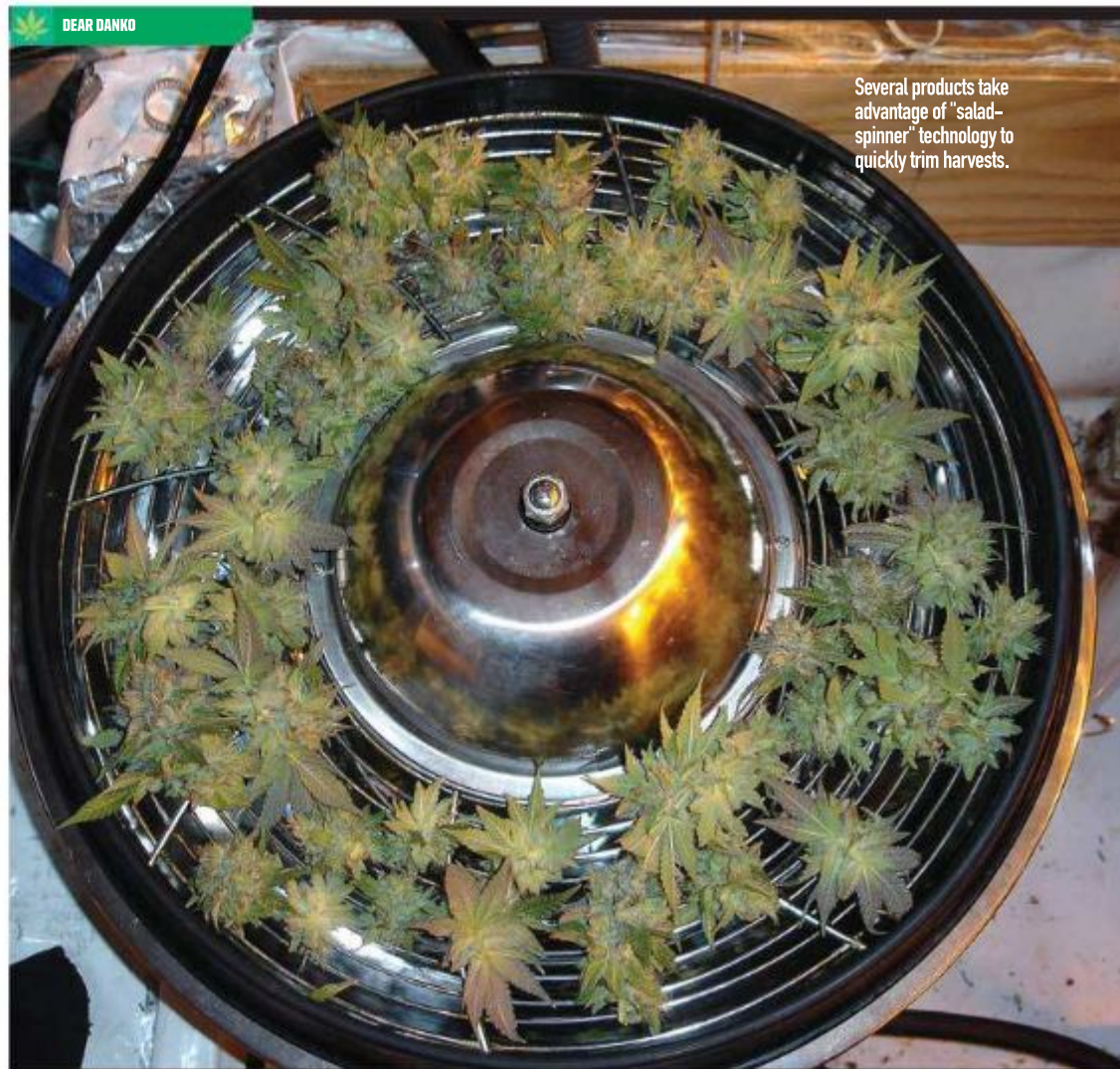
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DEAR DANKO

Several products take advantage of "salad-spinner" technology to quickly trim harvests.

perfect formula for all of them at the same time in the same reservoir.

If you still plan to attempt this, try getting strains that act similarly, such as three *indicas* or three *sativas* with roughly equal flowering times. Otherwise, grow the plants separately in buckets using either a soilless mix or a deep-water culture (DWC) set-up in which each plant has its own container.

**CURLING LEAVES**

I recently fed my plants some nutrient solution, and now the leaves are curling down and starting to become brittle. The tips are brown and crumbly, and the leaves look like they're trying to literally curl up into themselves. What did I do?

*Canadian Bakin'*

Dear CB,  
 Sounds like a classic case of overfeeding to me. I think you used too much fertilizer in your last watering, and the plants are responding to high levels of salts in the root zone by curling up and browning from the tips of the leaves inward.

Flush your plants with plenty of plain pH-balanced water until it flows freely out of the bottom of your pots. When you resume feeding, do so at half the recommended dosage and see what happens. Forget about the old burnt and curled leaves and focus on the new growth. If your new shoots look healthy, you've eliminated the toxic levels of ferts and can continue with your plant growth. If not, try another flushing with even more water in case there's still a buildup in your pots.

**OUTDOOR FEEDING**

Greetings from the Peach State! This is my second season growing, and my question is: How often should I fertilize my patch? I'm growing outdoors, and since the ground around here has a really high clay content, I have taken to digging "pots" and filling them with potting soil. The soil I'm using is an organic commercial type that supposedly fertilizes on its own for three months. I used the same product last season, but my yield for three plants was pretty low (about half a pound). I'm thinking of using high-nitrogen alfalfa pellets as well as worm castings. Is this a good combo? And again, how often can I fertilize without burning up my girls or causing any other stress?

*Copter Dodger*

Dear CD,  
 It sounds like your low yield isn't due to a lack of fertilizer. Remember that more food doesn't always mean more buds—in fact, too much nutrient can be devastating to your crop. Always err on the side of caution.

Your best bet is to use mild nutes such as compost tea and diluted formulas with liquid seaweed or fish. Your idea to use alfalfa pellets and worm castings is a good one as well. Make sure your plants get plenty of plain water throughout their growth cycle, and be sure your patch gets plenty of sunlight as well. A lack of sun can keep plants from thriving outdoors; I've seen this problem in many guerrilla grows.

ERIK BIKSA

## DROOPING LEAVES IN HYDRO

I recently transplanted my vegging plants into my flowering hydroponic unit, and the leaves immediately began to droop. Now they're all drooping drastically, and some of the plants have even died! My pH level is 5.0 to 5.5; the water temperature in my reservoir is around 80°F; the room temperature is around 80°F to 85°F; and the relative humidity is stable at 55% to 65%. What's my problem?

*Weeping Willie*

Dear WW,

My initial diagnosis is that your pH is a bit low and the temperature of the nutrient solution is too high. As water temps rise, the amount of dissolved oxygen decreases. Your plants' roots are too hot and gasping for air, and the leaves are responding by drooping. The lower pH level adds to your woes, as some nutrients are being locked out completely.

Using pH up, raise your pH level to 6.0 and lower the temperature of your nutrient solution to between 60°F and 70°F. This can best be done using a reservoir chiller, but cheaper ways include freezing a 2-liter bottle of water and placing it in your reservoir. Keep in mind that this will be a very temporary solution to a continuous problem. Raise the oxygen level in your reservoir using an air pump and air stones as well.

## BEGINNER STRAIN FOR MOTHER PLANTS

I'm about to start growing, and I was wondering what a good strain for beginners would be. I was considering an auto-flowering strain, but they're pretty expensive. Also, how do you turn one of your female plants into a mother plant that keeps on putting out high-quality clones? Thanks for all your help, and keep the revolution going!

*Revolt Reggae*

Dear RR,

The best strains for beginners are typically short, stocky, quick-flowering *indicas*, so try to find plants with traits like these in their descriptions. Avoid the lanky and longer-flowering *sativas* until you've had a chance to experiment with more easy-to-grow strains. I like White Widow, Sensi Star and Northern Lights, but there are plenty out there to choose from.

As for mother plants, take a cutting from each of your vegetative plants, then root it and flower it (see my answer to Beanie Man in "What's Cloning?" above for details). This will give you an indication of each plant's sex and a small amount of bud from each one to test. When you've chosen the female you wish to keep via clones, keep that plant in the vegging stage and she becomes your mother plant without ever having to flower on her own (thereby avoiding the stress of re-vegging an already-flowering plant). Now you have a vegetating mother plant with reliably potent female clones that you can take from her and flower whenever you wish. ✨

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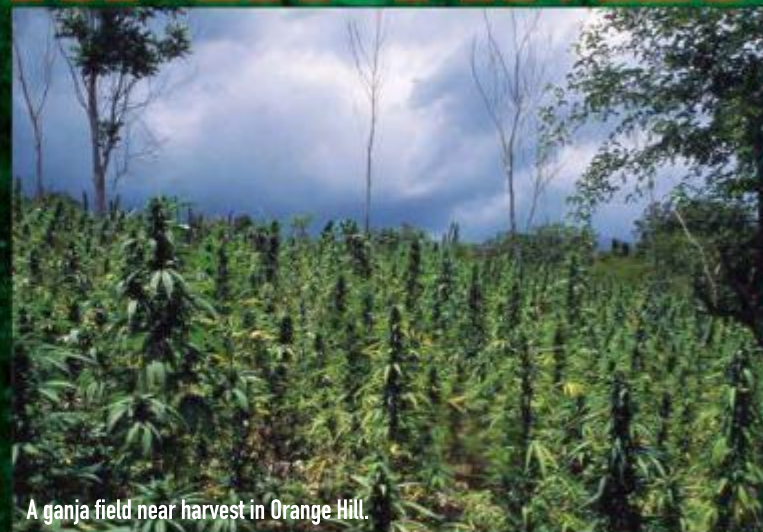
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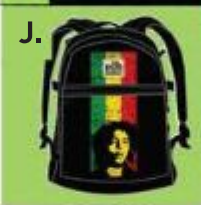
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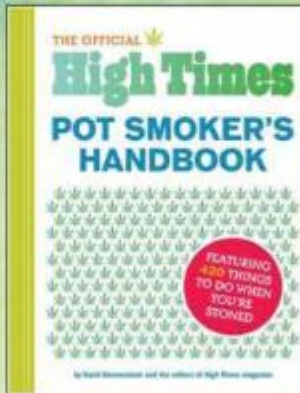
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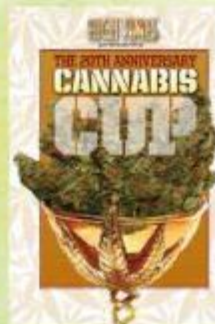
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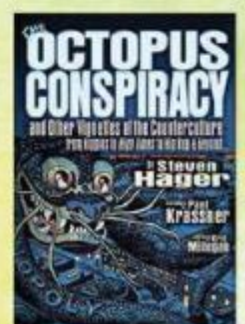
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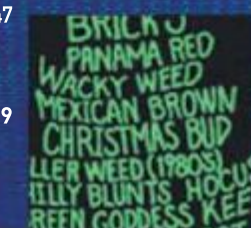
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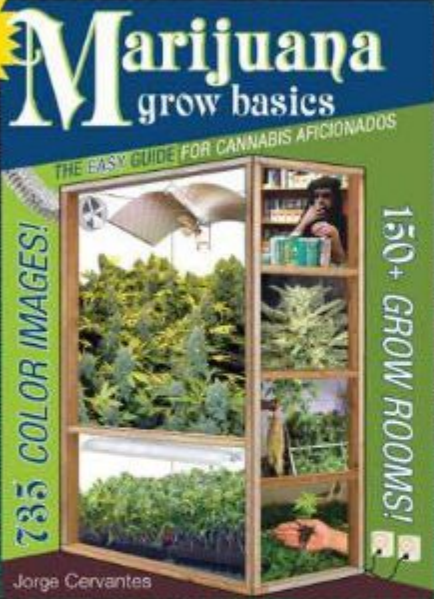
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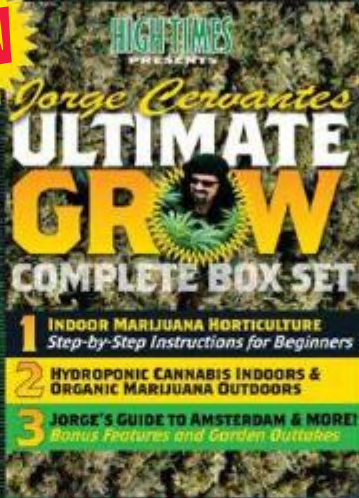


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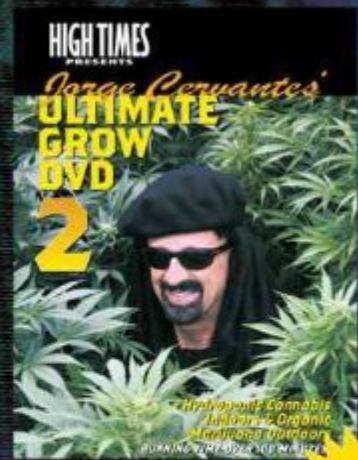
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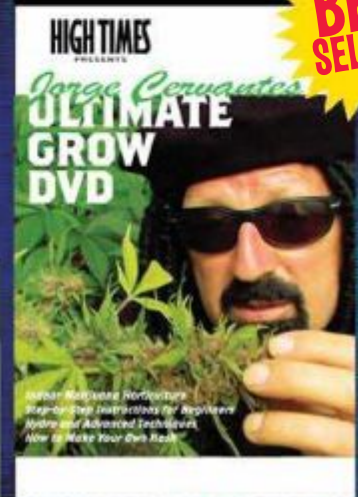
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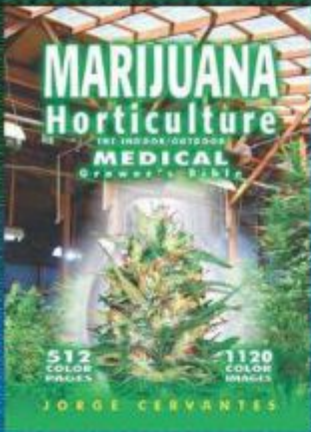
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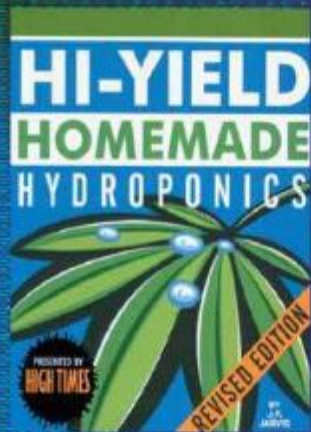
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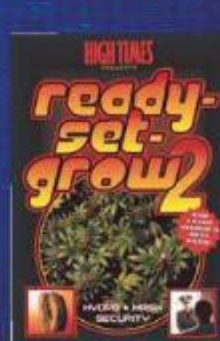
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For Sale ultimate luxury growing area. Newly remodeled 3 bed 2 bath home on 1/3 acre irrigated, lush landscape. With 800 sq ft heated air-conditioned workshop. Secure entrance, gated. Previous production shop. 9'x8'x25' hidden safe room with bank vault door. Fire and theft proof. Phoenix, AZ

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**THREE "215" PROPERTIES**  
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**260 ACRE CATTLE RANCH**  
1/2 in La County and 1/2 in Ventura County. Two houses, shop, water and electric. For more info call (661) 251-4200 or visit [www.pirumountainranch.com](http://www.pirumountainranch.com)

**REAL ESTATE**

**MOUNTAIN-TOP FORTRESS**  
Defensible, 56 acres, helipad, \$590,000. <http://209.221.136.134/>, call 206-365-3235.

**ISOLATED FARM**  
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Must sell/ very private, off grid. Minutes to air field, lake, town. Spectacular mnt, views. 808-652 2159.

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To place a classified ad in **HIGH TIMES**, contact Matt Stang at 212-387-0500, ext. 206.

# POT 40



- 1. ALASKA Seed Banks 
- 2. BOOMBAMA... 420 
- 3. BONGTV LIVE  **BONG RIP** IS THE MAN SMOKIN' POT ON HIS CAM 24/7 - COME CHECK OUT THE PARTY!
- 4. MIGHTY HIGH 
- 5. LOCATOR 
- 6. FROGFACE BY HIPPIE CHIC 
- 7. I Love TED NUDE GENT and GENHIS KHAT 
- 8. TREEZY 4 SHEEZY 
- 9. GRAPOLIN 
- 10. 2:40 TWICE AS GOOP-AS 4:26 
- 11. Chef RA We will always remember you! (I once met RA of a Grateful Dead Concert) 
- 12.  **RESIDENT**
- 13. FREEDOM FOR PALESTINE! **FREE SIRHAN SIRHAN** ENOUGH IS ENOUGH -42 YEARS! WHO REALLY KILLED BOBBY KENNEDY?? **FREEDOM FOR PALESTINIAN SIRHAN SIRHAN!**
- 14. BRAVO 
- 15. RETARD RIOT SUPER STORE! www.retardriot.com 
- 16. FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROS 
- 17. ANY BOOK BY HUNTER J. THOMPSON 
- 18. LIFE IS A BITCH. 
- 19. Chef Vinod's MAGIC WEED COOKIES 
- 20. GRATEFUL DEAD 
- 21.  **ROLL IT FAT I LIKE IT LIKE THAT!**
- 22. When People talk to GOD, it's called "praying" When GOD talks back, it's called "PARANOID SCHIZOPHRENIA" 
- 23. GREEN LEAF UNIVERSITY THE FIRST MEDICAL-MARIJUANA RESOURCE IN MICHIGAN, SET UP BY FCC MINISTRIES AND S. SIMMONS & ASSOC. GREENLEAFSMOKERSCLUB.COM
- 24. FOR A BAD-ASS BUZZ, CAT GUANO IS BETTER THAN BAT GUANO! 
- 25. DAVID BOWIE 
- 26.  **GREEN GOB**
- 27. R. Crumb 
- 28. Sunday Brunch with ChefV TYPICAL MENU: EGGS SCRAMBLED IN GANJA BUTTER. HOME MADE BISCUITS WITH GANJA BUTTER. GANJA BUTTER, GARLIC OR STEAK, CHILI SAUCE OR GINJER RUCKEYS (VARIETY ACCORDING TO SEASON)
- 29. The Lost Diaries of Jim Morrison  By Lawrence Marshall Pierce III
- 30. BURNIN' ONE AFTER KUNITE CLAY 
- 31. SALOONATICS NYC 
- 32. PLEASE DO NOT THROW CIGARETTE BUTTS ON THE FLOOR. THE COCKROACHES ARE GETTING CANCER! 
- 33. The Rev. Herbal Santa 
- 34. PHISH 
- 35. MY KITTY SHE'S SOOOO CUTE 
- 36. BOBBY BLACK 
- 37. DO I NEED GLASSES OR DOES ANY ONE ELSE THINK THE OLYMPIC TORCH LOOKED LIKE A GIANT JOINT? VIVA CANADA, eh? 
- 38. BISEXUALITY 
- 39. SNEAKING I-Hits While taking out the garbage.... 
- 40. POT SMOKERS! COME OUT, COME OUT WHEREVER YOU ARE AND VOTE 

BALLOT

BALLOT

BALLOT

WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE ON THE POT 40 LIST? FILL OUT THE ←BALLOT AND MAIL IT TO:

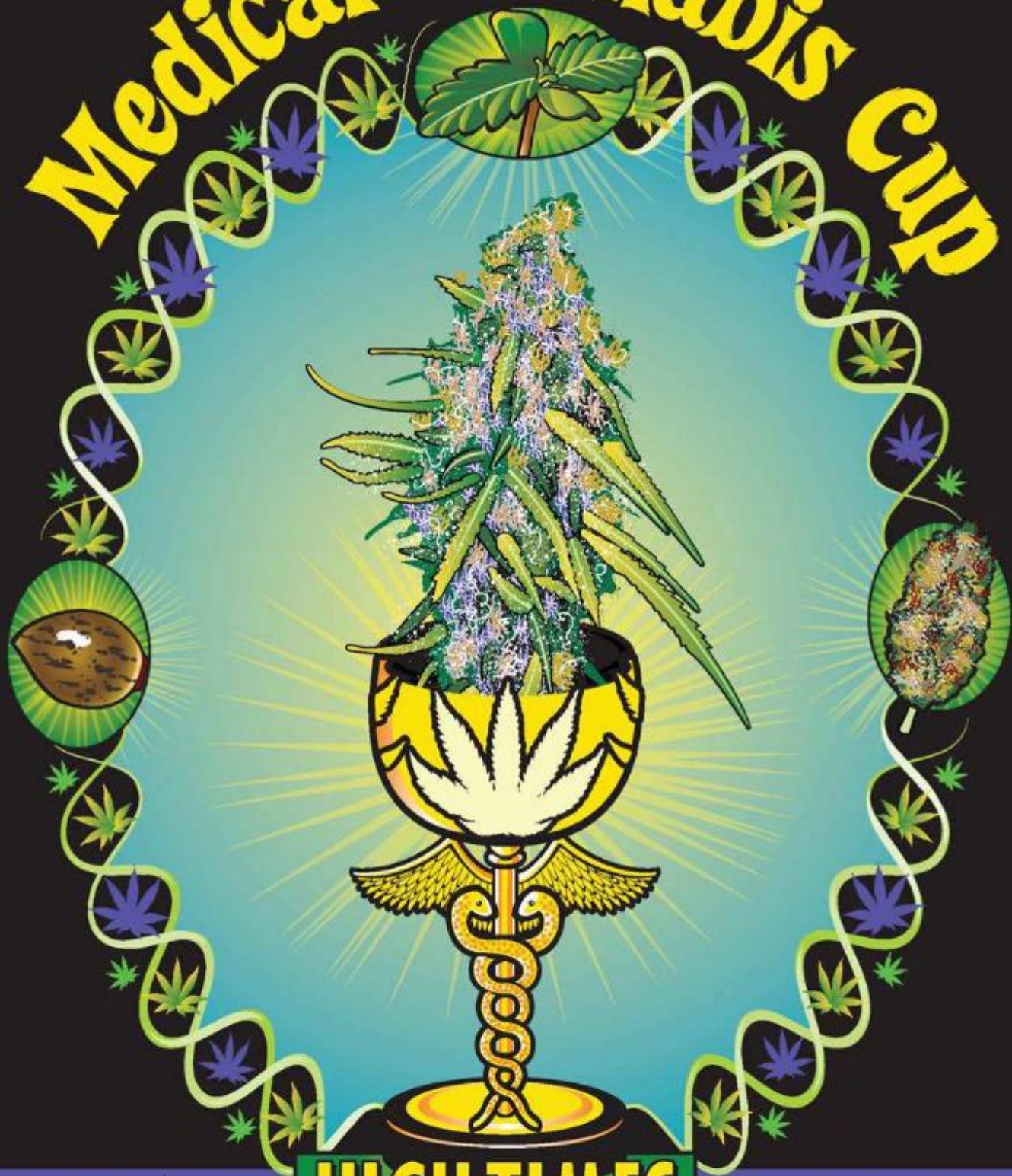
## HIGH TIMES POT 40

16 FLOOR  
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NEW YORK CITY 10016

Compiled By: Cal Hoorns  
THE POT 40 By LESMO  
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\* **Jonny Kaplan & The Lazy Stars**  
\* **iLa Mawana** \* **Stand Down**

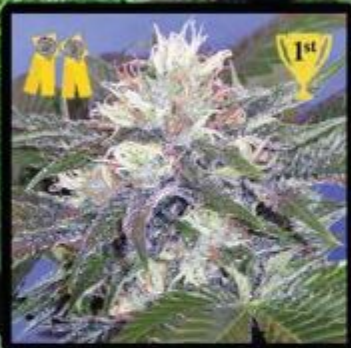
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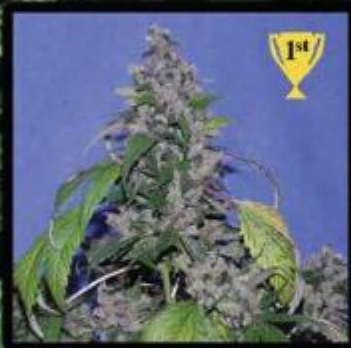
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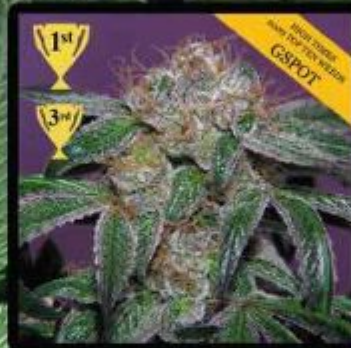
# VISC



420



Lady Liberty



GSPOT



Burmese



Blackberry



Gold



Fucking Incredible



Mother



British Columbian



Kat

10 Seeds



Per Pack

**Vancouver Island Seed Company**

420	\$60
1.3G	\$80
B-Bud	\$75
Beaster	\$100
Bitch	\$65
Black Velvet	\$75
Blackberry	\$85
BlackBurmese	\$90
British Columbian	\$75
Bud Lite	\$62
Burmese	\$85
Burmaberry	\$85
Bush Bud	\$62
Canadian	\$80

**FUCKING INCREDIBLE High Times Top 10 Strains 2008**

Che	\$75
Copperhead	\$75
Dubble Bubble	\$75
Eve	\$75
Fucking Incredible	\$140
Gold	\$75
GSPOT	\$105
Indigo	\$80
Jinn	\$85
Kat	\$85
KGB	\$62
Midnight	\$75
Mystic	\$85
Nuclear	\$85
Olympic	\$62
Passionfruit	\$85
Ripper	\$85
Rx	\$75
Sin	\$75

**The Legend of the BURMESE See High Times January 2009**

Sweet	\$75
The Producer	\$100
THC	\$75
Titanium	\$75
Vertigo	\$75
Virgin	\$62
WMD	\$70
WOWWeed	\$100
VISC Mix	\$50

10 Seeds



Per Pack

**Liberty Seeds**

Mother	\$70
Stealth	\$75
Lady Liberty	\$85
Infinity	\$65
Justice	\$70

Read about VISC's Induction into The Seed Bank HALL OF FAME in the August 2009 issue of High Times

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Subtotal \_\_\_\_\_  
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That's TEN Free Seeds!

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FUCKING INCREDIBLE High Times Top 10 Strains 2008

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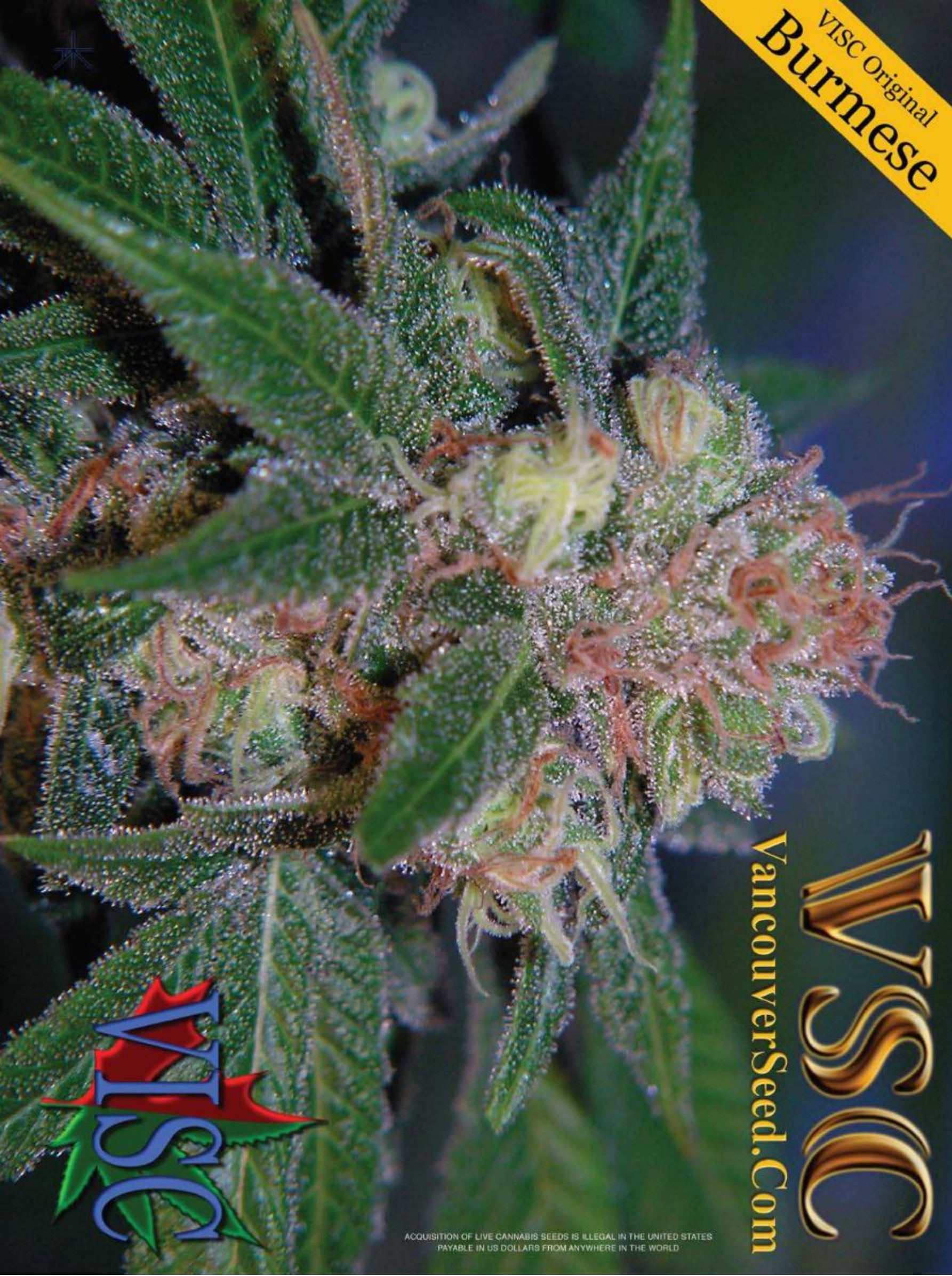
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