





BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHNG VOEDICAL & WORE

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

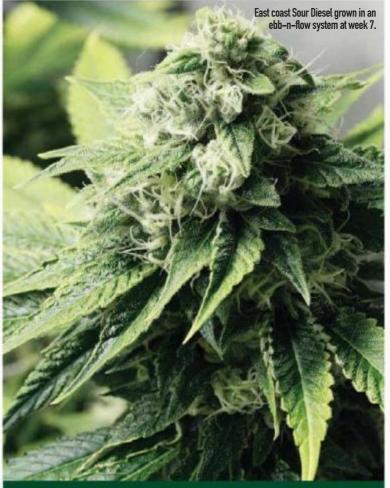
BONAFRIED!

The How-To's and Why-Not's of Getting Your Own Medical Card

If you're a resident of California or any other medical-marijuana state, then it's your right as a citizen to receive your medical card. A medical card is a legal document recognized statewide that proves you were examined by a licensed physician and given a recommendation to use medical marijuana. The process of getting your medical card is actually an easy one: All you need is to be over the age of 18, have a valid government-issued ID and be able to pay the doctor's fee.

Checking your local telephone book, state government website or the medical directory of HIGH TIMES can point you in the direction of an accredited medical-marijuana doctor. It's important that you find the right one. For this reason, personal references from people you know are always a great help; you'll be able to make sure that you're getting a knowledgeable doctor who cares about this issue rather than one who just wants to take your money. In states like California or Washington, finding the right medical-marijuana doctor is easy enough; in smaller states—especially out on the Eastern Seaboard—it requires a bit more diligence, but is still doable.

Upon your first visit, you'll be asked to fill out a few pages of paperwork relating to your health and past ailments, your reasons for wanting a medical card and all relevant personal info. After the paperwork is completed, you'll meet with the doctor, who will do some physical assessments of your overall state of health, checking blood pressure, eyes, reflexes and heart rate, among other things. Her or she will also ask questions about your medical history and your past experiences with mari-



MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH: SOUR DIESEL

This month's featured strain had to be the legendary Sour Di**es**el. With its not-so-balanced, *sativa*-dominant genetics, we know some people will find it a surprising choice. But for sure, it's tops on many patients' lists because of its uplifting yet powerful high.

Hovering around a whopping 20% THC content, but with an average CBD level of 1%, Sour **Die**sel has strong euphoric effects on both the mind and the body. Its tangy, citrusy smell closely resembles a sweet-grapefruit/sour-lemon combination, while its flavor—well, if you've ever smoked it, you already know there isn't much out there that can compare.

The shrouded history of this iconic strain is still being debated in session circles around the globe, with most accounts calling it a hybrid of sorts, usually between varying lineages. Mass Super Skunk, various Chem strains, Mexican Sativa and Northern Lights are just a few that have been named as proud parents of the Diesel. However, the original East Coast Sour Diesel still grows strong today in the northeastern US, its secrets guarded by a few dedicated connoisseurs.

When the Diesel is available, it dominates the marketplace and commands top dollar. Pronounced calyx formations within the bud structure and random dark-green leaves are signatures of the strain—along with its candy flavor (but we already mentioned that). Recommended medical uses include glaucoma, mild depression and anxiety.

juana. It is important to note that there are some health issues that raise red flags with doctors, such as certain mental illnesses, alcoholism or other drug addictions.

Be sure to let your doctor know your true medical history. Common ailments that may necessitate a prescription for medical marijuana include insomnia, muscle spasms, chronic headaches and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Additionally, if you suffer from an illness that requires you to take a medicine with unwanted side effects, such as loss

of appetite or nausea, then medical marijuana may also be warranted. After the consultation, if the doctor decides that you're likely to benefit from the medicinal use of marijuana, he or she will sign the forms approving you as a patient. Once you're issued a medical card, it's valid for one year, which means you'll have to visit the doctor again the following year to get the card renewed.

With a medical card, you're also eligible to grow your own marijuana for personal use, although the number of plants you're allowed can vary: In California, for example, up to 10 plants is the limit in some parts of the state, while one can grow up to 99 plants in others. Of course, it's important to remember that this is only state law—federal law still does not recognize or permit the use of medical marijuana.

In short, if you smoke pot often, then it just might be the medicine for you. Try to notice how you feel when you're high and when you're not; think about why and when you smoke pot most often—you may be self-medicating without even knowing it. If this is the case, you're already a patient of the herb. So if you live in California or any other of the 12 medical-marijuana states in the US, it's your right as a citizen and an adult to have a medical-marijuana card. It's easy, it's important, and it's legal. Remember, you can't get into any trouble by having a medical card, so don't be afraid to go out and get one!-Lady G.

Go to

http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ MMP/Pages/default.aspx to learn more about California's medicalmarijuana program

CC News Corner: Cali Update

California's highest court has recently upheld the issuance of state medical-marijuana identification cards by refusing to consider a legal challenge to the law.

The California Supreme Court declined without comment to hear a challenge by two cities and one county to the state's medical-marijuana law and the issuance of med-pot ID cards. These lawsuits—filed by San Diego, San Bernardino and Merced County in 2006—were previously tossed out by two lower courts.

The state Supreme Court's refusal ends the latest challenge to medical marijuana in California, effectively cementing the medicalmarijuana law in place and leaving only one avenue for federal agencies to challenge its legality: an attempt to overturn states' rights in this matter via the US Supreme Court.

At the same time, however, the US Supreme Court has allowed federal authorities to prosecute medical-marijuana patients and their suppliers under federal anti-drug laws, and to shut down dispensaries in California and the 11 other states with laws similar to Prop. 215. But the court has not prohibited the states from deciding which drugs to ban or sanction under their own laws, nor are federal authorities known to target individual patients or doctors unless they operate on commercial levels. **

HIGH TIMES MEDICAL MARIJUANA DIRECTORY

Consult your local physician about issues associated with Medical Marijuana use. To advertise on this list, call Michael Czerhoniak, Advertising Director, 212-387-0500 ext.240



State Registration Program, Dept of Health and Social Services. (907) 465-5423 Or check out the State website http://www.hss.state.ak.us/dph/b vs/marijuana.html Attention: Terry Ahrens terry_ahrens@health.state.ak.us

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HAWAII

State Registration Program, (808)837-8470 www.dpfhi.org

MONTANA

State Registration Program, (406) 444-5622 To download a state application go to: http://www.dphhs.mt.gov/medical marijuana/applicationform.doc

Caregivers Montana 406-600-2981 Livingston,MT www.caregiversmontana.com

A Kinder Caregiver The statements in the name. To uphold the spirit of Initiative 148 AKinderCaregiver@yahoo.com www.montanamedicalmarijuana.net 406-333-2295

NEVADA

State Registration Program
Contact Dept. of Agriculture,
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Hit zero on the phone.
Then ask operator for Jennifer

Bartlett. Or e-mail her at Jbartlet@agri.state.NV.us Visit the state website for current laws: http://agri.nv.gov/ADMIN_MedMar ijuana.htm

NEW JERSEY

Urge NJ Legislators to Sponsor Medical Marijuana Bill To take action go to : http://capwiz.com/norml2/issues/ alert/?alertid=11059156

OREGON

Oregon Medical Marijuana Program www.HealthOregon.org/mm 971-673-1234 Fax: 971-673-1278

RHODE ISLAND

http://www.health.state.ri.us/ Application form available at www.health.ri.gov/hsr/mmp/index. php or by visiting room 104 at the Health Department, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence.

VERMONT

CONTACT INFORMATION: Application information for the Vermont Marijuana Registry is available online at: Vermont Marijuana Registry Department of Public safety www.dps.state.vt.us/cjs/marijuan

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(360) 236-4052
Attention: Glenda Moore
http://www.doh.wa.gov

ACLU of Washington, Drug Reform Project (206) 624-2184 aclu-wa.org /detail.cfm?id=182

CANADA

Canadian medical clubs rarely except US Medical Marijuana ID. Prior arrangements need to be made prior to your visit by contacting the medical club.

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BUDDER YOUR BREAD

Pudding, pot and bread-what could be better?

What interesting times we live in. By the time this issue hits the stands, our economy could resemble that of Argentina circa 2001, and there may be folks dangling by their silk neckties and golden parachutes from the lampposts on Wall Street ... or not. We may have elected our first biracial president, proving to the world that we're not just a bunch of ignorant rednecks, that we judge people based on their abilities rather than



their melanin levels ... or not. Perhaps we'll have empowered our first lipstick-wearing psychotic-pit-bull vice president instead. (Not counting Dick Cheney, of course. He reminds me so much of J. Edgar Hoover that I wouldn't be surprised if they shared those predilections—repression does funny things to Republicans.)

Lord only knows how many new enemies we'll have made by then if McCain and Palin are elected, but it's a pretty safe bet we'll have launched the first political volley in the Cold War Redux the minute the vote count tilts to the right. Hopefully, we won't piss in everyone's diplomatic Wheaties that way—but at least the Russians will nuke Alaska first, since Putin can see Wasilla from his house ... or something to that effect.

Yes, things are uncertain on the brink of our collective precipice. And by the way: Bush just deployed an Army brigade stateside to quell the Posse Comitatus Act and some sort of civil unrest that I didn't even know we were having. Are we having civil unrest? Gosh, I would hate to miss that! Revolutions are, like, totally hot, but having the National Guard fire on American citizens is just so 1970. These days, getting mowed down by the regular Army is where it's at—just ask the Iraqis.

Sketchy stuff, these pre-election surprises, although I'm not inclined to get my panties in a bunch over the current Wall Street hysterics. I doubt the entire economy will fail just because some fat cats played games with credit-default swaps—but if it does, we'll survive, just as our grandparents and great-grandparents survived the 1930s. My Granny told me all about the Great Depression when I was little, and most of the stories involved eating cauliflower and a pet goat. (By which I mean she owned the goat—she didn't eat it—so it couldn't have been that bad.) Plus, I'm already poor compared to the people at Goldman Sachs, so I doubt that much will change for me personally. I'll consolidate my frequent errands, swear off those silly dreams of vacations, retirement and Vanguard mutual funds, and cut back on my intake of fancy cheese—unless I get a goat, in which case I'll make my own fancy cheese. I hope it doesn't come to that, because I'm a little squeamish about fiddling with goat teats, but just in case it all goes to hell in a dogsled, this month's recipe is a Depression-era penny-stretcher that's super easy to make, or to adapt to your taste and the ingredients on hand.—Ashley Boudreaux

BUD & BREAD PUDDING

1 oz commercial-grade cannabis (or 1/8-oz kind bud) 6 to 8 cups cubed stale bread (any bread

except herbed bread, rye bread, etc.) 5 tbsp butter

1 cup white sugar 1 cup brown sugar

2 cups milk

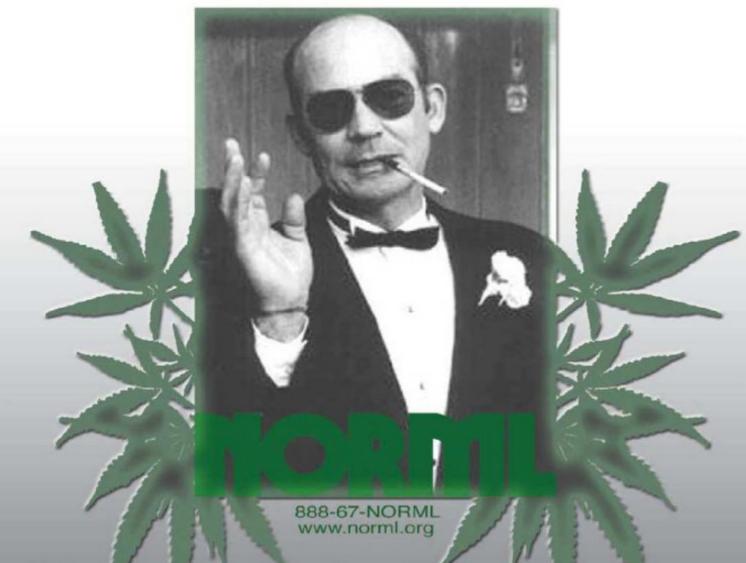
1 cup evaporated milk (if you don't have it, just use 3 cups of milk)

3 large eggs

1 tsp ground cinnamon 2 tsp vanilla extract

1/2 cup nuts
1/2 cup raisins

Directions: Combine the cannabis and butter in a double boiler and cook over low heat for 45 minutes. Strain the vegetation out of the butter, then add all the ingredients except the bread cubes and whisk the hell out of it. Grease a baking pan, distribute bread cubes evenly, and then pour the melted butter/sugar mixture over them. Stir, and let the pan sit in the fridge for one hour so the bread can soak. Then pop it into the oven at 300° F until the mixture is set (it should take about 60 to 70 minutes, depending on your elevation), or until a toothpick can be pulled out clean from the center. Dust with confectioner's sugar and serve. Stones 6. **



"I have always loved marijuana. It has been a source of joy and comfort to me for many years. And I still think of it as a basic staple of life, along with beer and ice and grapefruits - and millions of Americans agree with me."

-Hunter S. Thompson

For more information call 1-888-67-NORML or visit norml.org

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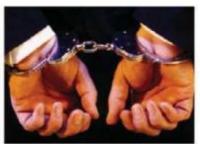
Since the early '90s, the total number of Americans busted annually for pot has nearly tripled. In 1991, police arrested a modern low of 288,000 people for minor marijuana violations in the United States. But by 2006 (the last year for which data are available), a record 830,000 people were arrested. An estimated 90 percent were charged with minor possession—not trafficking,

cultivation or sale. This spike in arrests occurred even as federal statistics indicate that adult marijuana use has remained fairly stable over the past decade.

Yet despite this massive increase in arrests, the mainstream media and Congress continue to ignore the plight of millions of Americans who suffer significant sanctions and hardships because of pot-related run-ins with the law. These penalties include probation and mandatory drug testing, loss of employment, loss of child custody, removal from subsidized housing, asset forfeiture, loss of student aid, loss of voting privileges, loss of adoption rights, and loss of certain federal welfare benefits such as food stamps.

Many Americans serve prison time for pot. Nearly 13 percent of state inmates and 12.4 percent of federal inmates are incarcerated for marijuana-related drug violations, according to a 2006 Bureau of Justice Statistics report. In human terms, this means that some 34,000 state inmates and an estimated 11,000 federal inmates are serving time behind bars for violating marijuana laws. In fiscal terms, this means US taxpayers are spending more than \$1 billion annually to imprison pot offenders.

The front-end criminal justice costs—such as the number of hours a police officer must put in to arrest and process the average pot offender—are far greater.



Pot busts cost taxpayer \$7 billion annually.

Some researchers, including economist Jeffery Miron at Harvard University, have estimated these costs at upward of \$7 billion a year.

But the financial and social costs tell only part of the story. Up to 70 percent of all individuals in drug treatment for pot are placed there by the criminal justice system, according to statistics published by the US Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration. In other words, these individuals were ordered by a judge (or a drug court) to attend "rehab" in lieu of jail, or as a requirement of their probation. Of those enrolled in treatment, federal statistics indicate that more than one in three hadn't even used marijuana in the 30 days prior to their admission.

Equally troubling, yet seldom publicly discussed, is the reality that marijuana enforcement disproportionately affects citizens by age. According to data compiled by the FBI, 74 percent of all Americans busted for pot are under 30, and one out of four is 18 or younger.

Sadly, a generation—possibly two—believes that the police are an instrument of their oppression rather than their protection. These people suffer the most under current anti-pot laws, yet they lack the financial means and the political capital to influence politicians to challenge these laws. They also lack the money to adequately fund the drug-law reform movement at a level necessary to represent and protect their interests. As a result, marijuana arrests continue to climb unabated. But few in the mainstream press—and even fewer lawmakers—feel compelled to address this continuing tragedy.—Paul Armentano, **Deputy Director of NORML**

Visit norml.org or call (888) 67-NORML

Ask Dr. Mitch

Dr. Mitch, My girlfriend says the first ads for hemp paper claimed that it could raise the dead. What's the story?

J. Hearst

Around the year 100, according to a popular but apocryphal story, a Chinese bureaucrat named Ts'ai Lun staged his own death, then had people burn paper to bring him "back to life." In reality, Ts'ai Lun (more commonly spelled Cai Lun these days) is credited with the invention of paper, which included hemp in the recipe. Meanwhile, the tradition of burning paper at funerals—including "spirit money"—is observed throughout many parts of Asia.

I'm getting conflicting stories about marijuana and spirituality. Any connection?

Wayne S.

Hi Wayne,

Marijuana and spirituality have to be two of the world's most controversial topics. Are they linked? It depends, of course, on what you mean by "spirituality." Some define it by how often you pray, go to church or think about your deity. In contrast, other definitions focus on freeing your mind, getting in touch with your feelings and appreciating nature. No surprise that marijuana users are high on the latter kind of spirituality.

I'm having an argument at my shop about pot and "amotivational syndrome." Can you help me out?

Thomas Hearty

Hi Thomas.

Pete Guither

Adult cannabis users are no different from other folks in terms of hours worked, wages earned or job turnover. One study showed that men who smoke pot earned more money than their non-smoking brethren. Also, college-student users and nonusers have comparable grades and extracurricular activities. Two studies even showed that users had higher grades than their non-using pals—not that I'm recommending the plant as a study aid. Hope this helps!

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

Freedow Figiter

BLOG STAR Pete Guither leads a war against propaganda.

As the art of blogging evolves, few have utilized this tool as effectively for antimarijuana-prohibition advocacy as Pete Guither. Check him out at DrugWar-Rant.com and enter the Drug War Rant community. Both of these outlets were

the result of Pete's anger at the continued prohibition of cannabis. What started out as research and writing primarily for his own edification has blossomed into a powerful online forum and community of drug-policy reformers that provides a valuable service by supplying activists with news and information on the latest scientific, legal and political developments.

Pete is motivated by the belief that legalizing and regulating marijuana cultivation, distribution and possession for recreational purposes is crucial. "I want to take the black market out of the equation," he says. "The only way to do that is with full legalization and not a halfway solution. The path to get there requires that people stop being afraid to talk about marijuana and the Drug War."

The good news is that more and more people are speaking out. "The blogs and the traditional reform organizations like NORML, and the newer groups like Law Enforcement Against Prohibition and Students for Sensible Drug Policy, are developing a network of reformers from all walks of life armed with the facts," Pete says. "But we're still facing a tough battle—decades of propaganda. We have to get the facts, we have to speak out, and we have to keep doing it!"

Thanks to Pete Guither, the anti-prohibition community has gained a powerful new voice. Long may he continue to share his insight, his knowledge and the occasional rant.—Carlos Castillo, NORML Outreach Coordinator



HIGH TIMES Legal Directory

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Deep in the untamed wilderness of Vancouver Island, expert breeders are busy with massive gardens of pot plants bursting with seeds that will soon be spread all over the world. Story & photos by Danny Danko

Over the River and Through the Woods

Getting to the outdoor grow spots of Canada is not an easy task. You can either jump out of a car at the side of a road and hike up steep, rocky inclines, or take a bumpy ride down deserted logging trails and trudge through thick woods for miles. Consider also that you're in a rain forest and, with each step, your foot can land on slugs the size of ripe bananas or drop through several feet of old-growth branches into swampy holes. Growers here take some serious pains to avoid cops and rippers and get their harvests to the people.

And then there are the seed breeders, who plant their chosen males alongside their selected females to grow whole gardens full of buds swollen with seeds for a hungry worldwide market. These outdoor cultivation experiments are capable of producing millions of seeds that will be harvested, sifted, sorted and shipped around the globe, allowing cultivators far and wide to produce perfect pot while also ensuring the future survival of quality genetic material.

Upon my arrival on beautiful Vancouver Island, Matt from BC Bud Depot picked me up and escorted me to several of his secret outdoor seeding facilities. The popularity of his Purps strain (a HIGH TIMES Top 10 Strain of the Year for 2007) made it necessary to reproduce those particular seeds on a massive scale. Specially chosen male and female Purps plants were grown exclusively in these gardens and allowed to reach full maturity—coexisting and doing their thing naturally.

It's interesting to see male cannabis plants fully grown out and even well past their prime. They are a rare sight—and quite beautiful in their own right. In almost all of the gardens I've seen, the males are eradicated as soon as they're spotted, and even breeders tend to keep their prized males around only until they've outlived their usefulness, whereupon they take cuttings of them for future projects. It felt refreshing to glimpse a world where cannabis is allowed to finish its life cycle completely as in the wild.

Many of the males in Matt's gardens towered over their female counterparts—Mother Nature's way of ensuring that their pollen reaches the growing female flowers. Some of them were almost 20 feet tall! The males have much longer spaces between their internodes, and their flowers form into what look like tiny bunches of bananas. Many had turned purple, thanks either to genetics or the cold Canadian fall winds.



Getting It On

Normally, in regular pot gardens, we try to grow exclusively female plants with no seeds. This is known as sinsemilla ("without seeds" in Spanish). In order to grow without seeds, males must never be allowed to pollinate females and are usually killed upon showing their sex. The gardens I visited, however, are for the purpose of creating seeds, and the breeders therefore encourage the males and females to live out and fulfill their natural life cycle.

It's interesting to see male cannabis plants fully grown out and even well past their prime.

Male and female cannabis plants in the wild will grow as annuals, with males pollinating the females during their flowering period and those pollinated females dropping the seeds that will make up the next generation of wild cannabis. Seed breeders seek to refine this process by utilizing only males and females they've specifically chosen to improve the genetics of the future offspring, and also by selecting the best specimens from that process for future production.

To aid in the pollination process, Matt goes through and shakes the males vigorously several times during the flowering season to thoroughly saturate the females and fill them with thousands of plump seeds. Each individual grain of pollen is capable of producing a seed, as long as it lands on a viable female bud—so the more pollen that gets dropped, the more seeds will eventually be harvested from the buds. Even late into the season, the males were still dropping pollen in their never-ending efforts to impregnate their female neighbors.

When the females are ready and the seeds inside them have reached maturity, they're ready to be taken down. Once harvested, the seed-laden buds are dried out. Hanging and curing aren't necessary in this case, so the dried buds are simply broken apart and sifted, with seeds popping out all over the place. The seeds are then gathered and labeled for testing. A selection of seeds is planted to test for germination and viability, and then grown out to ensure genetic stability and proper flavor and potency.

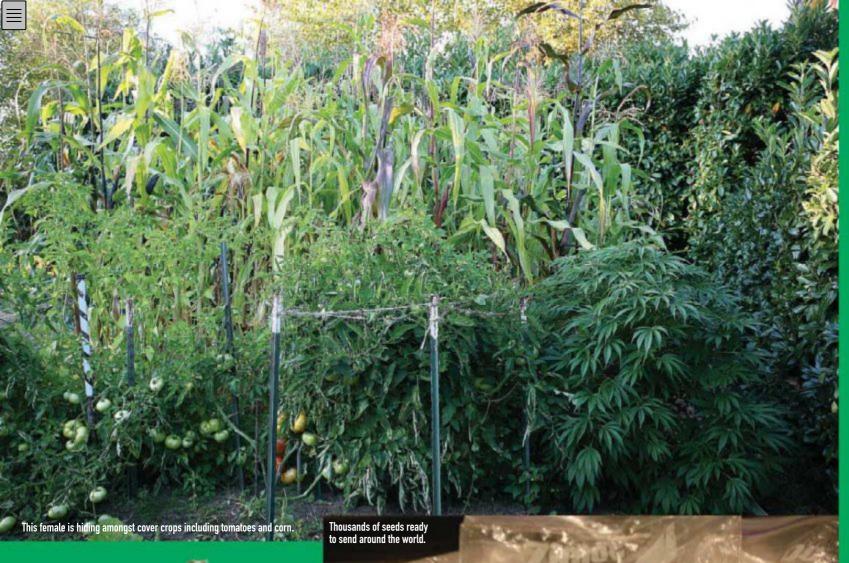
After testing, the seeds are ready for the marketplace—and the orders have been rolling in. Matt tells me that BC Bud Depot has received orders from places as varied as Saudi Arabia and Japan. Lately, Eastern Europe and Africa have emerged as cannabis-growing places as well. He insists that strains bred to endure the harsh Canadian growing season will thrive almost anywhere else.







FEBRUARY 2009 🗩







Why Pure?

The Purps was a gift to Matt years ago from a Californian visitor to the Cannabis Cup, and it has now become highly regarded in Canada. BC Bud Depot has been backcrossing this strain for several generations, and Matt feels that it only improves with each new cycle. (Backcrossing involves crossing a strain with a parent or genetically similar hybrid in order to get a closer representation of the parent.)

Purps tastes, smells and looks like candy, with a sweet and pungent "grape" flavor and plenty of potency. Its unique coloring and interesting tartness on the palate make the Purps a highly soughtafter strain, and her seeds fly off the BC Bud Depot shelves.

Purps is also easy to grow. She's a great sativa/indica hybrid with a short flowering time indoors (seven to eight weeks) and an innate ability to withstand the trials and tribulations of growing outside, maturing outdoors in mid-October, just in time to avoid frosts in the northern US and Canada. These qualities make the Purps wonderful for growing almost anywhere; in tropical climates, expect huge yields and long, filled-out colas galore. Indoors, her branches will find every available space and truly hog the light for huge harvests of pretty pot.

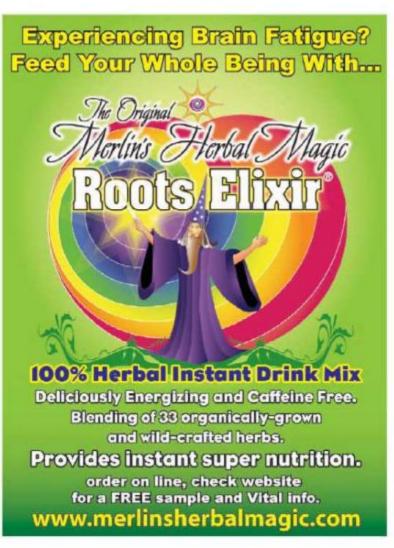
The Purps will also naturally turn darker colors of purple the longer you leave her out, providing a nice bit of bag appeal to an already stellar sensi strain. The high is quite soaring and uplifting—a great daytime smoke for walks in the park or hikes in the woods. Joints taste great all the way to the end, and bong hits are thick and flavorful, leaving a pungent, sweet aroma in the room not unlike a rare incense.

The gardens that I witnessed in Canada will produce literally a million seeds or more—a staggering number of Purps plants that will be spread all over the world in the future, growing out in gardens near and far, indoors and out, and anywhere else a plant can grow. Who knows? Perhaps you'll be growing a few of them out this spring.











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BY DANNY DANKO



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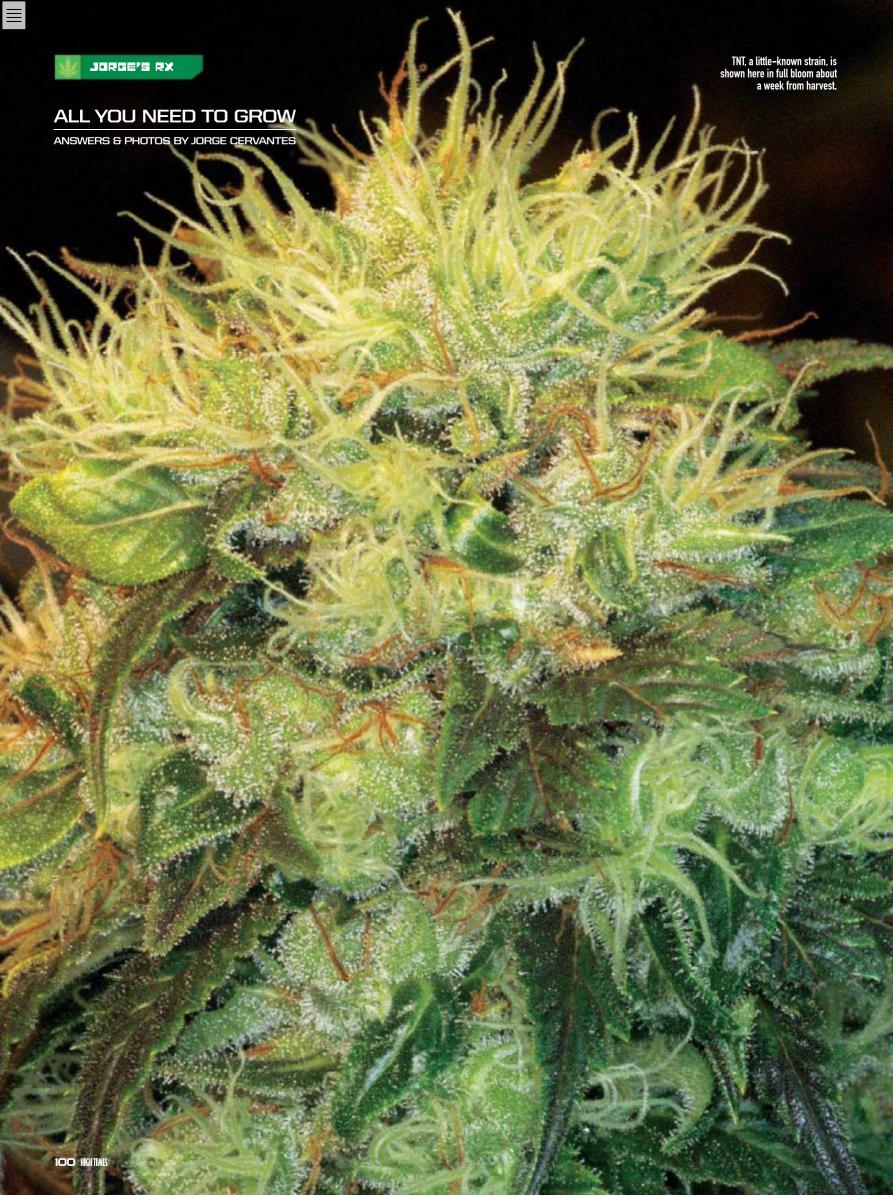


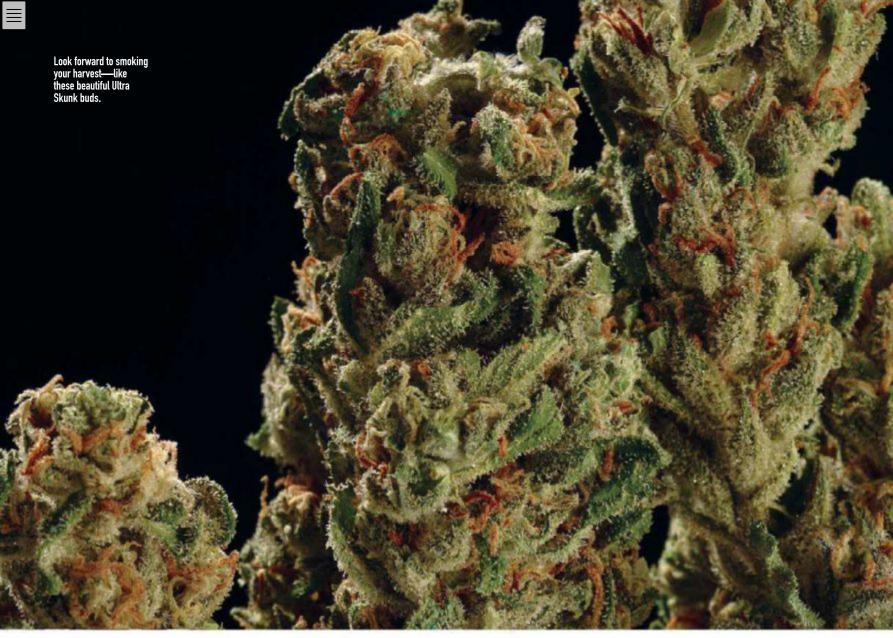


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SEEDS AND SOIL

Hey there, Jorge, how you doin'? I need to know how long it takes a germinated seed to grow after being planted and then moved to a different pot? And should I use the same soil or something better? Thanks!

Lazy Via Internet

Dear Lazy,

Once moisture and heat come into contact with a seed, it will split open and germinate, generally within 24 to 72 hours. (Strong, healthy seeds tend to germinate more quickly.) Upon germination, a small white rootlet grows out of the seed. Once the rootlet is 0.25 to 0.5 inches long, it's ready to plant in fine potting soil. Use a 4-inch pot filled with soil to hold the germinated seed; plant the tip of the rootlet so that it's pointing down. In one to four days, the seed will sprout through the soil. The seedling will be ready to transplant in two to four weeks, depending upon its size. When it's ready to transplant, the seedling roots should be creeping out the drainage holes in the bottom of the 4-inch pot. As a rule, seedling soil is a little finer than the soil used later, because it holds moisture better and gives the new seedling a stable environment.

Next, transplant the seedling into a 3-gallon container full of similar soil; however, this soil should be a little faster-draining. I like to add 10% to 20% perlite to the soil to increase drainage.

The perlite will also help trap air (oxygen) in the

soil; this oxygen is necessary for nutrient uptake. Always buy the best soil you can afford, and use fast-draining soil designed for annual flowers and vegetables.

LANKY SEEDLINGS

Why are my seedlings so tall and lanky? I started the seeds in wet paper towels and planted them in small pots, and then they just shot up. How can I fix them so they're shorter and stronger? I'm planning to raise them hydroponically (hopefully—I've never tried this before). I really enjoy your columns and just ordered one of your books.

JuneBug Via Internet

Dear June,

Seedlings, especially when grown indoors, often have long, lanky stems and small leaves during the first month of growth. The stems are bred to push up through soil, but when the soil offers little resistance, they grow long and lanky instead. The problem is that long, lanky stems tend to be weak and need to bulk up with some fibrous cellulose to be able to support the weight of the plant.

Keep a fan blowing on your seedlings so that the little plants are stirring a bit in the wind (but don't give them *too* much air or they'll dry out quickly). This will help them gain some cellulose in the stem. Once the seedlings are about a month old, they should have developed two sets of true leaves with the classic serrated edges

characteristic of marijuana. The stems will still be long and lanky, but they should also be getting a little thicker and sturdier. If you started the seedlings in rockwool blocks, they'll be easy to move into a hydroponic system. I suggest that you move the rockwool cubes into a hydroponic garden filled with Hydroton clay pellets or something similar. When transplanting, bury the seedlings in the clay pellets so that there's an inch of stem below the leaves. The buried stem will grow roots within a month, and the plant will grow strong and healthy.

VENTILATING TWO ROOMS

I bought your "grower's bible" (Marijuana Horticulture), and it's been very helpful. I have a problem, though: I have a vegetative room and a flowering room with a 6-inch in-line vent fan and a carbon filter. To separate the rooms, I was going to use a tarp with a zipper. How can I vent both areas?

Steve G. Via Internet

Dear Steve,

Place the in-line exhaust fan and carbon filter in the flowering room; this is where the odor comes from. Set up the fan near the ceiling so that it vents off hot air in the room; then put a circulation fan in the vegetative room. To vent the two areas, make a hole in the room divider on or near the floor. Cut the hole in such a way that the light from the vegetative room doesn't shine onto plants in the flowering room; this is easy to ac-













complish with the help of curved ducting. When the circulation fan is on, there should be air moving from the vegetative room into the flowering room via the hole or vent. Vegetative plants like a little higher humidity (60%) than flowering plants (50%) and generally don't pose an odor problem, so the ventilation should be sufficient. If you need more ventilation, place a small vent fan in the ducting to expedite air movement. You can open both rooms when the flowering light is on for added ventilation.

SOIL AND SOILLESS

What do you consider the best soil mixture for growing indoors?

Greg Via Internet

Dear Greg,

Personally, I like soilless mix rather than soil. Soilless mix is perfect for growing indoors because it drains quickly and it's easy to control the nutrient content. My favorite soilless mixes are Sunshine Mix and ProMix. Both are consistent and excellent products, and both come with enough trace elements impregnated in the mix to grow most plants for the first month.

Potting soil is difficult to keep consistent in different geographic areas: Transportation costs require that potting soils be made from local ingredients, and these ingredients vary from place to place. The best advice I can give you is to buy the best fast-draining premium mix you can find, or else mix your own from quality ingredients. Here are a couple of my favorite soil mixes (note that they're all very easy to make. You can

also add your own organic nutrients to the mix, but I prefer to add all the nutrients with a nutrient solution so that it's easier to control. Also, when using homemade compost, make sure it's completely composted and not full of bad stuff): 1/2 compost

1/2 soilless mix

1/3 compost 1/3 soilless mix 1/3 coco coir

1/3 compost 1/3 soilless mix 1/6 worm castings 1/6 perlite

LE.D. LIGHTS

I've been seriously considering getting an LED grow light. The two I'm looking at are the Procyon 100 and the Lightblaze 400. I was hoping you could help me decide. Your advice would be greatly appreciated.

Jerry Via Internet

Dear Jerry,

LED lights will be coming down in price in the next few years. Currently, they cost around \$600 for approximately 100 watts of LED light, which is enough to illuminate a 40-by-40-inch square room. They don't produce as much intense light as a 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) or metal halide (MH) lamp, but they do provide enough light to produce a respectable crop. I'm still studying the yields and bud quality.



If you compare the economics of a 100-watt LED and a 400-watt HPS, you'll find that it costs about \$15 a month to run a 400-watt HPS at \$0.10 per kilowatt hour $(0.4 \times $0.10 = $0.04 \times 12 \text{ hours } x 30 \text{ days} = $14.40 \text{ per month to run}, and 75% less to run a 100-watt LED ($14.40 \times 0.25 = $3.60; $14.40 - $3.60 = $10.80 \text{ savings per month when using an LED}. If a 400-watt HPS system costs $300 and the 100-watt LED costs $600, it would take 28 months to make up the difference. Hmm$

Electrical use, heat and space could also color your decision. If any of these three are a prime concern, you should use an LED lamp: They put out very little heat and run very cool, so they can be placed close to your plants (12 to 24 inches away). But the buds I've seen grown under LED lights weren't as plump and tight as those grown under HPS light. It might make a difference as to which strains were being grown under the LED. My guess is that *indica*-dominant plants with more open buds tend to do best under LEDs, but I'm afraid my experience thus far has been limited.

As for the type of LED fixture to purchase, I'd rather not make a direct recommendation at this point, but I can tell you what to look for: 1) Each LED lightbulb should be rated at 1 watt or better; 2) the fixture should have a vent fan built in; 3) the combination of bulbs should be such that the light spectrum generated promotes growth; and 4) the fixture should be compact and easy to hang. For more information, check out the ads for LED lamps in HIGH TIMES!

APARTMENT GROWING

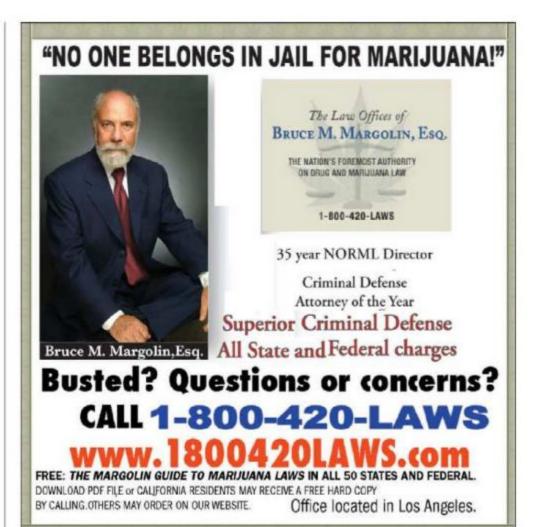
I am a California medical-cannabis patient and will soon be starting my own garden (for medical purposes, of course!). I bought a 4' x 4' x 7' grow closet. Would a 600-watt HPS light be a good choice? (I want to use it to grow the seeds I collect from the plants.) An exhaust fan, thermostat and humidistat are a must, but do I also need an intake fan? I live in an apartment and will use air ionizers to stop the odor; I'll place one in the grow room and another near the window. Do you think I'll need a charcoal filter?

RVR California

Dear RVR,

You always know what you're taking when you grow your own medicine! Buying a grow closet is a good idea: There are many different brands on the market, and they're very easy to set up and start growing. A 600-watt lamp is an excellent choice for a 40-square-inch room; it will provide plenty of light to grow big, fat medicinal buds. But one of the by-products of a 600-watt lamp is heat, and this heat must be moved out of the grow area so that the ambient temperature stays around 75°F. (It can drop to 65°F at night with little change in growth.) Keeping adequate air flowing through the closet should be simple enough—just use the intake vents near the bottom of the unit. Air is pulled in via these vents and evacuated via the exhaust fan above.

Aside from keeping the temperature near 75°F and the humidity at about 50%, your main concerns will be where this air is going to be evacuated and how much it smells like marijuana. Yes,







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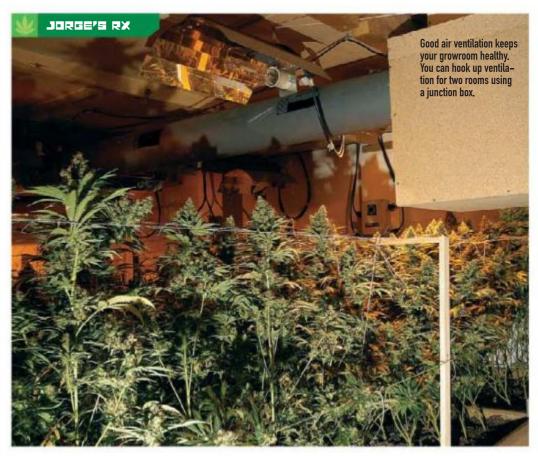
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you will need a charcoal filter—ionizers won't kill the smell during flowering. Vent the air from the growroom out the window or somewhere else outside. (Sometimes you can vent it into the bathroom if there's an exhaust fan there you can keep on, but it's best to expel dank air outdoors.) Also, your neighbors are likely to get suspicious if they smell marijuana, so make sure the carbon filter is in perfect working condition at all times.

FLUORESCENT FIASCO

A friend and I are making a low-budget grow-room, and we want to use fluorescent lights. Our room is 117 square feet (9' x 13' x 7'), and we plan to place 4-foot, 40-watt bulbs along the walls 16 inches from the floor, plus 48 bulbs on the ceiling and eight 150-watt halogen bulbs around the room, for a total of 6,320 watts (or 54 watts per square foot). We also plan to use two wall-mounted air conditioners and carbon filters. Will this work?

High for Life Miami, FL

Dear High for Life,

Placing so many fluorescent fixtures in one room will be a nightmare. I know, because one of the first rooms I set up in the 1970s used 48 80-watt fluorescent fixtures, and that room was a total failure. Not only do you have to suspend all those fixtures, but you have to connect them with electrical wire. From your description, it sounds like you'll have a total of 64 fixtures containing two 40-watt fluorescent lights, plus eight 150-watt halogen lamps. That's a grand total of 72 light fixtures to hang in the room! If you want to spend all your time playing around with electrical connections, wires, ballasts and bulbs, continue with this plan. Also, those 150-watt halogen lamps will produce very little useable light for plant growth, besides being very inefficient. (Keep in mind that a halogen bulb is not the same as a metal halide

bulb, which is great for growing marijuana.)

My advice is to forget the whole fluorescent/halogen setup. Purchase a couple of 600-watt HPS lamps for flowering and a 400-watt MH light for seedlings, clones, vegetative plants and mothers. Divide the room into two uneven sections; the vegetative room should occupy 25% to 35% of the space occupied by the flowering room. Spend your time and energy setting up these three lamps, as well as a good air-circulation and ventilation system, and then start growing. That way, all you'll have to concentrate on is giving your plants what they need in order to grow.

HUMIDORS AND FERTILIZER

How come I never see anything about cigar humidors and pot? I've been using one for years and I love it!

Also, the directions for Rapid Gro, Miracle Gro, etc., say to use 0.05 teaspoon per gallon of water, but they don't tell you how much water to put on each plant! I give my plants about two cups of water; then, after 20 minutes, I give them one cup of nutrients. This is for a plant 3 feet tall and growing in a 5-gallon pot. Is that too much?

Tom P. Las Vegas, NV

Dear Tom.

Good point: Humidors are a great place to store your stash. In fact, at a recent trade fair—Sanfer-Weed, in Pamplona, Spain—there was a business selling humidors for that express purpose. You can find humidors at any fine cigar store or order them on-line. Check tampahumidor.com for deals.

As for your second question, you can use those inexpensive, run-of-the-mill fertilizers if you want; they grow okay plants. But I advise you to spend a couple more bucks and buy a quality hydroponic fertilizer to feed your prize ladies. The extra expense will pay off with fewer prob-



lems and a heavier harvest.

It's a good move to water your plants first and then give them some fertilizer with the next watering 20 minutes later. This allows the roots and soil to get moist, which means the fertilizer will be taken in a little quicker. You should water the plants so that all the soil gets good and wet. This requires that about 10% of the water you put in at the top of the pot drains out the bottom. You may want to lightly cultivate the soil surface so that the water penetrates evenly. My guess is that you haven't been giving your plants enough water. A 5-gallon bucket holds a lot of water, and a healthy, 3-foot-tall plant can easily use 1 to 2 quarts of water per day, but you're giving them 3 cups (or 0.75 quarts) of water. Give the garden a good drenching; once the soil is nice and wet, you should only have to water every other day—possibly less. The important thing to remember is to let 10% of the water drain out the bottom.

NEWBIE ON A BUDGET

I want to grow, but I have no experience, can't afford the equipment and don't have much space. Can you give me some information on growing?

> MOAM Charleston, SC

Cnart

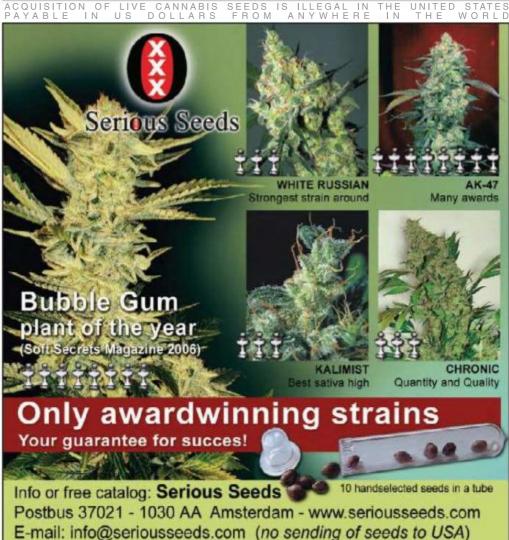
Dear MOAM,

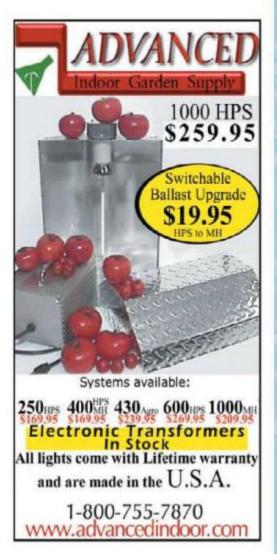
You'll have to change your situation a little before you're able to grow great cannabis. The least expensive way to grow is to get some seeds from a friend (or from a bag of marijuana you like) and plant them outdoors. Sunlight is free; all you need to do is find a safe, secure place to grow. Your expenses will be minimal: a little bit of store-bought potting soil and some fertilizer. Oh, yes—and you'll also need to continue reading HIGH TIMES. Your best bet is to splurge on a good grow guide. Call up the advertisers in HIGH TIMES and ask questions about the books they sell. A good grow guide is worth 10 times its weight in buds!

If you want to grow indoors, you'll need some more equipment. You should budget from \$100 to \$1,000 to get started. The cheapest set-up employs a 65-watt compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). You'll be able to grow 2 to 4 plants under this bulb—but remember, these plants won't develop giant buds. You'll also need a fan, some pots, soil, fertilizer, a watering can, a thermometer and a hygrometer. You may be able to scrounge up these things around the house or buy them secondhand. Or you might think about getting a part-time job to earn enough money to pay for this stuff. **

Jorge Cervantes is the author of Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible (January 2006), Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD (shot in BC) and Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II (shot in Spain), Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible, Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens, Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing and Jorge's Rx. He writes for 20 magazines in seven languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Hit marijuanagrowing.com for more information.









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GARDEN CALENDAR



OUTDOORS

Order seed catalogs and surf the Internet for seeds. When you're an outdoor grower stuck indoors, the days are long and lonely. Check the Internet to see what new strains are available. You can also make a ski or snowboard trip to Canada and pick up a few packs of seeds along the way.

Few Canadian vendors will send seeds to the US these days—most have heard about Marc Emery's arrest and requested extradition by US authorities for selling cannabis seeds to the States. (Keep updated on Marc's situation at cannabisculture.com.) But you can still purchase seeds in Spain, Holland and the UK direct from retailers.

Check on your stored seeds.
Always keep seeds in a cool, dry, dark place. Seeds stored in a refrigerator should be kept in an airtight container with moisture-absorbing silicon crystals. The humidity in the storage container should be as low as possible (don't forget that humidity rises when the temperature inside a refrigerator drops). Remove the silicon packets regularly to dry out before replacing. Dry seeds stay viable much longer.

Stored buds should also be checked regularly. Buds will develop mold if they're stored in humid conditions or weren't dried completely before storage. Examine your buds for mold with a magnifying glass or a low-powered microscope. Many times, moldy buds can be made into water hash—but people with respiratory problems should just toss them out.

Look around for new guerrillagarden sites. Scour the countryside to find as many new planting spots as possible. February is a wonderful time for this, because many of the trees have no leaves and you can see all the "safe" planting plots. It's also much easier to scout out the hidden undergrowth for that perfect planting spot this month. Remember, the sun's angle in the sky will be much higher during the summer, so take that into account when siting your plots.

Plant seeds now in Southern California and other warm regions. Start seeds and clones indoors to set out later. Set seedlings outside or under the cover of a greenhouse when days are warm, but move indoors if nights are cool. Give seedlings 14 hours of light and 10 hours of darkness to increase the ratio of female to male plants.

INDOORS

February is often the coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere. Miserably cold outdoor weather plagues most climates, but this is perfect indoor-growing weather. Humidity outdoors is often high when the temperatures drop, so be sure to pre-heat outdoor air when ushering it indoors to the growroom. Direct pre-warmed intake air near the floor so that it doesn't blow directly on plants.

Electric furnaces and wood stoves lower the humidity as they warm the air, but gas and oil furnaces increase it. Keep an eye on humidity both day and night. Measure it 30 to 60 minutes after the lights go out to get the most dynamic readings. Try to keep the humidity at 50% in the flowering room. Keep vent fans on at night to control humidity.

Cold-air leaks in the growroom will slow growth. A back draft could flow through the vent fan's outlet. Minimize this draft by baffling the outlet, or install a leaf valve to prevent unwanted airflow.

Light the CO₂ generator to increase levels of carbon dioxide and add heat to the room. CO₂ is most

beneficial during seedling and vegetative growth. A by-product of burning a fossil fuel is humidity, so set the timer on the exhaust fan to vent the room at regular intervals and expel humid air.

Hot growroom air blowing outdoors will melt snow and ice, create vapor clouds and raise eyebrows. This air can also transport the odor of flowering marijuana into the neighborhood. Vent dank growroom air up through the chimney or a roof vent—air vented above the house will generally stay safely above the olfactory sense of passers-by.

Take regular temperature readings of the nutrient solution. If the reservoir is on a cold concrete floor, heat will be sucked from the solution. Move the reservoir up off the floor, or add an aquarium heater to keep the temperature of the solution at about 60°F. Definitely keep the temperature above 50°F, but don't let it rise too much above 60°F in order to avoid problems.

Cold air stays near the floor, and hot air rises and stratifies near the top of the room. Often, the temperature differential can be as much as 10°F between the ceiling and floor of a growroom. This air-temperature differential slows plant growth, attracts pests and diseases, and weakens plants. Position the fans so that they keep the air in the room circulating from top to bottom.

Spider mites and other insects will try to sneak into your warm, inviting growroom now. Inspect leaf undersides for these little pests and their eggs. Check soil and roots for signs of root rot.

Check the EC (ppm) and pH of the runoff nutrient solution from the bottom of pots. If the concentration of nutrients draining out the bottom is higher than the input solution, there is a toxic buildup of nutrients in the soil. Leach the soil of built-up excess fertilizer every month to avoid problems. Flush with three times the volume of water as the volume of growing medium. This will prevent many nutrient problems later.

Check and change charcoal filters, or use an ozone generator to remove odors and discourage pests and diseases. Keep humidity at or below 50% to ensure that the carbon filters absorb odors.

Harvest and clean your growroom to get ready for the next crop.

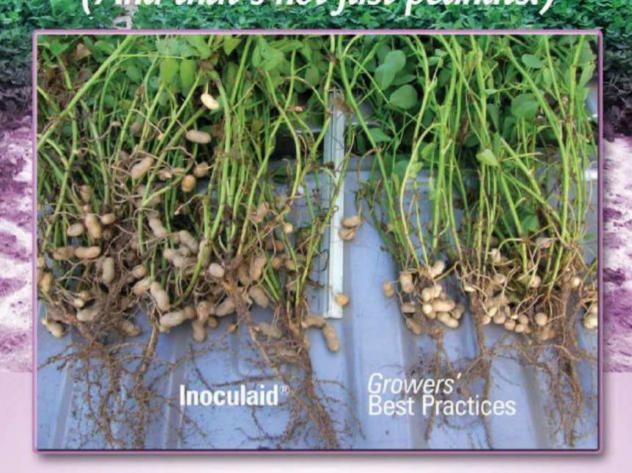
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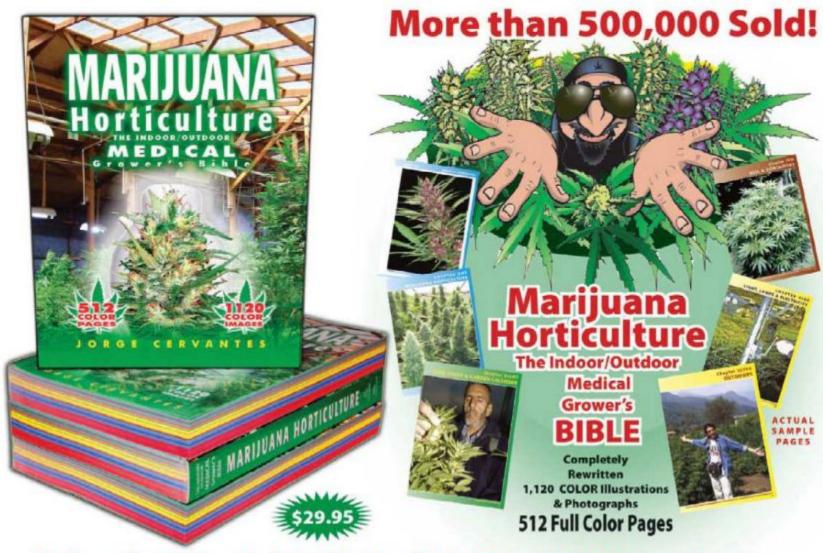
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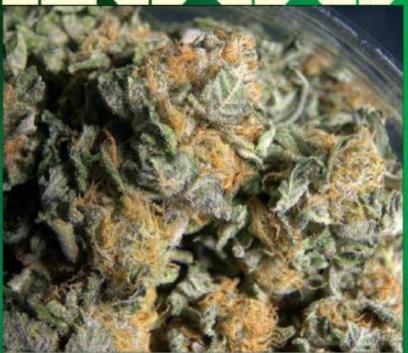


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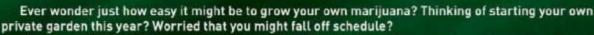
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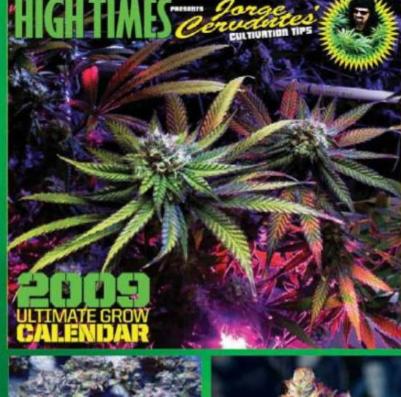
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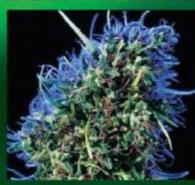
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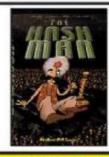
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SUBCOOL'S SUPER SOIL STEP-BY-STEP

The master breeder and star ganja grower known as Subcool reveals his soil secrets in an incisive guide for stirring up the perfect mix to promote thriving roots and massive colas.

THE WIZARD OF BUZZ

Take a peek behind the curtain. You'll discover a lush garden filled with new strains, grown by a veritable sorcerer of indoor cultivation. He'll unveil techniques for producing bigger harvests—faster than you can click your heels together!

"I SMOKED POT WITH THE GOVERNATOR"

Tommy Chong, world's most famous pothead, tells the true story of how he got high with Arnold Schwarzenegger in the late 1960's while hanging out at the original Gold's Gym in Venice Beach, CA.

HAIL CALGARY!

The first-ever Alberta Cup, highlighted by 10 stellar Canadian strains, was held in Calgary, a city where activists are quietly carving out a place for cannabis in cowboy country.

PEOPLE OF THE HEMP

Two Native American brothers recently busted for cultivation claim that cannabis use is part of their heritage and want their "medicine" returned. Are they really "the people of the hemp" as they say? Senior Editor Dan Skye investigates a compelling case of spiritual rights.

PLUS: HIGH TIMES talks buds and beats with hip-hop legend Del tha Funkee Homosapien.

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NEW RELEASES

BOOKS DEFICIAL HIGH TIMES POT SMOKER'S HANDBOOK

High Times

POT SMOKER'S HANDBOOK

FEATURING 420 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU'RE STONED

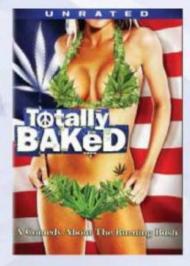
by David Bienesstock and the editors of High Times magazine

Since 1974, High Times magazine has covered marijuana in all its aspects and wonders, from cultivation to legalization to the herb's enduring (and exalted) place in popular culture. Packed with inside information, The Official High Times Pot Smoker's Handbook rolls up all of this collected wisdom into one indispensable ganja guide. With a life-changing list of 420 things to do when you're stoned, this is truly, finally, the ultimate guide to green living. \$19.95

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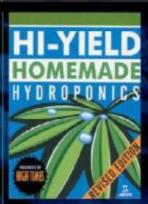
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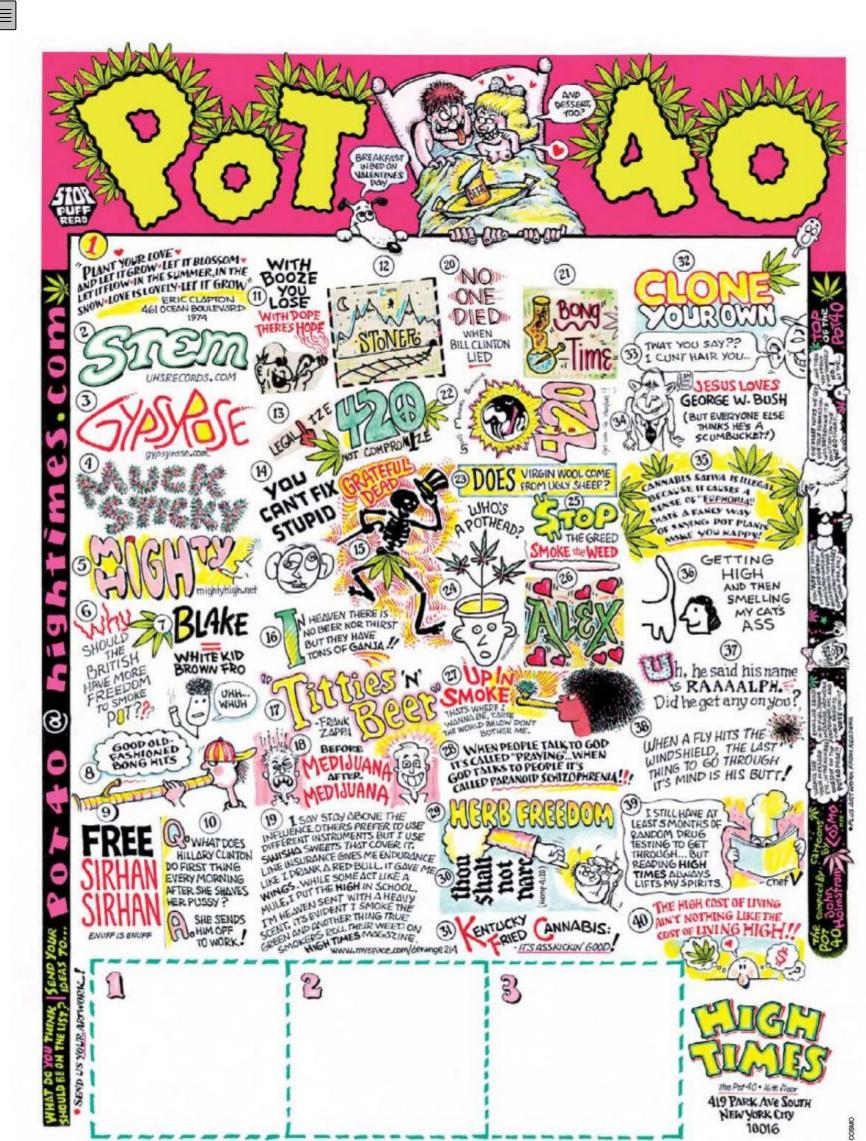
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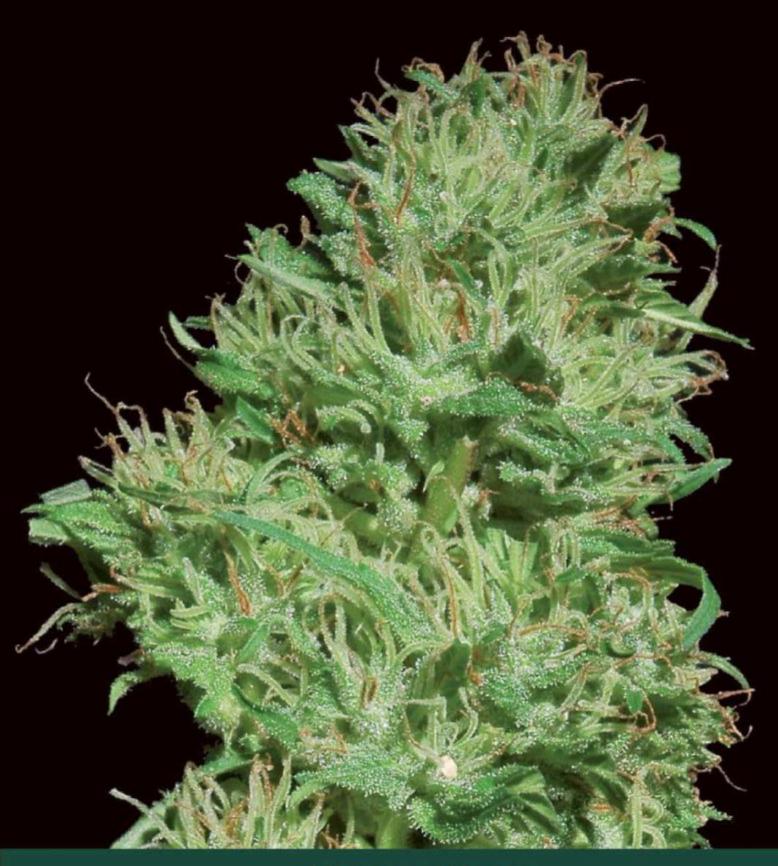
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