

**GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S BEST POT SEEDS**

# HIGH TIMES

AUGUST 2009



**25 TOP SEED BANKS**



**ASHER ROTH**  
"I LOVE CANNABIS"

**KEEPING YOUR GROWROOM COOL**

**CLONES VS. SEEDS**  
PROS AND CONS

**7TH ANNUAL DOOBIE AWARDS**  
JOHNNY WINTER

**POT AND RELIGION**  
BIG BHANG THEORY

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As seen on:  
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**SHOWTIME**  
TV. AT ITS BEST.

## Tired of pH Pens and Complicated Feed Charts? Amazing Bigger Yields System Uses New pH and PPM Technologies So You Can Thrive

Have you had enough of all those mind numbing complicated feed charts, schedules, pH-PPM pens, meters, different feed rates and all kinds of other hard to figure out gadgets? It's messy. It's time-consuming. It's virtually impossible to figure out, let alone get it right. Plus, all those bottles of calibration solutions, pH-up, pH-down chemicals and the tiny holes they burn into your shirts and pants.

You've been frustrated asking: "Hey, will somebody just give me a fast, easy and simple to use bigger yield getting nutrient flowering system?"

Advanced Nutrients listened to you. The answer is yes. You'll find out how in just a minute.

But first a little about the charts, schedules and programs. Heck we invented the things to begin with, and since then all the other nutrient companies have got in line and followed like a shadow with their own feed charts and take on things. This whole nutrient thing has gotten out of hand, and a whole lot more complicated. We never intended for it to get this way. We had created an industry wide monster and had to make things right... because there had to be an easier way.

### Now You Have the Nutrient Flowering System You Asked For

When we decided to create the world's easiest to use and most powerful flowering system, it was important that we get it right. So we interviewed hundreds of growers worldwide, just like you, to find out exactly what you wanted from your hydroponics nutrients.

And guess what? It was back to work we went. We gathered up the team of 12 scientists with their army of research assistants and "worked our butts off" over the next 33 months, reworking everything from the ground up and made it purpose-built to give you a continuously bigger yield producing punch than ever before, streamlining your workload. That's why you'll certainly appreciate the Bigger Yields Flowering System. It takes all the guesswork out of you getting the biggest yields, no matter what level of gardener you are.

Think about it, a Flowering System that will give you...

- Proven Bigger Yields
- Potent, Easy Mix & Use Formulas
- New, Powerful, Flower Fattening Formulas
- Formulas That Work Together for Your Biggest Yields
- A Driving Push that Flowers Your Plants to Their True Genetic Potential
- pH-PPM Perfect - No More Balancing Your pH and PPM Ever Again!



### Finally Someone Who Gets It

Never being one to get in over my head, I've always kind of stuck with a base nutrients two-part and a bloom booster. My friend said I'd see bigger harvests using your System. But I was scared it would make more work for me. But when I looked at your System I realized you guys really understand what it's all about and have it all figured out. So I got two Bigger Yields Bundles (Hobbyist and Expert) and put them together like the chart says, along with the new Sensi base. Not only was mixing this stuff easier than ever, but I didn't have to pH it and I also found that the plants grew quicker and the bloom time was shorter but a larger harvest. Your system worked better than expected. Much thanks for getting it right.

Mark, from Gainesville, Florida

### From Hamburger Millionaires to Bigger-Harvest Hydroponics... How You Can Use the Time-Proven-Power of a "System" and Get Your Bigger Yields Advantage "Right Now"

Ever wondered why so many savvy people spend millions of dollars to buy a McDonald's franchise?

I realize you're probably saying to yourself right now, what the heck does this have to do with me getting bigger yields? Just hang with me for a few moments and I will explain it all.

It's because the McDonald's system is powerful, consistent, simple and so comprehensively effective that owning a McDonald's franchise is literally a license to print your own money.

And that's not all, even first-time business owners make big bucks running the McDonald's system. Because the entire well being of your business has been thought out and everything your business needs is taken care of for you. All you do is follow the system and harvest your big piles of cash.

What does all this have to do with you? The Bigger Yields Flowering System provides a rock solid complete, consistent and comprehensive system that automatically takes care of your entire plant for you at every stage of growth, from its roots to the very top of your flowers and everything in between.

Stop and imagine what it would mean to you to walk into your garden and see the kind of crops you've always known were possible and always dreamed of.

Big fat juicy harvests with towering buds, so sweet and succulent that when other growers see pictures of your crop they say "damn what the heck did you do" and when your friends and customers look at your finished product and take those long intoxicating smells... they'll have that look on their face, which says it all.

Look, the system automatically takes care of your entire plant

### New Breakthrough



**5 in 1** Amino Acids

Sensi Bloom and Grow-Micro-Bloom level with these extra products to give you...

Get the Stack!™

## Start Stacking your Bigger Yields Bundles for Even Bigger Yields

### Hobbyist Bundle



+11.37% guaranteed increase  
**UNIVERSITY VERIFIED**

### Expert Grower Bundle



+19.73% guaranteed increase  
**UNIVERSITY VERIFIED**

### Professional Grower Bundle



+24.14% guaranteed increase  
**UNIVERSITY VERIFIED**



# Breakthrough "Brain-Dead-Simple" Flowering Grow Away Your Pens and Meters Forever!

Announcing:  
**The Bigger Yields Flowering System™**

Here's how the Bigger Yields System will continually deliver your dream harvests...

## Amped-Up Base Nutrients, Special Supplements and the Simplest Bigger Yields Flowering System Ever Devised!

You told us you wanted to spend even less time and fuss in your garden while getting still bigger harvest rewards. So we developed the System to have a bold and broader range of nutrient availability than you'll ever find with any other company's nutrients.

How did we do it? The Bigger Yields Flowering System nutrients are coated with multiple sources of unique and powerful compounds, causing your Macro and Micro nutrients to become powerful microscopic magnets attracted to your plant's roots.

These coatings give your nutrients tremendous flexibility to work at an extremely wide pH range. Opening up your plants cellular floodgates to rapidly inhale everything you feed them so they steadily make larger and fatter flowers to give you branch-bending-bounties.

## Imagine Never Again Having to Check and Adjust pH

### Breakthrough Formula



...now contain & combine at a higher level than ever you even Bigger Yields Guaranteed

Let me be a bit more specific... the Bigger Yields Flowering System has a proprietary technology called pH-PPM Perfect that automatically puts your nutrient solutions pH and PPM into the "sweet spot" for optimum growth and flowering, and it's built into every growing level of the Bigger Yields Flowering System eliminating you having to fool with pesky pH meters and PPM calculations.

Here's how easy it is: if the water you use to mix your nutrients has a pH between 4.5 and 8.5 pH (and that's pretty much everyone's water) then you'll never have to balance your pH or for that matter ever add a single drop of pH up or down to your reservoir.

## And how about never again having to remember complicated measuring and application data?

Well, we heard you. All the base nutrients have been standardized at 4 ml per liter, so mixing and use is ridiculously easy.

Now get this, all the supplements have been standardized as well. You only need to mix 2 ml per liter. In fact it's this way for all the supplements used in all four of the growing levels: Hobbyist, Expert, Professional and Grand Master with each level "stacking" on top of each other, then you choose your base nutrients, and away you go, that's how the Bigger Yields Flowering System works. Incredibly simple, isn't it?

## Who Advanced Nutrients Is NOT For

Our nutrients are certainly not for everyone...only growers who want to see a difference and take their gardens to the next level, growers who want to really increase the quality of their product and get bigger yields. Advanced Nutrients is not the right fit for those people who...

• **Are Looking for Cheap Nutrients and Could Care less What Goes Into Them** – Advanced Nutrients cost more because you get more: High quality and bigger yields, but in order for us to give you that it cost us a lot of money. We use premium ingredients and run a full blown research staff of 12 PhD's, full tech support and a 100% guarantee on all products.

• **Don't Take Pride in Their Crop** – If they don't care about the quality, appearance or outcome of their harvest. They can look elsewhere. Because everything Advanced Nutrients does is all about our pride in carefully crafting products for growers that do just that: Create off-the-chart quality, pristine appearance and bigger yields.

• **Don't Have Compassion For Their Fellow Man** – If they're not willing to give a helping hand to people who are in need of their assistance or expertise. Then listen up: Advanced Nutrients gives all the time. We've donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in nutrients and equipment over the years. Obviously giving is the right thing to do.

## No Dinosaurs Allowed: Unleash Your Plant's True Genetic Potential and Get 9 Products for the Price of 4

It's now really easy for you to realize the fact that your grower friends are stuck in the "old hard way," formulas and charts that, well... qualify as dinosaurs. Not you though because you'll be using new state-of-the-art flowering technologies and five brand new hydroponics industry breakthroughs that like a world class athlete, will push your plants to their true genetic potential.

Even Better, you'll save more money with the new Bigger Yields Flowering System when you buy the all new 5 in 1 Sensi Bloom or Grow-Micro-Bloom base nutrients along with the Hobbyist Bigger Yields Bundle™. Because it's, exactly the same as getting **9 products for the price of 4**, Sensi Bloom or Grow-Micro-Bloom base nutrients now contains and combines at a higher level the award winning products H-2, F-1, Wet Betty and a special blend of Amino Acids when you buy the Hobbyist Bigger Yields Bundle which contains Big Bud, Voodoo Juice, B-52 and Overdrive, you'll also get the **Overdrive for Free**.

Actually we do mean it when we say award winning products and breakthrough technologies. Let me explain, and these are absolute facts, we're not trying to brag or anything like that (well ok...maybe just a little), and because you're probably not aware of these facts, and of course they're important ones when you're buying the Bigger Yields Flowering System.

• **Advanced Nutrients has won every major growing competition in the world, no other nutrient company has even come close to our continuing string of victories.**

• **Advanced Nutrients is the hydroponics industry's "technologies leader" responsible to date for 31 technological breakthroughs and patents that has elevated the science of hydroponics for the entire industry and made your growing easier and more profitable, including the five new pioneering technologies employed now in the Bigger Yields Flowering System.**

Anyway, back to what I was saying, here's the deal. At the Expert Grower Level you get Final Phase for Free. The Professional Grower Level gives you SensiZym for free and at the Grand Master Grower Level you'll receive your Rhino Skin absolutely free.

So go right now and ask the store owner or one of the staff to show you the Bigger Yields Flowering System and remember to ask for your Bigger Yields Bundle. As you have clearly discovered getting bigger yields and bigger savings has never been so easy. Enjoy.

To watch pH-PPM Perfect technology in action go to:  
[www.advancednutrients.com/ph-ppmperfect](http://www.advancednutrients.com/ph-ppmperfect)

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Woodland WA, 98674 USA

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**Advanced  
Nutrients**

## Bigger Harvests and Savings

**Grand Master Grower Bundle**

Buy 2 ... Get 1 Free

**+28.96%** guaranteed increase in yield

**+37.89%** guaranteed increase in yield

**UNIVERSITY VERIFIED**



# BC BUD DEPOT


## SEED LIST

PRICES FOR 12-SEED PACKS:

Indoor / Outdoor

-  BC God Bud \$90
- The Purps \$90
- BC Sweet God \$90
- The Black \$75
- BC Hash Plant \$75
- Northern Lights \$75
- BC Mango \$75
- BC Arctic Sun \$75
- Blue Buddah \$75
- BC Sweet Tooth \$75
- BC Blueberry \$60
- BC Champagne \$60
- BC Kush \$60
- Purple Afgani \$60
- Lasqueti Haze \$60

Feminized

-  BC God Bud \$125.00
- Original Blueberry \$125.00
- BC Hash Plant \$125.00
- BC Sweet Dreams \$125.00
- BC Skunk #1 / NL \$125.00

Indoor

- BC Chronic \$75
- UBC Chemo \$75
- BC Love Lettuce \$75
- White Widow \$75
- Merville Blueberry \$60
- BC Big Bud \$60
- BC Albino Rhino \$60
- Indoor Mix \$50

Outdoor

- Sweet Island Skunk \$75
- Texada Timewarp \$75
- Saturna Sativa \$60
- Redonda Red Hair \$60
- Eggmont Outdoor \$60
- BC Purple Star \$60
- Outdoor Mix \$50

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IN OUR ONLINE FORUMS!



## HOW DO YOU ORDER SEEDS?

### THREE EASY WAYS!

1) We accept cash or \*blank\* money orders:

**GFS Industries**  
Suite #65,  
Nieuwezijds Voorburgwal 86  
1012 SE Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

2) By telephone: 011-31-64-465-3362

3) Secure online shopping! Visit

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## THE PURPS

The latest in our line of Cannabis Cup award winners!

As smoked and celebrated by Tommy Chong and his fellow aficionados, the Purps will catapult you to a realm of Purple Euphoria. With a soaring zero-burnout high and a deep purple flavour, this connoisseur's delight is a must for every garden.



INTRODUCING:

## THE BLACK



A newly-stabilized BCBD seed release, this black beauty is an epic yielder with a pleasing flavour and a potent narcotic stone. It is fast becoming a favourite addition to gardens large and small.





*"To see things in the seed, that is genius."  
-Lao Tzu*

LOCHFOOT

## THE GOOD SEED

### How grows it, faithful readers!

One of the most popular questions we in the cultivation department of HIGH TIMES get asked is "Who should I purchase my pot seeds from?" Internet, mail order and seed shops (in countries lucky enough to allow them) provide so many varied choices in gentic material and this important decision can overwhelm the potential bean buyer.

Two years ago (HT Oct. '07), with this exact dilemma in mind, I founded the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame in order to highlight those seed companies that, through excellence in product and longevity in business, proved themselves worthy of praise. Five defunct yet highly influential companies were inducted as Esteemed Seed Bank Pioneers and ten existing companies were chosen for the inaugural class. Now, the time has come to induct ten new companies into this hallowed Hall (p. 52).

Many factors determine what makes a great breeding outfit; potency and flavor of product, consistency of growth and germination rates, attention to customer service – the list goes on and on. Rest assured that we've tested and re-tested the genetics to ensure that cannabis connoisseurs and pot aficionados get their effort and money's worth.

We've also scoured the globe to find the best information for cannabis consumers, researchers and activists. Witness Steven Hager's Big Bhang Theory exploring the connections between cannabis and the variety of religious experiences and Nico Escondido's breakdown of cutting-edge European growing strategies. Along with that, our cultivation correspondents reveal how to beat the heat this time of year and keep your garden running all summer long. On the cultural front, Bobby Black runs down our Annual HIGH TIMES Doobie Awards for music and interviews Lifetime Achievement winner Johnny Winter.

All that, plus the best in marijuana music, culture and news ensures a pot-packed issue full of stony surprises.

Enjoy and keep on growing!

*Danny Danko*

Danny Danko  
Senior Cultivation Editor

# HIGH TIMES

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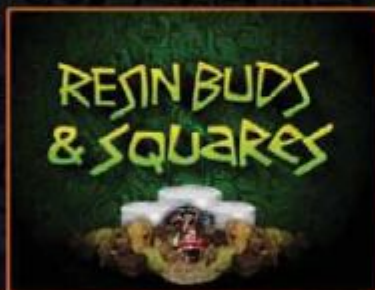
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# HIGH TIMES



52

## features

### 34 BONGS, BUDS, BEER & BBQ

With two stages, 10 bands and free beer, the 2009 Doobie Awards was all set to be our best SXSW party yet. But when the nefarious number 13 throws a cosmic monkey wrench into the works, can Bobby Black keep the event from going south? Plus, check out Austin's best strains (all 13 of them!) at the Second Annual Cowboy Cup.

### 40 EURO GROW

HIGH TIMES sent the Cultivation Department across the pond to check in with our European counterparts and see what's new in the EU. Turns out what's new is a return to the old-school, with a revitalized seed trade in Spain and an influx of new (and seedy) ideas! Nico takes a closer look at the seed-vs.-clone debate and uncovers a few quirky surprises along the way.

### 52 SEED BANK HALL OF FAME: NEW INDUCTIONS!

The HIGH TIMES sensi strain-testing facility has been hard at work compiling 10 new company profiles to add to our illustrious list of the best pot-seed breeders on the planet. Danny Danko breaks down the latest entries and finds out how and why they smoke the competition.

### 66 THE BIG BHANG: HOW CANNABIS SHAPED THE WORLD'S GREAT RELIGIONS

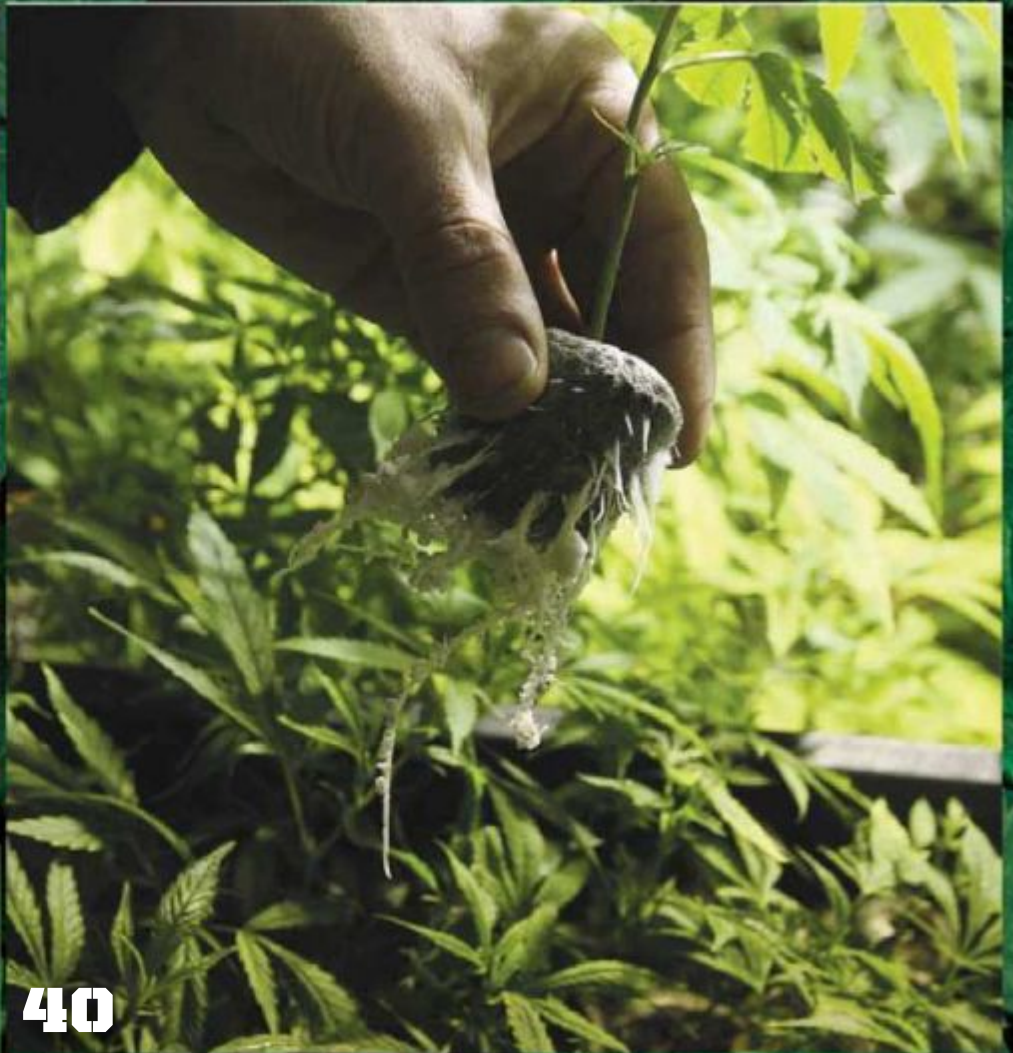
BY STEVEN HAGER

What was the role played by pot in the development of Hinduism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam?

### 72 THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW: JOHNNY WINTER

BY BOBBY BLACK

For over half a century, guitar genius Johnny Winter has entertained audiences with a legacy of soulful, lightning-fast blues and rock music. HIGH TIMES talks to this legendary performer about his life and career, and honors him with our 2009 Doobie Award for Lifetime Achievement.



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## departments

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EDITED BY DAN SKYE

Asher Roth & reefer; Tobacco vs. pot; "Please tax us!" protest; Ashcroft high jinks; 420 cat; Weed Wolf; NuggBrand clothing; Hot hemp products; Stoner drummers; Kottonmouth Kings; Lady Sovereign; Bonnie "Prince" Billy; Reviews; Unsigned Band of the Month; Vaporella; Almost Infamous; Brain Damaged.

COVER: KENT SEA STRAIN: STRAWBERRY COUGH

### 81 growworld

EDITED BY DANNY DANKO & NICO ESCONDIDO

Pix of the Crop; Cannabis Clinic; Munchies; NORMLizer; Dr. Mitch; Freedom Fighter; Beat the Heat: Keeping Cannabis Cool; Gear/Hot Products; Jorge's Rx and August Calendar by Jorge Cervantes.

### 110 next month

### 116 pot 40

CENTERFOLD: LOCHFOOT STRAIN: DIABLO

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# bambu

WORLD'S FINEST PAPERS







## FEEDBACK

### NEW DIGITAL EDITION ROCKS!

This is the perfect format for me. The very reason I haven't had HIGH TIMES delivered is that the area I live in is a bit too closely knit. Most people know what everyone else is up to, even before that person knows. I love you, HIGH TIMES—we are old friends—and I'm glad you can come to me right on my computer. How discreet is that? One more thing: Toss your seeds to the wind, folks. This plant can lead the greatest revolution ever.

*Major Bud Burnswell*

### VANSTERDAMAGED

I am a Californian with a cannabis prescription. In five days in Vancouver, I was unable to obtain my meds or get hold of a single speck of marijuana. Having been to Amsterdam twice, I found no similarity whatsoever between "Vansterdam" and the real thing. Even the best BC bud I observed from smokers in the Amsterdam Cafe would be what we'd classify as B-grade in California. Tourists and visitors with prescriptions from the US should fax all of their documentation to the local Vancouver dispensaries to get approved *before* leaving the States—and even then, you may encounter some other resistance. We found it to be a very strange and unfriendly place, to be honest, and I couldn't recommend it as a destination for fellow migraine sufferers. You may end up, like us, going five days without any cannabis whatsoever.

*J.B.*

### THANKS, GOD

Would you believe that I never heard about pot until after I turned 21?! But now that I'm married to a medical-cannabis grower, I feel lucky. I've been developing a deep sense of love for ganja, and learning about it is not only amazing but undeniably enlightening. I just want to say thank God for ganja, and thank you, HIGH TIMES, for the very awesome magazine, as well as giving me inspiration for a future career move.

*Little Moma*

### GO GREEN!

I have to applaud you for your 400th "Green" issue. It's high time we took stock of where we are and where we're going as a species. I've found cannabis to cause a heightened sense of environmental awareness in myself, and your May issue spoke to that part of me. I hope to see a lot more articles that highlight how our favorite plant is doing its part to help us repair the damage that our thoughtlessness has caused to our environment.

*Logos*

### WRONG TATTOO?

I've been a loyal reader of HIGH TIMES for many years, and I have never had anything to complain about until now. I was curious to see who won the tattoo contest in your May issue (#400), and I was



very disappointed with the results. The second-place winner had a beautiful piece with your magazine's name at the top, a pic of Bob Marley on one side and Jorge Cervantes on the other. The first-place winner, on the other hand, was a beautiful, naked girl with some very basic pot-leaf outlines going down her side. There wasn't any "real" artistry in her design, and it wasn't even colored. I felt bad for the guy who gave his back to HIGH

TIMES, only to lose to her tattoos—were you judging the art or the canvas? I love the Miss HT contest, and the women in your mag in general, but it was sad to see the better art passed up.

*Dubs*

### MARIJUANA ON THE COUCH

I was slightly disappointed that you gave no specific indication that pot could be used as therapy for psychological disorders in the article in your May issue. In 2007, I was hospitalized for anorexia. I had never smoked marijuana before then, but I've become an avid smoker since, and have come to the conclusion that I get relief from my unhealthy thought processes while under the influence of cannabis. These days, it's a real blessing when I can sit down and smoke a bowl.

*Olivia*

### GLASS IS NOT ART

I recently read that you were considering two "glass" issues per year. I would absolutely say no to this. Water-pipes/bong art or whatever you call it is a commercial/retail marketing tool and nothing more. Smokers don't need that crap and have better things to do with their money than pay for overpriced, breakable glass.

*D.K.*

### LEGALIZE IT ALREADY!

Longtime observer, first-time reader. I found your "Hemp and Ignorance Get Licensed" article in the April 2009 issue really intriguing, and it sparked my thought processes (while I was toking up and enjoying your fabulous centerfolds, of course). We all know that the US is in a deep recession, and I'm sure I'm not the only one to say this, but: LEGALIZE IT ALREADY! As your article points out, marijuana is a multi-billion-dollar cash crop. You would think that under our first black president, this nation would be ready to accept such "radical" change—after all, how many people are there who still find the idea of legalizing and regulating marijuana just like alcohol or tobacco to be completely beyond the pale? Just imagine how great life would be if marijuana were legal—and then you could toke some up to make it even better!

*D.*

Send your letters to: Feedback c/o HIGH TIMES, 419 Park Avenue South, 16th floor, New York, NY 10016. Email: [hteditor@hightimes.com](mailto:hteditor@hightimes.com). We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity.





STONES aid your water in the cooling process. Each bubble of smoke released by your downstem is repeatedly made smaller as it travels upward through the STONES. Put STONES in your pipe for a smoother, more refreshing smoke.

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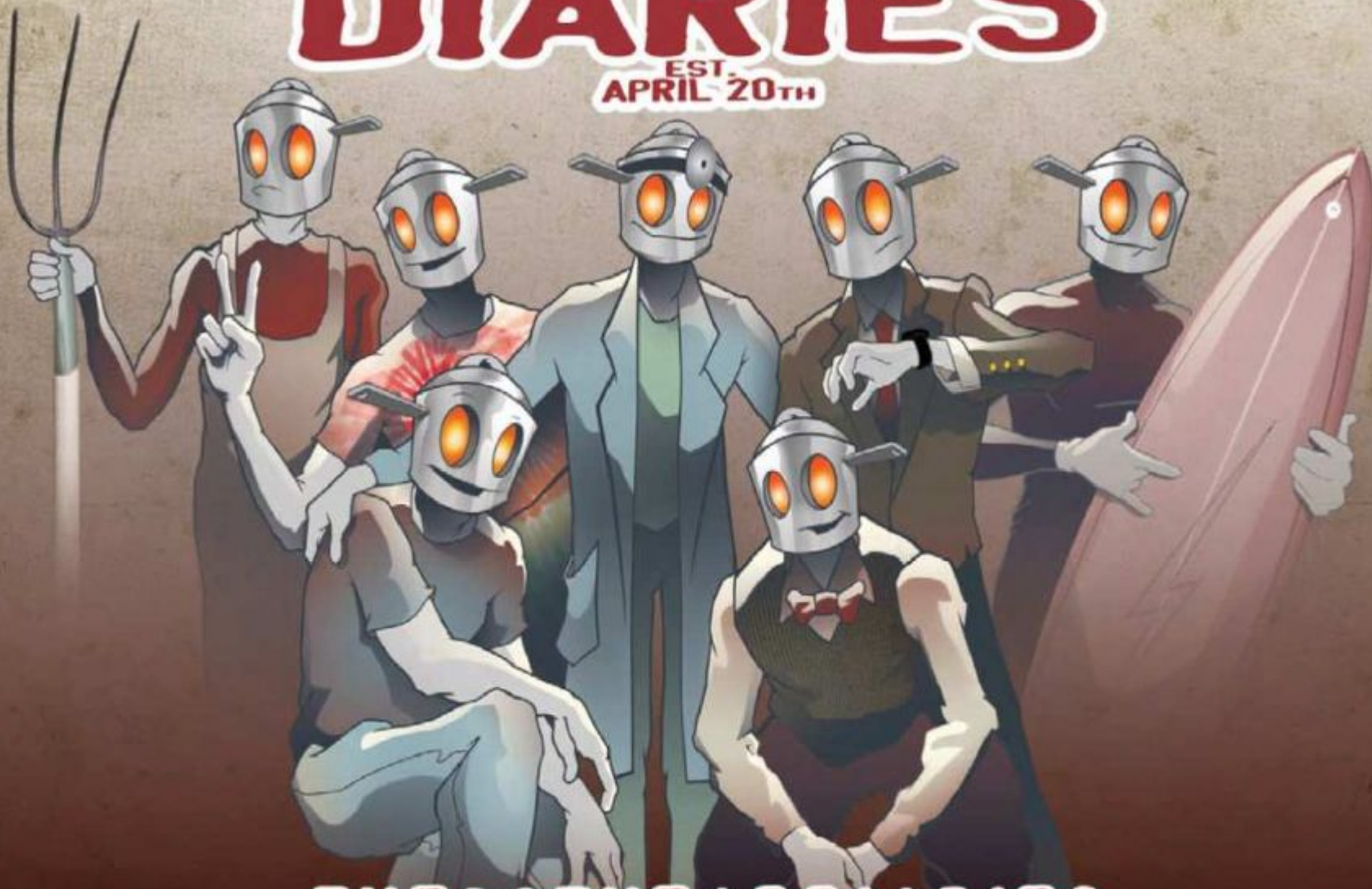
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A SOCIAL COMMENTARY FOR THE CANNABIS SOCIETY





# ASHER ROTH 'I LOVE CANNABIS'

Fresh off the smoking-hot 4/20 release of his debut album, *Asleep in the Bread Aisle*, Asher Roth spent a little quality time with his favorite periodical, inviting the HIGH TIMES film crew to a private shindig held at an undisclosed location overlooking the bright lights of New York City. Discovered on MySpace in 2006 by record exec Scott "Scooter" Braun, Asher hit the hip-hop scene harder than Tommy Chong on a gravity bong, particularly after his hit single "I Love College" emerged as the official party anthem and "torch song" of Spring Break 2009. But don't worry—Asher tells HIGH TIMES that he's smoking plenty of potent Kush to keep his focus.

"Smoking marijuana brings me back down to earth," Asher explained to HIGH TIMES senior cultivation editor Danny Danko, after complimenting him on the local produce of the Baked Apple. "Some people think it hinders your thoughts—but for me, it just kind of straightens me out."

Check out our exclusive video with Asher at [hightimes.com/asher](http://hightimes.com/asher), and stay tuned for his feature interview in the October 2009 issue.



## TAX US NOW!

NORML head honcho Allen St. Pierre offers \$14 billion to Uncle Sam.

What would America's 25 million regular marijuana consumers do with \$14 billion? How about pay taxes—gladly? That's the message that the executive director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) delivered on April 15—better known as Tax Day—during a press conference on the steps of the General Post Office in New York City, along with an oversize check for \$14 billion made out to the US Treasury.

That figure is a conservative estimate of the total costs to taxpayers every year for maintaining marijuana prohibition. According to the report "Budgetary Implications of Marijuana Prohibition in the United States" (available at [prohibition-costs.org](http://prohibition-costs.org)), taxpayers shell out some \$6 billion annually on marijuana-related law enforcement. Taxing and regulating the production and sale of cannabis like alcohol or tobacco products would eliminate these costs, while raising an additional \$8 billion in new tax revenues annually. And just in case you're wondering whether those figures are kosher: The report was endorsed by the late Milton Friedman, a winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics, and over 500 other accredited economists.

"On a day when so many Americans lament having to pay state and federal income taxes, we're representing America's millions of otherwise law-abiding cannabis consumers, who're ready, willing and able to contribute this huge sum to our struggling economy, while providing truly 'green' jobs and allowing police to focus on more important priorities," said Allen St. Pierre, NORML's national director, while presenting the check on the steps of the iconic post office in midtown Manhattan. "All we ask in exchange for our \$14 billion is the right to enjoy pot responsibly and in peace."



Gas masks and ganja are your only protection during a pandemic.

## SWINE FLU FREAKOUT

Finally, the human race has a distraction from worrying about the world economy. In April, news of a possible pandemic of the H5N1 bird flu and H1N1 swine flu viruses was reported.

To the rescue came Cannabis Science, a new pharmaceutical cannabis company based in San Francisco, which reported that its whole-cannabis lozenges have anti-inflammatory properties that may present an effective and non-toxic treatment the swine flu. According to Cannabis Science president and CEO Steve Kubby: "Our lozenges appear to down-regulate the body's excessive inflammatory response to the influenza virus, which could reduce the deadly consequences of an infection into something that is more like a common cold," says Kubby. "If a swine or bird flu pandemic emerges—and everyone seems to think that it is just a matter of when, not if—there is simply no time for the usual bureaucratic process. With emergency government approval, we can legally access the huge supply of medical cannabis available in California to produce millions of lifesaving doses within a relatively short period of time."

Provided the growers remain in good health.





**TORONTOKERS**

On May 2nd, over 260 cities participated in the Global Marijuana March. Toronto, as always, saw the most massive turnout. Over 25,000 activists attended the annual Toronto Freedom Rally which featured pot stars, bands, and a raucous parade. Powerful pot magic was created, evidenced by a sudden rainstorm that ceased exactly at 4:20!



**NEW YORK CITY BLUES**

With the Big Apple suffering from the same dismal economic climate as everywhere else, so-called “sin taxes” have been hiked, bringing the average price of a pack of cigarettes to over \$10. Let’s estimate that the average cigarette smoker goes through a pack a day, while the average pot smoker needs an eighth of an ounce weekly to fulfill his needs. Currently, the price of a primo eighth in New York City stands at approximately \$70—which means that, right now, smokers in both groups are bearing strikingly similar costs to indulge their habit.

It’s equality of a sort, we guess. The irony is that one of these two products is a black-market commodity trafficked by criminals. But with politicians scouring the bushes for revenue and cigarette smugglers doing a lively business in the Empire State, it’s getting harder to tell which one that is.

**DRUG LORD WINS HONORS**

When *Forbes* magazine releases its annual list of the world’s billionaires, you expect to find a roster of business tycoons and moguls involved in legitimate enterprises. This year, however, Mexican drug lord Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman Loera, the head of the Sinaloa cartel, came in 701st on the list with an estimated fortune of \$1 billion. Apparently, his ability to pull himself up by his bootstraps after escaping from a Mexican prison in 2001 merited his inclusion as a “self-made” billionaire. Mexican Attorney General Eduardo Medina Mora blasted *Forbes* for “comparing the deplorable activity of a criminal wanted in Mexico and abroad with that of honest businessmen.”

Maybe *Forbes* is merely having trouble distinguishing the difference these days.



El Chapo

**FOOD FIGHT**

Cheba Hut, with 10 franchises across the Southwest and four more in development, flourishes for one simple reason—the fabulous food. But faithful customers also know that Cheba Hut makes no secret of its support for marijuana issues. The menu says it all: sandwiches of distinction with names like “The Kind,” “Afghani” and “Kush.” In fact, Cheba Hut’s whole business style revolves around cannabis, right down to the prominent pot leaves featured in the logo and the interior décor, which reflects an affinity for marijuana and free-speech issues.

There’s nothing illegal going on here, but Municipal Judge Robert Frick of Greeley, CO, decided otherwise and denied the franchise a liquor license at its new location, even though Cheba Hut has liquor licenses at its other Colorado locations—and, moreover, no police citation of any kind has ever tainted its good name anywhere.

But Cheba Hut’s good name is precisely what ticked off Judge Frick, who stated:

“This restaurant is founded upon the principles and theme of the illegal drug marijuana and incorporates other illegal-controlled-substance-related themes.” He also cited Cheba Hut’s absence of a substance-abuse policy for employees as a reason for denying the license.

But that didn’t stop the new Greeley store from holding a grand opening celebration on 4/20. “Basically, people agree with our theme,” says Cheba Hut owner Scott Jennings (whose personal record is also spotless). “We’ll win on our appeal—Frick not only violated my First Amendment rights, but everyone else in Greeley. People are upset over the ruling. It’s certainly gotten me media coverage. All I know is, we aren’t *breakin’* the laws—we’re *makin’* the laws!”

Visit [chebahut.com](http://chebahut.com).



Scott Jennings of Cheba Hut.

**SMOKE GETS IN THEIR LIES**

Cannabis consumers who also smoke cigarettes have a higher risk of developing chronic obstructive pulmonary disease than do individuals who smoke cigarettes alone, according to a study published in the April 14 issue of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. COPD refers to a variety of lung diseases characterized by a narrowing of the airway, including emphysema.

Investigators at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia, surveyed 878 people, age 40 and older, about their respiratory history and use of tobacco and marijuana. Researchers concluded that the concurrent use of tobacco and pot was associated with an increased risk of COPD.

Cigarette-only smokers were approximately two and a half times more likely than nonsmokers to develop symptoms of diseases like chronic bronchitis or emphysema, while those who smoked cigarettes and pot were approximately three times more likely to develop these symptoms. The researchers noted: “The risks of respiratory symptoms and of COPD were related to a synergistic interaction between marijuana and tobacco.”

But media reports on the study largely ignored the other finding reported in the journal: “*Smoking only marijuana was not associated with an increased risk of respiratory symptoms or COPD*” (emphasis added).

This finding was affirmed in an accompanying commentary by UCLA pulmonary investigator Donald Tashkin, who wrote: “Given the consistently reported absence of an association between use of marijuana and abnormal diffusing capacity or signs of macroscopic emphysema, we can be close to concluding that smoking marijuana by itself does not lead to COPD.”

Tashkin, arguably the world’s foremost expert on marijuana smoking and lung function, has investigated this issue for over 30 years. In 2006, he oversaw the largest case-controlled study ever to investigate the respiratory effects of marijuana smoking. It found that pot use was *not* associated with lung-related cancers, even among subjects who reported smoking more than 22,000 joints over their lifetime.

“We hypothesized that there would be a positive association between marijuana use and lung cancer, and that the association would be more positive with heavier use,” Tashkin explained to *The Washington Post*. “What we found instead was no association at all, and even a suggestion of some protective effect” among pot smokers, who had *lower* incidences of cancer compared to those who had never used weed.—Paul Armentano





Apparel with stoned sensibilities.

### WEAR YOUR NUGGS!

Finally, a clothing company has taken nugs out of the closet and hung them in your closet. Check out the cool duds from NuggBrand, a clothing company based in Miami Beach, FL—every piece of their apparel celebrates the nug. Whether it's a full rendering of a robust bud or the simple word "FADED" on a T-shirt (pictured), NuggBrand is devoted to creating casual clothing with an unabashed message. Take their pullovers, for instance: Instead of the Izod alligator or Ralph Lauren's horse and jockey, NuggBrand polo shirts are adorned with a stylish bud icon. Check out the full line of NuggBrand high-fashion designs, all created by top Miami artists. Visit [nuggbrand.com](http://nuggbrand.com).



### WEED WOLF ON THE PROWL

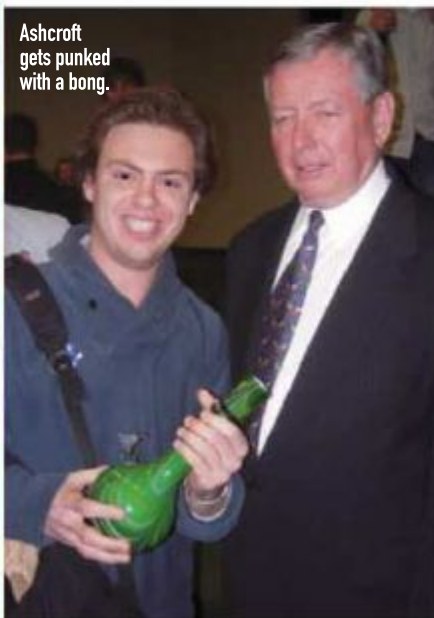
New viral street art is popping up all over in places like Chicago and Denver. Look around town and you just may spy a decal with a snarling wolf's head superimposed over a pot leaf. A heavy-metal-like logo identifies the predator as the "Weed Wolf." As art goes, it's a howling success, especially in the pot community. Shepard Fairey and his "Obey Giant" iconography can step aside—the Weed Wolf is at the door!



### THE PURR-FECT STONE

We've all been there. Your cable system features 420 channels and there's still nothing on TV—except the cat. But Vinnie tuned into his favorite show during stoner prime-time. He flaked out on a warm cable box, exactly at 4:20, after a day of prowling the Hollywood Hills. Maybe this is all TV is good for.

## OPERATION DICKHEAD HUNTER



Ashcroft gets punked with a bong.

Yes, that's former US Attorney General John Ashcroft not so proudly posing with that nice-looking glass bong—not unlike the "drug paraphernalia" that his Justice Department targeted when it mounted Operation Headhunter and Operation Pipe Dreams in 2003, busting the owners of paraphernalia websites and headshops in a nationwide sweep.

Trevor Trittman is the intrepid citizen who turned this "Bong Hits for Ashcroft" photo op into a photo reality. "I am not what you'd call a marijuana enthusiast," Trittman says. "However, I strongly disagree with how the Justice Department under John Ashcroft harassed people and threw people in prison for questionable reasons. Ashcroft was scheduled to speak at the University of Texas. Afterward, I got his attention and asked for a photo. Then I quickly pulled out the bong while my photographer snapped the picture. Ashcroft saw what I had done and yelled, 'Get your marijuana equipment outta here!' I told him politely that I did not agree with his drug policies and quickly left. Success!"

Get the full story at [trevortrittman.com](http://trevortrittman.com).

this month in

# SHOWBUZZ

### B.J. SPOUTS B!

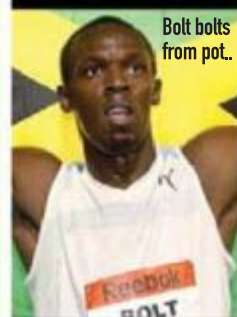
In April, Britney Spears halted a Vancouver concert for nearly 30 minutes because she felt the audience was smoking too much weed. The arena announcer cautioned the crowd that it was unsafe for Britney and her dancers to perform in such an environment. Apparently, there was also concern for crew members working high above the stage, because the smoke could have caused them to be working, well, high above the stage. The show did resume, but when it was over, Britney hollered at the crowd: "Don't smoke weed!"



Spears sputters.

Then, as she exited the stage, she shouted one more suggestion: "Rock out with your cocks out!"

We're so thankful she's made a full recovery.



Bolt bolts from pot.

### GOLD-MEDAL APOLOGY

Usain Bolt, who won three sprint gold medals at the 2009 Olympics, told the German newspaper *Bild* that he tried pot as a kid: "When you're a child in Jamaica, you learn how to roll a joint. Everyone here has tried it."

But a week later, Bolt was contrite: "I want to apologize to the Jamaican people if at any time it may have come across that all young people roll a joint." He went on to warn budding athletes to stay away from all drugs, as they are "not of any value to them or the sport you participate in."

Especially if you win—because then you'll be forced to apologize and malign your earlier pot use in order to hold onto your corporate sponsors.

### DOWN ON THE FARM

London cops pulled over the car of Jamie Waylett, who plays the bully Vincent Crabbe in the *Harry Potter* movie series, because he was behaving suspiciously. You might, too, if you had eight bags of pot in your car, as Waylett did. Upon searching his home, the cops also discovered a 10-plant hydro operation in his bedroom, which they promptly termed a "cannabis farm."

Farm? If 10 plants constitute a "farm," it logically follows that the War on Drugs is a holocaust.



Potter star gets popped.



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# HOT COMMODITIES

**Finally, the notion of legal, taxable marijuana is being taken seriously. But mainstream hemp products are already here—tangible evidence that a new era of prosperity, fueled by the cannabis plant, is possible. By Dan Skye**

The extraordinary momentum that the legal pot debate has experienced has been stoked by our debilitating recession and California's marching marijuana economy, as well as President Barack Obama's infuriatingly dismissive attitude toward tokers. More and more legislators, political observers and Washington insiders—liberal and conservative alike—are examining the logic of ending the war on marijuana and reaping the tax revenues that legal sales would generate. But amid the clamor, the issue of legal industrial hemp has been drowned out.

It's hard to fathom why hemp—a plant with deep roots in American history, and one that possesses indisputable health and environmental benefits—remains a pariah. Even weirder is the fact that a federal law enforcement agency, the DEA, holds sway over an agricultural crop. If a state passes legislation allowing hemp cultivation, farmers must ask the DEA for permits. And since its inception, the DEA has issued exactly one—in 1999, for an experimental crop in Hawaii.

Things are admittedly better in Canada, where hemp is legal. But farmers there are still mandated to jump through all kinds of government hoops in order to grow, including licensing, continuous testing of THC content, and maintaining expensive security measures—all for strains of *Cannabis sativa* that cannot get you high and are specifically bred for industrial use. The final brick in this house of mirrors is the fact that the US actually allows businesses to import raw hemp fiber and seed for use in products. There's a touch of insanity in all of this.

But if activists have inadvertently given industrial hemp short shrift, the exploding green economy hasn't. According to the *Nutrition Business Journal*, consumer sales of nutrition products grew

an estimated 9 percent in 2008, to more than \$100 billion—and foods containing hemp seed or hemp-derived nutraceuticals are among the hottest categories in the natural-products industry.

Why? Because hemp foods have great flavor and gourmet appeal. Plus they're a nutritional powerhouse: Medical evidence continues to accumulate proving that Omega-3 fatty acids are essential to optimum health. And nutrition experts swear by hemp's balanced concentration of Omega-3 and Omega-6 essential fatty acids, strong digestible protein profile, plentiful fiber, and abundance of vitamins and minerals—to say nothing of an overall protein content that is comparable to soy beans and higher than that found in nuts, meats, dairy products, fish, poultry and other seeds. Hemp's potential benefits are associated with the prevention or attenuation of many of the leading health threats to people in North America, including diabetes, cancer, lupus, asthma, rheumatoid arthritis, hormone imbalance, depression and hypertension.

Industry research shows that over the past three years, sales of hemp milk grew 162%, shelled hemp seed 44%, and hemp protein powders 21%. Health-savvy consumers are also well aware of hemp's nourishing seed oil, commonly found in modern body- and hair-care products.

Only when the shackles really come off this plant can we transform our economy—by relying on a renewable plant to produce our paper, clothes and other commodities, and by using biology rather than geology to provide for our fuel needs. In the meantime, the companies that have made a commitment to the growing field of hemp-related business can rightly be called our most stalwart group of activists—those whose very livelihood depends upon the eventual global acceptance of cannabis in all its forms. ✨



**MEGAFOOD**

Searching for a way to reduce your appetite and cravings and maintain healthy weight management? Isn't everybody? The High Hemp Fiber Shake from MegaFood will satisfy your hunger and aid digestion. In cocoa, chai, vanilla, and berry vanilla flavors. Visit [megafood.com](http://megafood.com).



**NATURE'S PATH**

Go to [naturespath.com](http://naturespath.com) for a fascinating account of how a responsible, eco-minded food company comes to be. Then, get healthy on a full menu of Nature's Path hot and cold cereals, granola, snack bars, waffles, toaster pastries, breads, and cookies. Their Hemp Plus granola and oatmeal will make you rise and shine.

DAN SKYE (6), COURTESY OF LIVING HARVEST





**DR. BRONNER'S**

One of the most progressive, activist companies in the hemp marketplace, Dr. Bronner's can hold its head high, not only for its tireless commitment to honest business and charitable works, but because their company turns out super-duper hemp soap and a spanking new line of USDA-certified organic personal care products. Wash, shave, and shampoo with a clean conscience. Visit [drbronner.com](http://drbronner.com).

**TEMPT FROM LIVING HARVEST**

"Tempt" is an outstanding product name choice because "non-dairy frozen dessert made with hempmilk" is way too clunky to describe this delicious ice cream-like treat from Living Harvest Foods. Tempt comes in 5 sinful flavors and it's a great vegan choice. Check out other tasty products at [livingharvest.com](http://livingharvest.com).



**MANITOBA HARVEST**

Founded in 1998, Manitoba Harvest Hemp Foods & Oils is the largest vertically integrated hemp food manufacturer in the world, producing cold pressed hemp seed oil, shelled hemp seed, hemp seed butter and a line of hemp protein powders at their new, certified organic state-of-the-art facility. They also produce Hemp Bliss, an award-winning, first-ever line of non-dairy organic hempmilk. Visit [manitbaharvest.com](http://manitbaharvest.com).

**NAVITAS NATURALS**

Reintroducing organic foods from ancient cultures that increase energy and enhance health is the mission of Navitas Naturals. Their vast array of power-food powder can be mixed into smoothies, yogurt, juices, salads, and just about anything else. Available in over a dozen food varieties like acai, camu-camu, goji berries, flax, and, of course, hemp. Enjoy their outstanding hemp protein powder and raw shelled hemp seeds. Visit [navitasnaturals.com](http://navitasnaturals.com).



**FARM GENESIS**

In order to sustain farm growth, this company bands farm communities together under one agricultural umbrella to develop, promote and sell outstandingly produced and packaged protein powder, seeds, and oils. Hemp Moo hempmilk, their newest product available in three flavors, will have you grazing happily. Visit [farmgenesis.com](http://farmgenesis.com).



**ALPSNACK**

Next time the munchies hit, grab an Alpsnack from Switzerland. It's nutritious organic, vegan, gluten-free, and coated with scrumptious hemp seeds. Frankly Natural Foods has partnered with Dr. Bronner's to bring Alpsnack to America. Be careful, they're addictive. Visit [alpsnackinc.com](http://alpsnackinc.com).





# THMQ

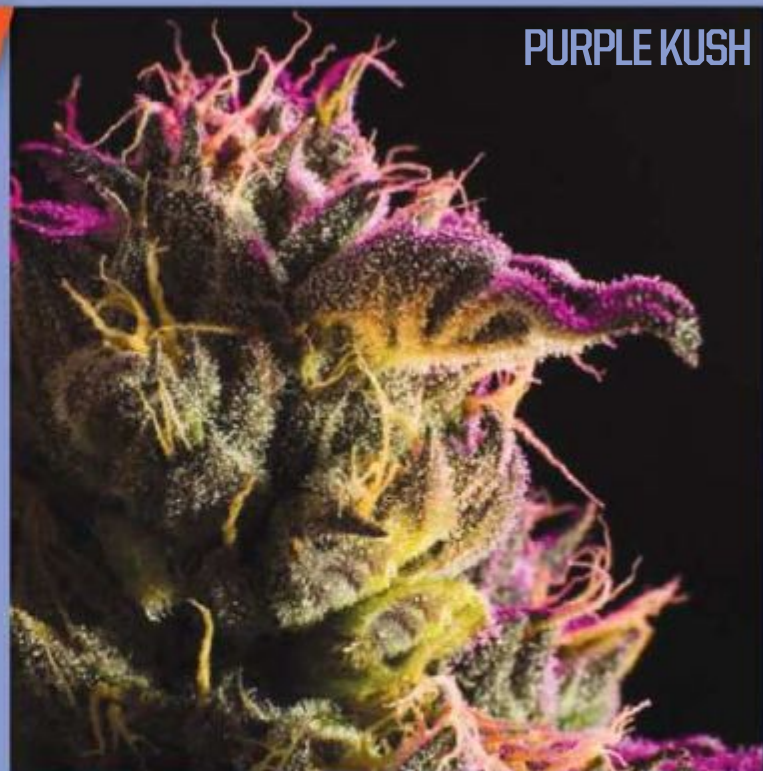
Trans-High Market Quotations (THMQ) reports pot prices by the ounce, strain and location. To submit prices, go to the THMQ link at [hightimes.com](http://hightimes.com).

CURRENT US PRICE INDEX: **\$345** (last month: \$381; YTD: \$373)

CURRENT KIND INDEX (\$350+ PER OZ): **\$428** (\$434, \$446)

CURRENT MIDS INDEX (\$150-\$349 PER OZ): **\$262** (\$258, \$267)

CURRENT SCHWAG INDEX (\$1-\$149 PER OZ): **\$85** (\$92, \$90)



PURPLE KUSH

STATE	CITY	STRAIN	PRICE
ARIZONA	Phoenix	Organic Bubblegum	\$360
CALIFORNIA	Long Beach	Lavender	\$400
	Sacramento	Mendo Purps	\$400
		Trainwreck	\$350
	San Diego	Bubba Kush	\$350
		Candy	\$280
		OG Kush	\$300
CONNECTICUT	Waterbury	Snow Cap	\$450
FLORIDA	Sarasota	Mr. Nice	\$320
		Super Skunk	\$350
		Bubba Kush	\$400
GEORGIA	Atlanta	Purple Kush	\$550
	Lawrenceville	Afghan Goo	\$400
		Granddaddy Purps	\$400
HAWAII	Waipahu	Sour Diesel	\$550
ILLINOIS	Quincy	Trainwreck	\$400
		Super Silver Haze	\$400
INDIANA	Lawrenceburg	Diesel	\$230
KANSAS	Dodge City	Schwag	\$70
MARYLAND	Baltimore	White Widow	\$750
		Sour Diesel	\$500
MASSACHUSETTS	Brockton	Mango Bud	\$425
		Granddaddy Purps	\$500
MICHIGAN	Grand Rapids	Northern Lights	\$340
		Pineapple Trainwreck	\$400
		Sour Diesel	\$350
		Bubble Hash	\$700
MISSOURI	St. Louis	Green Crack	\$470
NEW JERSEY	Jersey City	Violet Wreck	\$500
NEW YORK	Albany	Kush	\$400
	Buffalo	Blueberry	\$420
		Granddaddy Purps	\$360
NORTH CAROLINA	Elizabeth City	Afghani	\$350
OHIO	Lakewood	Willoughby	\$550
		Wilmington	\$450
		Bubblegum	\$300
		Sour Diesel	\$300
		Super Silver Haze	\$300
SOUTH CAROLINA	Clemson	Blueberry x Bubblegum	\$420
TEXAS	Limestone County	Schwag	\$35
VIRGINIA	Charlottesville	Mids	\$200
WASHINGTON	Kent	Kush	\$280
	Vancouver	OG Kush	\$400
WISCONSIN	Lodi	Peacemaker	\$360
	New Glarus	Skunk	\$400

### INTERNATIONAL (prices in Canadian dollars and Norwegian kroner)

CANADA			
ALBERTA	Edmonton	Lemon Sour Diesel	C\$230
NEW BRUNSWICK	Saint John	AK-47	C\$200
ONTARIO	Barrie	St. Catharines	C\$220
		Toronto	C\$225
		Toronto	C\$300
		White Shark	C\$300
		Kush	C\$220
NORWAY	Oslo	Blueberry	Kr 4,200 (\$620 US)

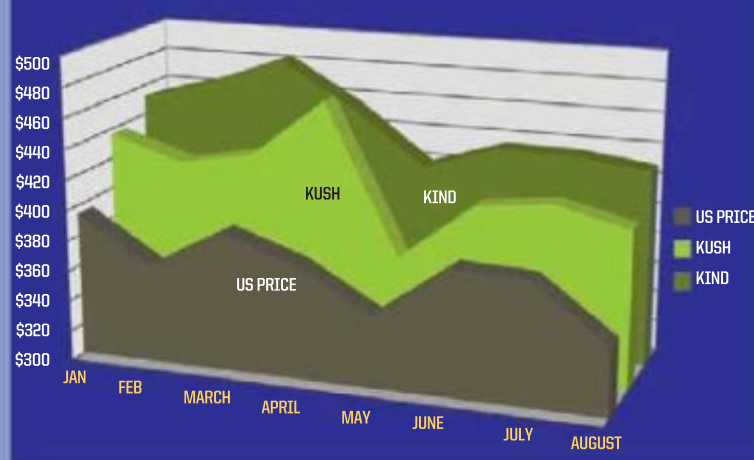
### MARKET ANALYSIS

We have a tie! Kush and Purps finished with the same number of submissions in August, resulting in the first-ever tie for the top pot spot. While unprecedented, it's appropriate that the two most popular strains of the year thus far should share this honor. The top five submitted strains of the month (with average price) were Kush (\$403) and Purps (\$408), Diesel (\$415), Trainwreck (\$383) and Haze (\$367).

**Index Watch:** Are pot prices beginning to reflect the rotten economy? It certainly appears that way—all indices, with the exception of Mids, were down from both their previous month and year-to-date averages.

HIGH TIMES wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information, including location and price by the ounce, to [thmq@hightimes.com](mailto:thmq@hightimes.com).

### AVERAGE PRICE 2009: US PRICE, KIND & KUSH



**CANDY - \$280**  
Sacramento, CALIFORNIA  
"The name says it all: a Blueberry-Haze #2-California Orange Bud cross. So crystal-coated, the organic buds appear as if they're dipped in powdered sugar—and they taste like it, too. Soaring *sativa* high with hints of citrus and berries in these fluffy, bright green nugs. A NoCal-only strain, so good luck finding it anywhere else."

**AFGHAN GOO - \$400**  
Atlanta, GEORGIA  
"Best bang for the buck. Super-fragrant and sticky when broken up, with a great head high."

**SOUR DIESEL - \$500**  
Bowie, MARYLAND  
"Ah, that Sour Diesel—it's one of my all-time favorites. It has such a unique, potent smell and a taste that just screams, 'I'm an elite strain—smoke me and you *will* be stoned!' One of the best highs I've encountered in my days of connoisseurship."

**WHITE WIDOW - \$750**  
Baltimore, MARYLAND  
"I didn't get ripped off—I swear this was worth every fucking penny, and I'm a veteran toker since the '70s. Dankest. Buds. Ever."

**BUBBLEGUM - \$550**  
Lakewood, OHIO  
"This is some killer stuff. A pungent aroma leads to a surprisingly smooth toke. The high is very cerebral, with a narcotic body buzz."



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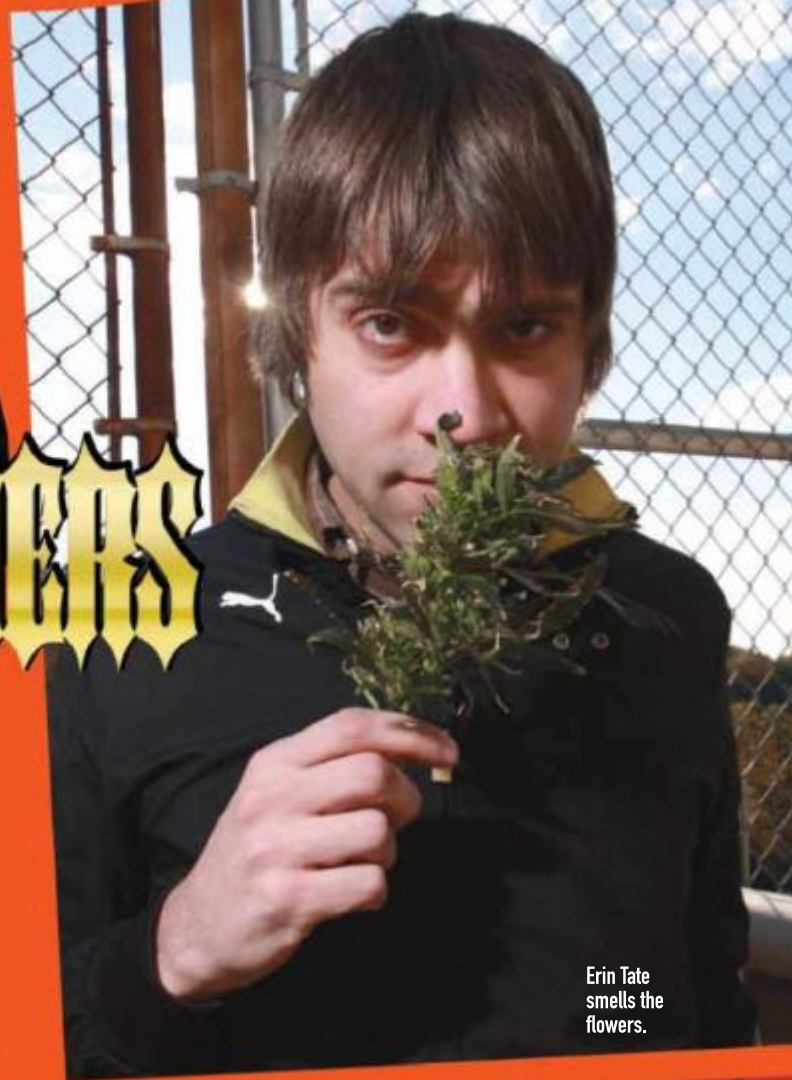


## How do you get two drummers to play in time? Shoot one.

How do you get a drummer off your porch? Pay for the pizza.

Ahh, the lowly drummer—the most maligned of all rock creatures. They seem to be the most replaceable member of the band (something that *This Is Spinal Tap* famously lampooned), even though it's another rock verity that a band's only as good as their timekeeper. Drummers are caricatured as oafish and lazy, hidden away behind the rest of the band (hence the drum riser). They're not as flashy as the singer or lead guitarist, though they do okay with the ladies. Drummers are also known, to a lesser extent, for being great stoners. The guitarist may have good weed, but the drummer has *the connection*. Whether we're talking a rock-steady beatsmith like Ira Elliott, a compositional drummer like Erin Tate, a mind-blowing pounder like Zach Hill, or a sensi-scientific skinsman like Lou Dog, drummers all share an appreciation of herb. **By Chris Parker**

# STONER DRUMMERS



Erin Tate smells the flowers.



Ira Elliott hits the big apple.

### IRA ELLIOTT/NADA SURF

Nada Surf drummer Ira Elliott got an early start as a stoner—by playing one as a 17-year-old in an ABC “After School Special,” *Stoned*, starring Scott Baio.

“The funny part is that I had to play a stoner, but I had no idea what that meant,” Elliott recalls with a laugh. These days, he’s a lot happier in front of crowds than a camera: “Acting is a lonely, sad, desperate career. It’s a hard job—drumming is *much* easier.”

Elliott’s career as a drummer and stoner goes back at least a decade before he hooked up with indie-rockers Nada Surf. In his early twenties, he beat the skins for ’80s New York garage revivalists the Fuzztones. Eventually, he got a gig as a Smithereens roadie, and he got high for the first time when someone passed a joint around the tour bus. “I got a little stoned, and it was like, ‘Oh, I see now!’” Elliott recalls. “The great thing is, they were listening to a lot of their favorite records. They kept putting on *Live at Leeds*, the first Elvis Costello album, the Jam—all this stuff that I loved, too.”

By the time Matthew Caws and Daniel Lorca asked him to join Nada Surf in ’95, Elliott was a full-fledged stoner, “making up for lost time now in my extended adolescence.”

Asked to explain his style, Elliott says: “I play very simply and stay out of the way. It’s not even math—it’s really architecture, with a little color commentary here and there. I’m not very adventurous, which is either my greatest flaw or my greatest strength. It tends to be both.”

While acknowledging that playing high isn’t always the best idea, by the time the encore rolls around, all bets are off. “I figure if I haven’t fucked up by that point, it doesn’t matter if I fuck up the last four songs,” Elliott says. “I’m off the clock, basically.”



## ERIN TATE/MINUS THE BEAR

Erin Tate plays drums because his brother was older and wanted to play guitar. Tate fell in love with making music and planned to move from Minneapolis to Seattle in '99 with his brother's band, Kill Sadie, but then his brother bailed. Undeterred, Tate went to Seattle anyway and kept up the band through a variety of lineups for a couple more years before Minus the Bear—which had started as a side project—began to take flight in 2001.

Poised between post-punk, math rock and dream pop, Minus the Bear sand the corners of their jagged rhythms with icy, luxurious textures as their songs trace a circuit pocked with sharp turns and tight curves. The musical intricacy is a lot work for Tate, to whom drumming has never come naturally.

"Some people just get it; I do not," he says. "I have horrible eye-hand coordination. I've been playing drums almost 20 years, and it's taken me a long time to get to where I am now. I pretty much write out all my parts in my mind—any given night on tour, you can see us play three times and, unless I fuck up, I'll play the song exactly the same, from every little hi-hat hit to every fill and cymbal hit."

Though Tate started smoking occasionally in high school, it wasn't until he turned 21 that he began in earnest. The timing was no coincidence—in a new town and suddenly old enough to drink, he was downing a 12-pack of beer and a bottle of whiskey every night before some friends intervened.

"The first day I quit drinking, I found a bag of weed, went home and smoked it. Then I smoked more of it, and over the course of three months, though I didn't drink, I was like: 'You know what? Pot is for me. I feel fucking incredible—food tastes better, drinks taste better, sex feels better, and movies are better whether they're funny or more dramatic.'" He adds with a laugh: "I went from being a total drunk to being a brutal pothead."

## LOU DOG/KOTTONMOUTH KINGS

The Kottonmouth Kings' Lou Dog isn't your typical drummer or smoker, but rather someone who's taken both pursuits to new heights. He plays a personally customized drum kit that features more smoking apparatuses than your typical headshop: 30 pipes, a hookah, a twin typhoon-chamber bong, a core condenser and even a vaporizer, all built directly into the set and enabling up to 35 people to get stoned at the same time. (Daily sessions are as de rigueur for the punk-rappers as their pot-themed songs.) Another of Lou's kits—this one made in cooperation with Phoenix's Chameleon Glass—resembles a chemistry experiment with all its hoses and glassware.

Pimped-out drum kits are just one of Lou Dog's many creative projects. He also enjoys turning bikes into thematic drum trikes at the rate of about one a year for the last 13 years. Snoop Dogg and Sheila E. are already proud owners of Lou Dog's colorful mobile percussion kits (you can see them on his site, LouRider.net), and he's currently designing one for Madonna drummer Brian Frazier-Moore.

Everything came together for Lou Dog when he was in junior high. "I stumbled into marching band," he recalls, "and everyone knows the drum line is where the party is at. We were in the back of the bus, on our way to parades, partying with the cheerleaders, smoking weed out of apples. That's when the light went off in my head: drums, weed, chicks and road trips."

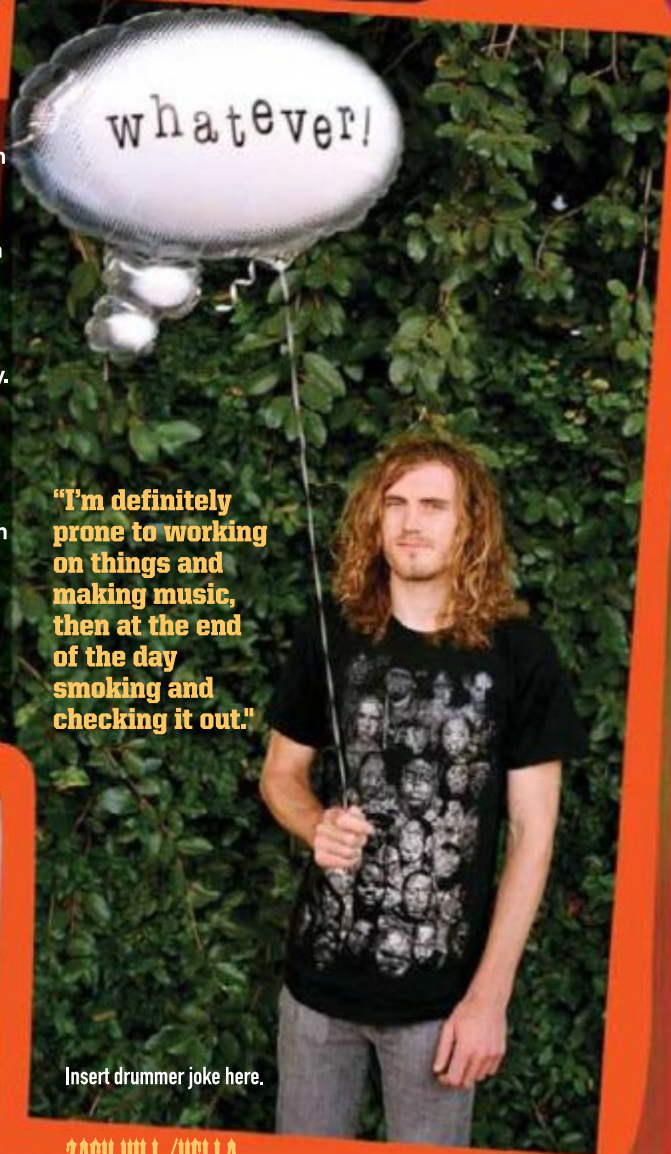
Lou Dog suffers from ADD and credits his daily pot regime with keeping him "relaxed, focused and in the zone onstage." Though he enjoys catching a buzz while on his kit—and often *with* his kit—this practice is not without its dangers. At a recent show, former HIGH TIMES editor Steve Bloom passed Lou a joint while he was playing, then accidentally set his big 'fro on fire while lighting it. "With drumsticks in hand, I smothered the flame in between beats—like smother, *beat*, smother, *beat*. It took three to four whacks, but I got the flame out—and boy, did the stage *stink*," Lou Dog laughs.

When not on the road enjoying the kind(ness) of strangers—the band travels "light" for legal reasons—Lou Dog always has new projects cooking. These days, he's looking to create a "green" kit made entirely of recycled materials—and having seen drums made from bamboo, he envisions a set made from hemp. There's apparently no limit to Lou Dog's THC-inspired creativity.

Here's smoke  
in your eye.



One of  
Lou Dog's  
custom kits.



"I'm definitely  
prone to working  
on things and  
making music,  
then at the end  
of the day  
smoking and  
checking it out."

Insert drummer joke here.

## ZACH HILL/HELLA

Witnessing Zach Hill play drums is a lot like watching Animal from the Muppets covering King Crimson: It's a wondrous ballet of complexity and primal, wall-shaking power coalescing in a tsunami of sound bridging the distance between pattern and chaos. Ever since Hill met guitarist Spencer Seim as a teenager, the two have been making music together, briefly in the quartet Legs on Earth, and then as the noisy experimental-rock duo Hella.

Hill met Seim after he ran away to the mountains, blowing off school to pursue his muse. Completely self-taught, Hill developed a unique style and an unusually tuned set, abetted by odd, often broken cymbals stacked together. A natural-born drummer, he found that his mind was ahead of his body at first.

"I literally just had this weird insight with drums—not necessarily *physically* of how to do it or how it works, but just in my head I had this feeling of being able to grasp what was happening from just listening," Hill recalls. "When I play, I get pretty possessed, or just go to a different place. I'm not even aware of what I'm doing ... It's definitely a lot on the subconscious level, and that's why I think I'm not able to comprehend what exactly is happening unless I'm doing it—it's much more in my body and muscle memory than in my brain."

While Hill wouldn't characterize himself as an everyday smoker like Elliott or Tate, he does frequently partake—after all, he lives in Northern California, and most of his friends have scrips. "I'm definitely prone to working on things and making music, then, at the end of the day, smoking and checking it out," he says. "It can offer me a different perspective on what I'm doing, or give me a title or an idea." ✨



Kottonmouth Kings rockin' the glass (from l to r): Lou Dog, Pakelika, Johnny Richter, Bobby B, D-Loc and Daddy X.

## 'It's always cool to smoke bud with cops.'

you guys have smoked with? D-Loc: Snoop! Snoopy ... ha ha. Daddy X: Snoop Dog, yeah, ha ha—no, just kidding. Eddy Lepp is pretty funny. You know, I don't know, really; we've got to smoke with so many wonderful people over the years. It's one of the greatest parts of the job—going to the Cannabis Cup in Amsterdam and stuff. D-Loc: Probably cops. It's always cool to smoke bud with cops.

Do you guys get a lot of police harassment while on tour? Daddy X: I wouldn't say a lot, no ... but if you look on YouTube, Kottonmouth Kings had a big pot bust that actually got captured on film when our van got pulled over. That was a pretty funny bust—it didn't *quite* go the way the cops planned it. That was in California. I mean, obviously everyone here has probably caught a ticket here or there. We've had our busts—so, yeah, all that stuff has happened. I mean, we know we're a high-visibility target in these towns, so we really try to travel smartly.

What was your worst job before concerts, music and Kottonmouth Kings?

D-Loc: Selling fucking pot ... slingin' at the McDonalds drive-thru.

Daddy X: Carl's Jr., for sure—I lasted two weeks.

Any future video releases coming out soon?

Daddy X: There's a new song off *The Green Album* called

"The Kottonmouth Song." We just shot a video for that. We also just did one for "Pack Your Bowls." We also have something called the *Hidden Stash* series, and it's all the songs that don't make the albums. So we're getting ready to release our fourth volume of *Hidden Stash*—it's got 40 songs and a full-length DVD called *The Lost Adventures of the Kottonmouth Kings*. It's pretty much us telling stories of being on tour, the Cannabis Cup, and just going all over the world. 🌿

For more information on tour dates and locations, visit [www.kottonmouthkings.com](http://www.kottonmouthkings.com).

## KINGS OF THE ROAD

The Kottonmouth Kings and Suburban Noize Records are at it again. Following the release of *The Green Album*, the Kings hit the road on the "Bring tha Noize" tour featuring Potluck, La Coka Nostra and Big B. After that, they toured Australia with Sen Dog of Cypress Hill. HIGH TIMES caught up with them in Portland, OR, at the start of their journey. If you haven't had the unrivaled experience of enjoying KMK in the last 10 years, it's time to get off your ass, spark up a joint, and treat yourself to a night of glory with rock, rap, dancing and smoking. **By Mark Macpherson Photos by Danny Danko**



Daddy X goes for seconds.

When did you guys realize it was the real deal and you were making it in the industry?

Daddy X: I think we *still* trying to make it. Probably, though, when we put our first record out and got it in stores and our video "Suburban Life" on MTV. At that point, we were like, "We're really doing this shit!" First time on a tour bus touring—that's when reality hit me. We haven't got off the bus since, and it's been 13 years.

D-Loc: Yeah, I can remember ... the first time I was driving in my jeep by myself years ago and hearing our song on KROQ and shit, just out of the blue. Fuckin' crazy. We were knee-deep—no turning back then.

With over 1,500 shows played, the question everyone asks: what state has the best weed—and the worst?

Daddy X: That's pretty easy—California *for sure* has the best weed. Wouldn't you agree? Consensus, please?

D-Loc: Oh, yeah—for sure!

Daddy X: What was the worst weed we smoked, Bobby?

Bobby B: Mississippi bud ...

Daddy X: Ha ha ha—Mississippi bud!

D-Loc: Yeah, fuck it, throw it out there: Mississippi bud! Ha ha ha.

Who's the most entertaining person



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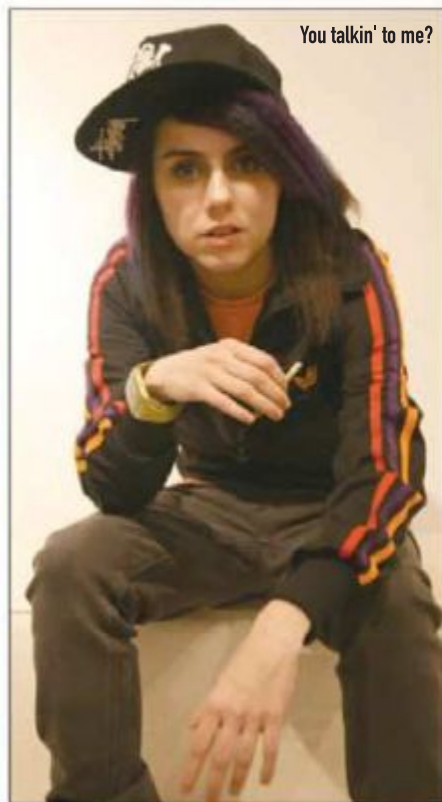
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# GRIME TIME

Lady Sovereign takes on the straight world. **By John Fortunato**



You talkin' to me?

It's a snowy Tuesday evening in New York City, and Lady Sovereign is holding court at a conference room in Chelsea. A devilishly perky, green-eyed pixie, Lady Sovereign ranks high amongst her male-dominated British "grime" cohorts. Grime, a minimalist, punk-influenced, hip-hop-informed underground music culture, has been all the rage in England and elsewhere, occasionally even reaching MTV's airwaves.

Growing up poor in South London's tenant-housing system, the "vertically challenged" Lady Sovereign (born Louise Harman) became inspired by '90s jungle and drum-and-bass artists. A self-described tomboy, she was soon taking on the guys at their own game. Her playful, adolescent sass invigorated

the fabulous faddish fodder, resulting in the kind of universal club approval that headier, combative grime guys like Dizze Rascal, the Streets and Badly Drawn Boy only dreamt was possible a few years back.

After some snippy onstage comments by frail pop tart Lily Allen fueled her ire, Lady Sov found herself involved in an overblown feud that grabbed the tabloid headlines. It seems Lady Sov accused her doe-eyed foe of gaining fame merely because her comedian dad, Keith Allen, had industry connections. But these are just the mischievous antics of a fully independent 23-

**'I like the sticky stuff. Skunk weed's the best marijuana experience.'**

year-old artist with a modicum of worldwide celebrity who's happy to trade barbs for kicks. Her wonderfully kitschy '06 debut, *Public Warning*, draped ditty ditties like the

hilarious Eminem-ian snub "Love Me or Hate Me" across Salt-N-Pepa-style rhyme schemes like the dubby tribal rant "Random." And now Lady Sovereign has returned—this time left to her own devices and freed from exhausting label interference—on the maze-like gem, *Jigsaw*.

Regarding her elementary rap prowess, Sovereign says: "It's quite basic and fun—I like to tell stories and ad-lib bits that are interesting. It's whatever's on my mind. I like music in general, but one strong influence is ska and old reggae. I don't know how much of that comes out in my songs."

As we chat, Lady Sov turns down an invitation to light up, complains about soapy English hash, and candidly admits to smoking weed with her father. Without hesitation, she confesses: "I like the sticky stuff. Skunk weed's the best marijuana experience."

Just don't expect her to take up during a performance anytime soon. She's more into blazing a joint of some "awesome homegrown" privately these days.

"I like to get stoned by myself while listening to music—I'm able to concentrate more and figure out some beats," she says. "But it's not for everyone. I find it doesn't harm me when it's done in an intimate setting. But I could get paranoid as shit. I'm not self-conscious, but one night I was mad drunk and someone threw me a joint onstage. So I sparked it up. Mixing alcohol and weed really wiped me out—I had to stop the show halfway through."

Before heading home, I jokingly ask her whom she'd rather get stoned with: comedian Woody Allen or faux-nemesis Lily Allen. Lady Sovereign seems royally amused as she considers the question and says, "Probably Lily. I have no problem with her—she'd loosen up a bit."

Ultimately, the girl just wants to have fun. And these days, her moniker seems prophetic: Lady Sovereign's now a dignified independent artist, benevolently but firmly ruling over her own creative future with a warped sense of humor as she pursues her libertine dream free of record-label outsiders fouling everything up. ✨

# COUNTRY SMOKE

An interview with Bonnie 'Prince' Billy. **By Danny Danko**

For almost 20 years, Will Oldham has been singing and performing under several monikers, including Palace Music. Since 1998, he's gained quite a following with his latest incarnation, Bonnie "Prince" Billy, showcasing his unique, country-tinged sound (Johnny Cash covered his song "I See a Darkness" in 2000). Known as a reluctant interviewee and a reclusive character, Oldham nonetheless sat down with *HIGH TIMES* to discuss his ethereal music, performing live on psychedelics, and how he builds an apple pipe on the road.



An apple a day....

**What do you think of this Sour Diesel?**

I'm a very adolescent pot smoker—I like to yield as completely as possible to it. I like to have a lot of childish fun and be 4 years old.

**Do you find marijuana to be inspirational to your musical experiments?**

Yes. On this last record, I think everybody enjoyed smoking—every

song but the title song was recorded high. We'd plan everything out during the day, and everybody would smoke right before playing. Because time seems to slow down, we feel that we can make micro-decisions that greatly affect the outcome of the whole. It's like singing and playing in slow motion.

**What's the weed scene like in Louisville?**

I have a friend whose father lives in Southwestern Kentucky, and he grows plants that make it up to the city in the form of small gifts. And that's really good.

**There's a history of bootlegging there as well.**

Right, a certain anti-authoritarian streak. The unofficial word is that marijuana remains the largest cash crop in the state.

**You've also been quite open about psychedelic use.**

Yes—I traveled through Europe with mushrooms in my pants.

**What is it about psychedelic mushrooms makes you want to eat them?**

Aside from the taste? [Laughs] They give me a momentary free space away from unpleasant things—an overwhelming new set of emotions for a brief time.

**Has performing live on hallucino-**

**gens been a positive experience?**

After the first time? Yes, without a doubt. Madison, WI—an outdoor show by the lake, very windy, and all these things in competition. It was the first time realizing you had to pick and choose the stimuli that mattered. I felt like I was on a tightrope the whole time.

**Where have you found the best pot?**

The Pacific Northwest—Oregon, Washington, Northern California.

**Is it a common gift from fans?**

Yes. It's nice—a wonderful way to connect.

**Tell us about the apple pipe.**

This one is very nice—nice filter and good moisture content. I didn't have anything to smoke out of, and in the lobby they had a big bowl of free apples. I used the wine corkscrew for a spiraling effect. ✨

*Learn more about Bonnie "Prince" Billy at [bonnieprincebilly.com](http://bonnieprincebilly.com).*



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## PSYCHEDELIC METAL

### ISIS

*Wavering Radiant*

(Ipecac)



ISIS

### BLACK MATH HORSEMAN

*Wyllt*

(Tee Pee)



BMH

Rock music ain't what it used to be. In the 21st century, rock has become so fragmented that, if regular heavy metal cheeses you out, there are satisfying subgenres like "post-metal" to explore, where elements like signature changes and psych are more vital than repetitive aggression.

The chief purveyors of post-metal would be Isis, the LA band named for the Egyptian goddess worshipped well into Greco-Roman times.

Isis received some long-overdue exposure opening for Tool's *10,000 Days* tour, which led to a guest appearance by Tool guitarist Adam Jones on the band's new album, *Wavering Radiant*. Isis is fronted by conceptual singer/guitarist Aaron Turner, whose vocals generally alternate between black-metal guttural and dulcet melody; on *Radiant*, the latter style is generally more compatible. Another Aaron—this one a drummer sur-named Harris—executes the band's complex percussion requirements.

Epics abound on *Wavering Radiant*: "Hand of the Host" exhibits some of Turner's strongest singing, while the richly complex "Stone to Wake a

Serpent" has some truly bong-worthy jamming. "20 Minutes/40 Years" isn't quite as long, and the fury eventually gives way to the blissful retreat of "Threshold of Transformation"—a proper denouement for a band dabbling in occult themes.

If the sacred-feminine vibe of Isis resonates, you should also peruse fellow Angelenos Black Math Horseman and their female vocalist/bassist, Sera Timms. BMH dollop more overtly psych ingredients into their post-metal stew on *Wyllt*, which fea-

tures many of the same elements as *Wavering Radiant*, though without the high-profile connections. And while *Wyllt* isn't as quite as elaborately textured, it too rewards repeated listens.

Opener "Tyrant" swirls about, building steam before locking into a progression reminiscent of Isis and providing a first taste of Timms's ghostly (though sometimes too hollowly produced) vocals. On "Deerslayer," drummer Sasha Popovic recalls Nick Mason's flowing style. "Torment of the Metals" fails to enthrall until some much-needed conflict emerges in the form of a chugging hook that leads down far more interesting rabbit holes. It takes about as long to puzzle out the title of album capper "Bird of All Faiths and None/Bell from Madrone" as it does to listen to the 11-minute epic closer. Jagged with sonic alternations of speed and descent, this offering to the prog gods climaxes in the stand-out jam on the LP, an indulgence that the Horseman usually frown upon, but thankfully not here.—Mark Miller

### MILLIONS

*Gather Scatter*

(Seventh Rule)



It's my belief that a crucial element in digging a band is the ability to either (a) identify with at least one of the band members, (b) wish you could be one of the band members, or (c) wish you could get down to hot business in the back of a '79 Mustang with one of the band members. Chicago's Millions have got none of that going on for me, but after listening to their debut album, *Gather Scatter*, I'd have to say I definitely don't give a fuck, because this is one badass bunch of songs.

Seventh Rule boss Flaster twins the angular, complex guitar style for which his old band, post-hardcore heroes Small Brown Bike, were known with the metallic crunch of Cory Lyons's axe, and the results are brutal. Flaster and Lyons share vocals with bassist Mark Konwinski; I have to say, I had a little trouble deciphering the vocal differences between these guys at times, but that definitely didn't detract from my enjoyment of this album, as all three are out-of-the-ballpark screamers. Standout tracks include "View from a Sinking Ship"; "Lest the Professor Catches Fire," in which Konwinski and drummer Patrick O'Shea especially shine; and "We Make Poor Decisions," which, with its jagged, heartfelt lyrics about the desperate longing (and perceived inability) to escape a soul-deadening job, unfortunately resonates with just about everyone I know. Hey, there it is: crucial element (a), the ability to identify. Pwned!—Polly Watson

### JADAKISS

*The Last Kiss*

(Ruff Ryders/Roc-A-Fella/Def Jam)



With its suggestive title, some may think the LOX frontman's latest album, *The Last Kiss*, is indeed his last. However, the Yonkers, NY, native has made it clear that it's merely the last of a trilogy of albums, all of which have the word "kiss" in their titles. The album also marks Jadakiss's first solo release under Roc-A-Fella Records since inking a deal with his former rival Jay-Z in 2007. Swizz Beatz, the Neptunes, the Alchemist, the Inkredibles and Neo Da Matrix are several of the album's much-touted producers. Meanwhile, the lineup of collaborators includes Lil Wayne, Ghostface Killah and Raekwon, Young Jeezy and Nas, along with R&B crooners Mary J. Blige, Ne-Yo Faith Evans and Jazmine Sullivan—not to mention the late, great Luther Vandross.

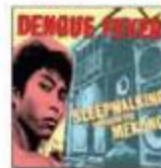
One thing that's far from lacking on this album is quality lyrical content (along with a fair share of marijuana metaphors, of course). On the hook of the adrenaline-infused intro, "Pain & Torture," Jadakiss labels himself "the author of slick-talk pain and torture" and boasts, "I twist honeys and puff piff." He also reminisces on the times he spent "smoking outdoors" on "Things I've Been Through" and, in the unrepentant "Can't Stop Me," declares: "I stay high, I ain't gotta get my buzz back ... First things first, the jars of broccoli/I treat the rap game like a large monopoly."

With some emcees, the passage of time takes its inevitable toll on their storytelling abilities, but *The Last Kiss* proves that Kiss's magic hasn't vanished.—TRU

### Sleepwalking Through the Mekong

(M80)

Directed by John Pirozzi



The first time I heard the snake-charming songstress Ch'hom Nimol of Dengue Fever, I quickly found myself on the Nung River in a patrol boat, dropping acid with Lt. Lance B. Johnson on our way to see Colonel Kurtz. The sound of Nimol's voice is so enchanting that a bent note or two carries you away to the jungles of Southeast Asia, complete with lotus flowers floating on muddy rivers. Similarly, the documentary *Sleepwalking Through the Mekong* transports its viewers to Cambodia and exposes them to a story of its people not usually told.

The sound of bands like Dengue Fever had its roots in the Vietnam War, when the Cambodian people first heard the music of American soldiers on their local airwaves. Embracing the unfamiliar sounds of surf guitar and psychedelia, they used it to back their own Khmer lyrics. The resulting Cambo-pop revolution of the '60s and '70s was short-lived, once the Khmer Rouge took power and Pol Pot launched his cultural genocide. The albums and tapes were mostly destroyed, but many Cambodians sustained the music in their hearts, while a few actually risked their lives to harbor the illicit reels from the regime.

Once the Khmer Rouge's tyranny drew to a close, the music was re-released, and a new generation of listeners fell in love. Zac Holtzman, a founding member of Dengue Fever, was one of them. Just as the Khmer people mimicked the sounds of America 40 years ago, so Americans are reinterpreting their music today. It's a reincarnated sound that refused to rot away in the killing fields. *Sleepwalking Through the Mekong* is the story of a music unwilling to die.—Roller Girl



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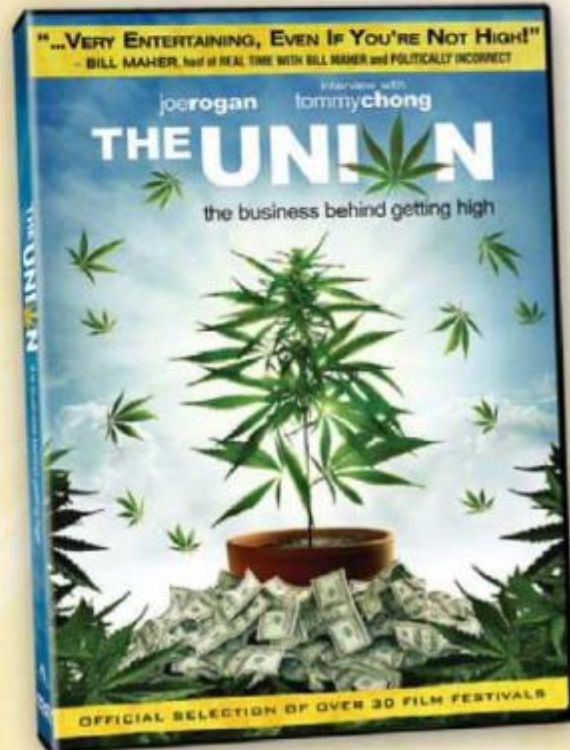
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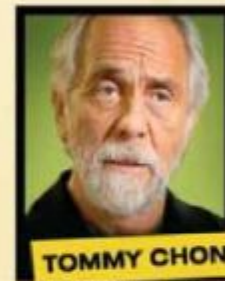
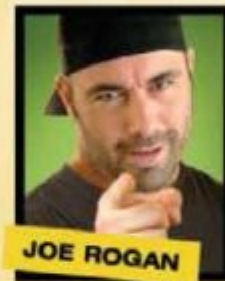
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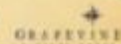
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BY BOBBY BLACK



**HIGH TIMES UNSIGNED BAND OF THE MONTH: PASADENA**

Back in 2007, Pasadena were featured as an HT.com Unsigned Band of the Week. This year, the six-piece outfit hits the pages of the mag after winning HIGH TIMES' cyber battle of the bands for August.

Pasadena's music is the kind you want to listen to on the long drive home from work, or on a hot summer night with your favorite girl and a 40. It's basically music for everyone: thugs, gangstaz, hippies, skate kids, punk rockers and, of course, you.

Hailing from the Pasadena area (in Maryland, not California), the band was formed in 2000 by lead singer Joey Harkum and drummer Ben Cowdery. Pasadena's members believe in freedom of expression, and by composing and performing original music, they seek to provide a release, for themselves and their fans, from the inevitable struggles and conflicts of life. Pasadena's popularity has grown as they've progressed from playing small bars to sold-out clubs. Thanks to the heart and soul they pour into each and every song, they've inspired the allegiance of an ever-growing fan base.

Combining acoustic rock and hip-hop-influenced lyrics with a sweet, laid-back beat, smooth-flowing bass lines and a captivating horn section, Pasadena are a breath of fresh music here on the East Coast. Keep an eye out for them in your town!

For further info, including downloads and tour dates, check out [www.hightimes.com/pasadena](http://www.hightimes.com/pasadena).



**vaporella's hit of the month**

**CANNABIS COUTURE**

I have to admit, I love showing my solidarity to weed through my clothing without being overtly pro-pot. I'll don pot leaf shoes on an airplane or wear dime-bag earrings to a Yankees game. I like to know who the potheads are and want them to find me in return. Therefore, this necklace is my new favorite piece of jewelry. Not only does the tiny silver hand look interesting enough to garner random comments and compliments, but it gives me the opportunity to respond, "and...it's a roach clip." Opening up what I hope will lead to a conversation about my favorite subject—smoking weed. Want one? Contact designer Michael Saiger at [miansai.com](http://miansai.com).

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Ever wish you could work at HIGH TIMES? Well, here's your chance!

Hardly a day goes by that we don't receive an email or letter from some idealistic young pot smoker saying, "You have the coolest job ever! How did you get it?" or asking, "How can I get a job at HT? I'll do anything—I'll even mop the floors!" It



seems like stoners are willing to do just about anything to land a gig here. After much consideration, we've decided it's high time for us to pay it forward and give someone out there the opportunity to step up and prove their worth. So this fall, we'll be recruiting one lucky stoner to become an honorary HIGH TIMES Editor for a day—and it could be you!

If chosen, you'll be invited up to the HIGH TIMES offices to meet the staff and see firsthand what it's like to work behind the scenes at the world's most notorious magazine. You'll also walk away with a one-year subscription to the magazine, copies of our *Swimsuit*, *Grow* and *Cannabis Cup* DVDs, and whatever other goodies we can dig up for you.

Excited yet? Well, hold on—I haven't told you the best part yet!

As any of you who follow my column know, being on the staff of HIGH TIMES isn't just about hard work—it's also about living the BBD. So in addition to your other duties and prizes, you'll also score yourself (and a guest) an all-access pass to our historic, invitation-only HIGH TIMES 35th Anniversary party this fall, where you'll get the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet and mingle with top stoner celebrities and leaders of the marijuana movement.

Then, when it's all over, you'll write your very own story about the experience, which I'll edit and publish as the next issue's Almost Infamous column. Plus, your name will be listed as an honorary editor in the mast-

head of that issue alongside the rest of the staff. How's that for the bigger, better deal?

Want to know how to enter? Of course you do. It's simple: just email a résumé and sample of your writing (it can be an essay, article, report or short story that is marijuana-, psychedelics- or HIGH TIMES-related, between 500 and 1,500 words), along with a scan of your driver's license or passport and two photos of yourself, to [bobbyblack@hightimes.com](mailto:bobbyblack@hightimes.com) by August 1, 2009. In addition, you have the extra-credit option of submitting a self-promo video by posting a link to it on 420.com with the letters "BBD" somewhere in the headline. We will then sift through all the entries and pick the individual who we think displays the most potential and enthusiasm to be our honorary editor, and announce the winner at [hightimes.com/bobbyblack](http://hightimes.com/bobbyblack) on August 15. To qualify, you must be 18 years of age or older and live in the New York City area, or be willing to make your own travel arrangements and accommodations (HT will not pay for your travel or living expenses). Oh, and you'll have to fail a drug test so we know you're legit.

All right, Blackolytes—this is your big chance to show us what you've got, so you'd better bring it! Who knows—if you have what it takes, you might even become our next big pot star! ✨

*Be sure to pick up our October issue to read about more of the world's coolest pothead professions in our special upcoming "Top Stoner Dream Jobs" feature!*



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BRAIN DAMAGE CONTROL

Jimi Hendrix reinvented the national anthem.

**We lost our shit at Woodstock.**  
By Paul Krassner



August marks the 40th anniversary of the Woodstock Festival. Along with 400,000 others, I was on a countercultural pilgrimage that weekend. I was wearing my yellow leather fringe jacket for the first time; in one of the pockets, there was a nice little stash of LSD. If you happen to be brand-name conscious, then you'll want to know that it was Owsley White Lightning. Each tablet contained exactly 300 micrograms of excellent acid.

The soundtrack was live and the Hog Farm commune provided meals, servicing the largest bed-and-breakfast in recorded history. Actually, they'd been hired to provide security, but to Hog Farm leader Hugh Romney, "security" meant cream pies and seltzer bottles. He planned to wear a Smokey the Bear costume to warn people about putting out their fires. This wasn't merely a three-day outdoor concert—it was a Martian convention. Or, as Yippie co-founder Abbie Hoffman called it, Woodstock Nation.

The political contingent was ensconced in a huge red-and-white-striped tent christened Movement City (not to be confused with Port-o-Potties). In the afternoon, a mimeograph machine was churning out flyers proclaiming that the outdoor concerts should be free. At night, several young festival-goers were busy unscrewing the wire fencing that had been installed during the day. Yippie Roz Payne was among them: She helped remove the "No Trespassing" sign and put up one that read "People's Bulletin Board" in its place.

One afternoon, Abbie, Roz and I took a stroll down Merchants Way, which led to a stage that was still under construction; they yanked down the "Merchants Way" sign and replaced it with one that read "Ho Chi Minh Trail." Lights hadn't been strung up along the path yet, and as it got darker, we kept walking and stumbling until we got lost in the woods. After a couple of hours, we saw a light through the trees, realized that we were right back where we started, and laughed ourselves silly.

Abbie would get serious later on, though—egged on by his sense of justice, and fueled by the tab of White Lightning that we had each ingested. As the Who were performing, Abbie went up onstage with the intention of informing the audience that John Sinclair, the manager of the MC5 and leader of the White Panther Party, was serving 10 years in prison for the possession of two joints. This was really the politics behind the music.

But before Abbie could get his message out, Peter Townshend transformed his guitar into a tennis racket and smashed him on the head with a swift backhand. He'd assumed that Abbie was just another crazed fan storming the stage. (When the Who played the Fillmore East the previous week, a plainclothes cop had rushed onstage and tried to grab the mike. He meant to warn the audience that a fire had broken out next door and the theater had to be cleared, but he was able to do so only after Townshend had kned him in the balls.)

My favorite musical moment at Woodstock was Hendrix's startling rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner." His electric guitar wailing our national anthem brought me to tears. It was a wordless version that I interpreted to mean: "It's not that we hate America; it's that we feel the American Dream has been betrayed, and we will live our alternative." And over the last four decades, there has been a linear progression from Jimi playing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Woodstock to Aretha Franklin belting out the famous opening words of "America" (*My country, 'tis of thee ...*) at the inauguration of Barack Obama. ✨

*After Woodstock, Hugh Romney changed his name to Wavy Gravy and proceeded to become a Ben & Jerry's flavor. Paul Krassner changed his name to Rumpleskinn and proceeded to become a syndicated columnist for the underground press. Visit paulkrassner.com.*



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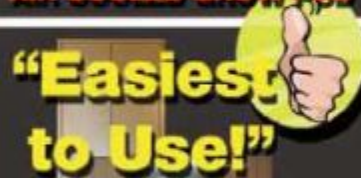


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ZENA TSARENI

## THE 2009 DOOBIE AWARDS

BY BOBBY BLACK

Folklore has it that the number 13 is cursed—an omen of bad luck. So when I realized that this year would be *HIGH TIMES'* 13th annual party at SXSW, I guess I should've taken heed. But I'm not much for superstition, and considering last year's party was such a huge success, I figured hell—why not go bigger this time? After all, it's Texas, right? I decided to put together a must-see show that would have the entire convention talking—a sorta stoner rock *Clash of the Titans*. So I reserved both stages at Red 7 and booked a lineup of 10 bands, topped by all-stars like SoCal psych-rockers Nebula, low desert punk Brant Bjork and the Bros., and godfather of stoner metal Wino.

I reckon I got a bit cocky. That's when Fortune stepped in and started kickin' my ass.

Just a couple weeks before the show, both Bjork and Nebula were suddenly forced to cancel their tours. I began scrambling for new headliners, and discovered that Montreal's Priestess would be in town. One of the best new heavy bands to come out in recent years, I'd met and smoked out with them a few times, so I got in touch—and, luckily, they agreed to play almost immediately. I received their confirmation email that Friday ... *Friday the 13th*.

Rounding out the bill were Year Long Disaster (featuring Dan Davies, son of Kinks bassist Ray Davies), Black Water Rising (Doobie Award nominees for Best Alternative Rock), Teepee Records' jam metal masters Earthless (up for Best New/Underground Artist), Age oV Reason from Vegas, Boston's Graveyard BBQ, an up-and-coming psychedelic band called Radio Moscow, and foxy funkstress Kim Manning (of Parliament Funkadelic) and her band. With the lineup finally set, I grabbed my cowboy hat and headed to Austin.

The first order of business was putting together the Cowboy Cup (see sidebar), so I could secure my necessary stash for the party and photograph the Doobie Awards with lots of weed. This year's trophies were the coolest yet: 11 inches of black bong with clear trim and a spinning propeller inside, mounted on a black, engraved square base—all masterfully crafted by Justin and Glass Mantis of Two Kings Glass. Only problem was, I'd told the guys that I needed them

to arrive by Thursday, and it was now Friday afternoon and there was still no sign of 'em. So much for shooting the trophies with the weed .... But take a wild guess how many strains we happened to end up with for judging? Yep—13.

I got to the club around 11 a.m. on Saturday, fired up a joint and got to work. Banners went up, free beer was arranged, and the crowd was starting to file in. Texas NORML had already set up their booth outside near the stage. Next to them was HT senior editor Dave Bienenstock, signing and selling copies of *The HIGH TIMES Official Stoner Handbook*. And most importantly, Justin arrived from Vegas just before showtime with the trophies—safe and sound. High noon, high times, and all was well.

Graveyard BBQ got the show off to a blazin' start, cranking out some serious reefer riffage. This was the last show of their first cross-country tour, and their enthusiasm was obvious. For their last song, they even called me onstage to sing along with their cover of AC/DC's "Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap."

Next up, gearhead glammers Blöwer (who played last year's party too) hit the stage and premiered their brand new weed song, "Get Up, Get High, Get Off," which frontman Doug "Dijit" Evans said they'd written specially for the show. By this time, a thick cloud of smoke had formed above the crowd, Age oV Reason had just kicked off the indoor stage, and everything seemed to be flowing smoothly. Of course, that's exactly when things started going to hell.

First, the club's manager informed me that the free beer we'd bought for the crowd—all ten cases of High Life—was already gone. Next, I learned that just after delivering the trophies, Justin had had some sort of paranoid freak-out and took off. From what I could gather, he apparently got it in his head that I'd ordered security to beat him up or something. Then things really started to get interesting. My buddy Rich from Year Long Disaster came up and told me that they'd accidentally double-booked themselves and couldn't play at 5 p.m. as scheduled—they'd have to play by two. So I had to give them Radio Moscow's slot, move Moscow into Black Water's slot, and move Black Water up to 5 p.m. Then I lost another headliner when



Comedian Doug Benson with HT senior editor Dave Bienenstock.



Priestess from Montreal.

ZENA TSARENI



Year Long Disaster.



Boston's Graveyard BBQ.

CHRIS EUDALEY (9)



Wino—who was slated to play an acoustic set at 3 p.m. (and to win the award for Best Stoner Rock Artist)—apparently got pissed off about something during his sound check and, just like Justin, suddenly walked out without a word. After almost an hour of trying to reach him, I gave up, took a deep breath (and an even deeper hit off my joint) and headed to the stage for the awards ceremony.

Our celebrity presenters this year included Miss HT 2007 Sarah Newton and Kim Manning (for Best Reggae/World Music Artist), Dave Bienenstock (Best Jam Band), and Cannabis Castaway Jet Baker (Best New/Underground Artist). “Kop Busters” Barry and Kandy Cooper presented the award for Best Hip-Hop Artist, after which the former Texas state trooper turned cannabis crusader announced his candidacy for Texas attorney general. King’s X singer Doug Pinnick presented the award for Best Alternative Rock to Black Water Rising for their debut album, *Brother Go On*. (A few months earlier, BWR had a record release party for that album at a bar in Brooklyn. The name of that bar? Lucky 13.)

Also on hand were Austin natives the Sword, who’d just gotten home from a triumphant national



Barry and Kandy Cooper.

tour with Metallica. Guitarist Kyle Shutt had been a judge at our Cowboy Cup the day before. Today, he brought the rest of the band, who accepted the award for Best Metal Artist. They also presented the award for Best Local Artist to Blöwer, who were so drunk they didn’t hear their names being called (guess we know where all that free beer went). Other celebs of note who stopped by were former Kyuss/Queens of the Stone Age bassist (and Doobies alumni) Nick Oliveri and stoner comedian Doug Benson, who walked in just in time to catch our big 420 countdown, which we celebrated onstage by christening Graveyard BBQ’s Best New/Underground Artist trophy.

With the awards over, the only thing left was to enjoy the last band of the day. Priestess closed out the show with possibly the finest set I’d ever heard them play. I stood at the front of the stage and let the smoke and music wash over me, cleansing away the last of the bad-luck vibrations. Despite all the day’s stresses and snafus, everyone walked out of there stoned and smiling, and it was still the best damn party I’d been to all year.

When it was all over, we headed down to Ironworks for a big BBQ dinner, a few cold ones and a much-needed smoke session. As I made my way upstairs to our table with my BBQ combo platter, I slipped on the top step and watched my Lone Star slide off the tray and spill down the stairs ... all 13 of ‘em.

Just my luck.

*Thanks to our sponsors, 420 Science and Gravitron/SmoCo smoke shop; Justin and Glass Mantis of Two Kings Glass; the staff of Red 7; and all of the performers and presenters. For the full list of nominees, as well as pictures and video from the event, go to [hightimes.com/doobies](http://hightimes.com/doobies).*



King’s X vocalist Doug Pinnick presents the Doobie to Black Water Rising.

## THE 2009 HIGH TIMES DOOBIE AWARDS ROUNDUP

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**THE ROOTS**

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**MICHAEL FRANTI & SPEARHEAD**

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**BEST STONER ROCK ARTIST**  
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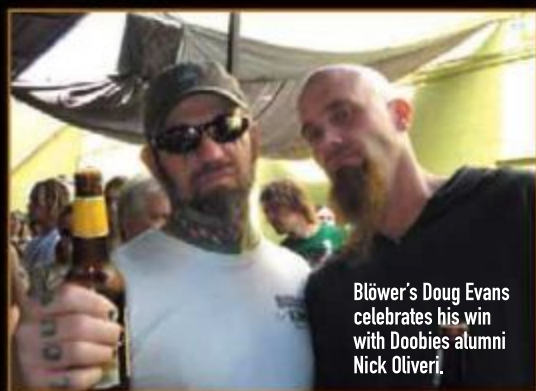
**BEST METAL ARTIST**  
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**BEST NEW / UNDERGROUND ARTIST**  
**GRAVEYARD BBQ**

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**POT SONG OF THE YEAR**  
**"MY MEDICINE" - SNOOP DOGG**

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
**JOHNNY WINTER**  
**(SEE INTERVIEW ON P.72)**



Blöwer’s Doug Evans celebrates his win with Doobies alumni Nick Oliveri.

## THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL COWBOY CUP



The afternoon before the Doobies, the HT crew and our tightest buds gathered in a clandestine location on the outskirts of Austin, TX, to judge the best strains that the locals could wrangle up. It’s a private tasting party of the chilliest proportions—a tradition we began last year that we like to call the Cowboy Cup.

Back then, we had just six entries, and all in very small amounts. This year, however, we ended up with a staggering 13 varieties of herb (see next page): Austin Lights, Dank #1, Dank #4, Mystery, Starfruit, Sour Diesel, Cowboy Purple, Da Bounce, Purple Hindu, Bambú Buddha, Green House



Clockwise from top: the Cowboy Cup judges; The Sword’s Kyle and Sarah examine the entries; Radio Moscow sample a strain.

Trainwreck, Purple Star and SS Paradise. It was far more weed than we could ever hope to smoke—but hell, that didn’t stop us from tryin’, now did it? With a spread of vegetarian munchies, a couple cases of Shiner Bock, a few Weedoscopes and a box of Doobies stash jars (courtesy of 420 Science), the VIP judges got to work studying and sampling the afternoon’s menu. Guests included members of Texas NORML, Matt from 420 Science, Temple Dragons Jet Baker and Donna Will, Miss HT 2007 Sarah, the Sword’s Kyle Shutt, the band Radio Moscow and several other local stoners. After nearly five hours of deliriously diligent deliberation, the judges cast their votes: In third place, with three votes, was the late entry Green House Trainwreck; in second place, with four votes, was the Bambú Buddha; and the winner of the 2009 Cowboy Cup, with six votes, was ... the Starfruit!

Thanks to all those who donated their time and herb to make the party such a blast. See y’all next year!

*Limited-edition 2009 Doobies jars are still available at [420science.com](http://420science.com).*



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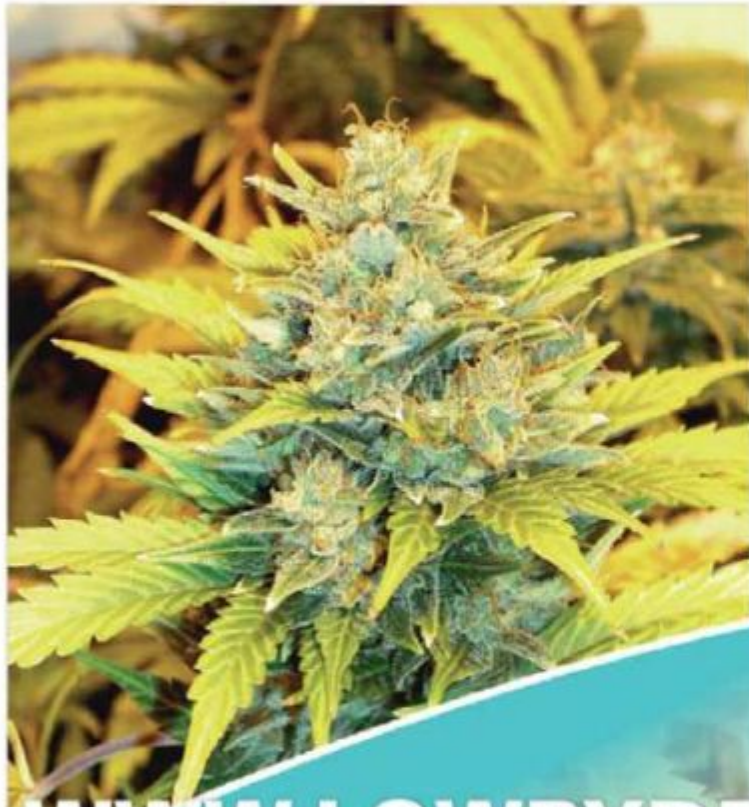
# HIGH TIMES

## 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL COWBOY CUP

- 1) **FIRST PLACE:** Starfruit
- 2) **SECOND PLACE:** Bambú Buddha
- 3) **THIRD PLACE:** GH Trainwreck
- 4) Dank #4
- 5) Dank #1
- 6) Cowboy Purple
- 7) Purple Star
- 8) Purple Hindu
- 9) Mystery
- 10) Da Bounce
- 11) SS Paradise
- 12) Austin Lights
- 13) Sour Diesel







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# EUROPE

*Seeds, Clones and Strains of Southern Europe. By Nico Escondido*

There is a revolution happening in Spain.

Indeed, all throughout Europe, a debate has ensued that spans the entire longitude of the EU. Particularly in the south of Europe, in areas like Spain, Portugal and parts of Italy, cannabis growers share some distinct differences not only from their North American counterparts, but also from Dutch and other northern European growers.

Large outdoor, commercial-style grow operations are less prevalent here than one might expect, given the mild Mediterranean climate. With small indoor grow ops on the rise for both medicinal and recreational use, growers in Spain have increasingly turned to seeds instead of clones as their preferred method of propagation. There are several reasons for this. For one thing, cannabis seeds happen to be legal in Spain; for another, obtaining and transporting genetics in seed form (versus, say, a rooted plant cutting) is always a much easier task.

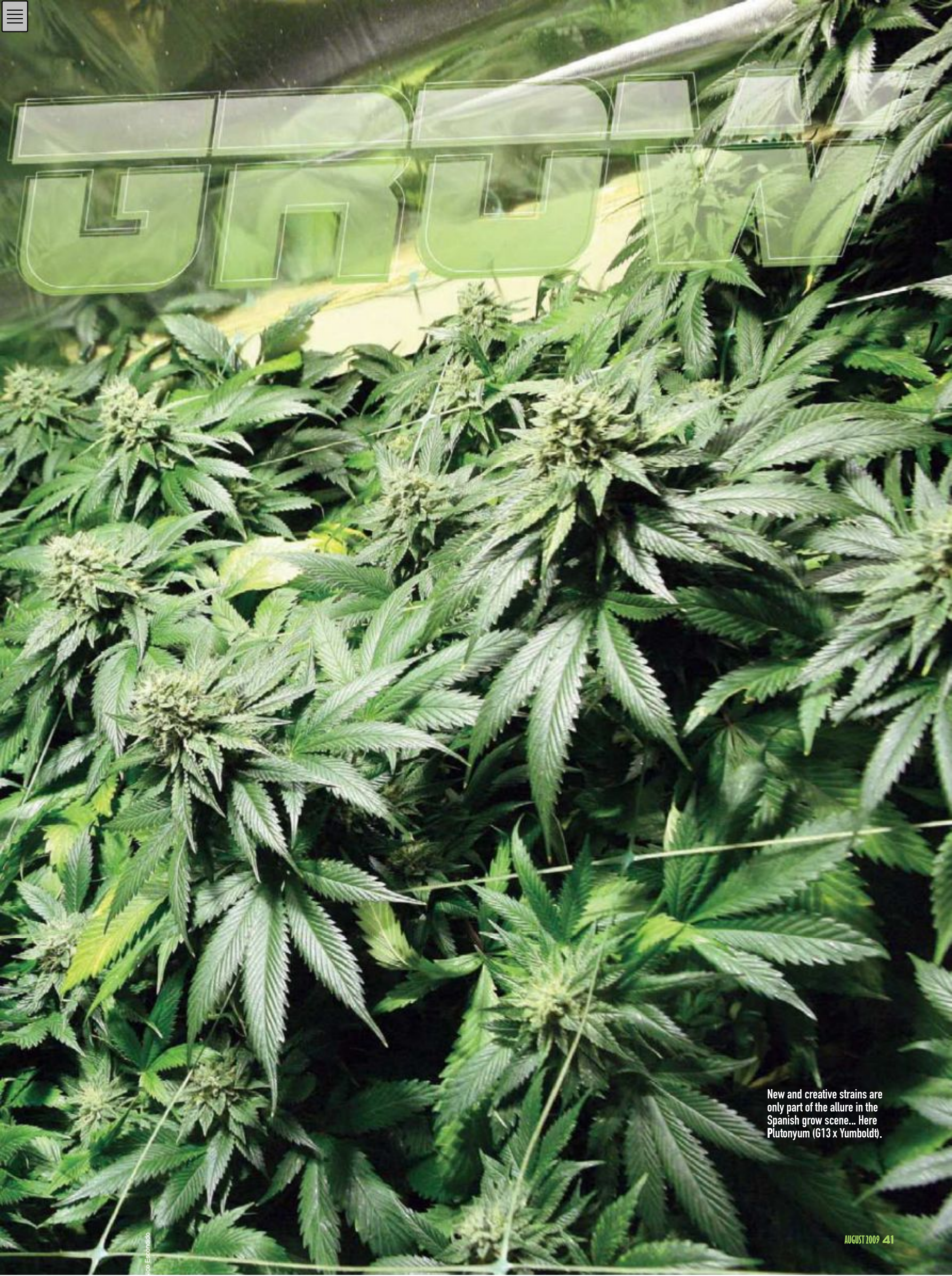
It is often said in Spain that seeds better match the lifestyle of the Spanish grower. With a more laid-back atmosphere prevailing in many Spanish cities, the need to rush into a garden is nowhere to be found. Whereas obtaining a clone means that the grower is now on a set timetable, using seeds allows growers to begin at their leisure. And in the south of Europe, leisure is always an attractive idea.

Of course, we all know that in Holland, massive commercial setups dominate a market that has legal cannabis purveyors on nearly every corner. In their growrooms and fields, Dutch farmers utilize large-scale industrial techniques such as "sea of green" (SOG), where clones are the only way to go. A major benefit of this (aside from a shorter grow cycle) is that cloning requires no guesswork in sexing the plants, as clones will always be a female replica of their mother. Still, southern Europe has quietly latched onto a new market in feminized seeds that helps eliminate this problem as well. And, in turn, the rise in the popularity of feminized seeds has boosted a market for breeders not only in Spain, but throughout the rest of the EU.





# STASH



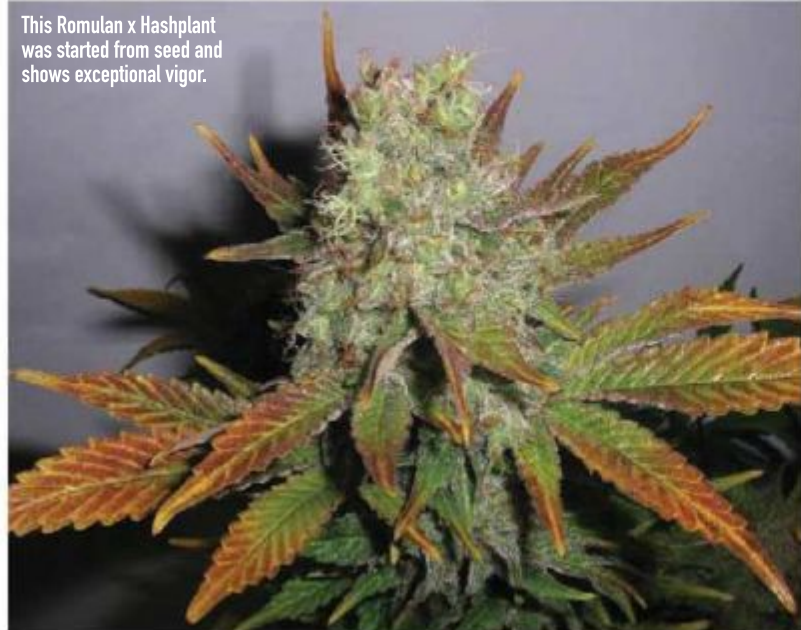
New and creative strains are only part of the allure in the Spanish grow scene... Here Plutonium (G13 x Yumboldt).





A beautiful example of prime seeds hatching from a female bud.

This Romulan x Hashplant was started from seed and shows exceptional vigor.



## THE FEMINIZED SEED CRAZE

Once the seed fad was resurrected in southern Europe, a natural byproduct was the rise in demand for feminized seeds. Feminized seeds are seeds that have been manipulated to ensure that they germinate only female plants. Obviously, for growers who aren't concerned with breeding, feminized seeds are a very alluring option. Although these seeds are usually more expensive, they make figuring out the sex of a plant a non-issue, eliminating any chance of missing an early male plant that might pollinate (and thus seed) an entire garden.

The Dutch Passion seed company created the first feminized seeds in Amsterdam circa 1999. Ever since then, there's been a growing demand for these seeds, forcing the other big seed companies to follow suit in order to keep their clientele happy. Unfortunately, the process by which breeders must alter the genetic components of plants to obtain feminized seeds often requires the use of chemical additives, which turns some seed companies off. Recently, though, even the few breeders left in Amsterdam who had refused to go this route—preferring to keep their seeds as close to organic as possible—have given in to popular demand (and the need to keep up with competitors) by releasing their own lines of feminized seeds.





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This female mother was sprayed to force a hermaphrodite. Notice the beginnings of the yellowish male pollen sacs within the female flower.

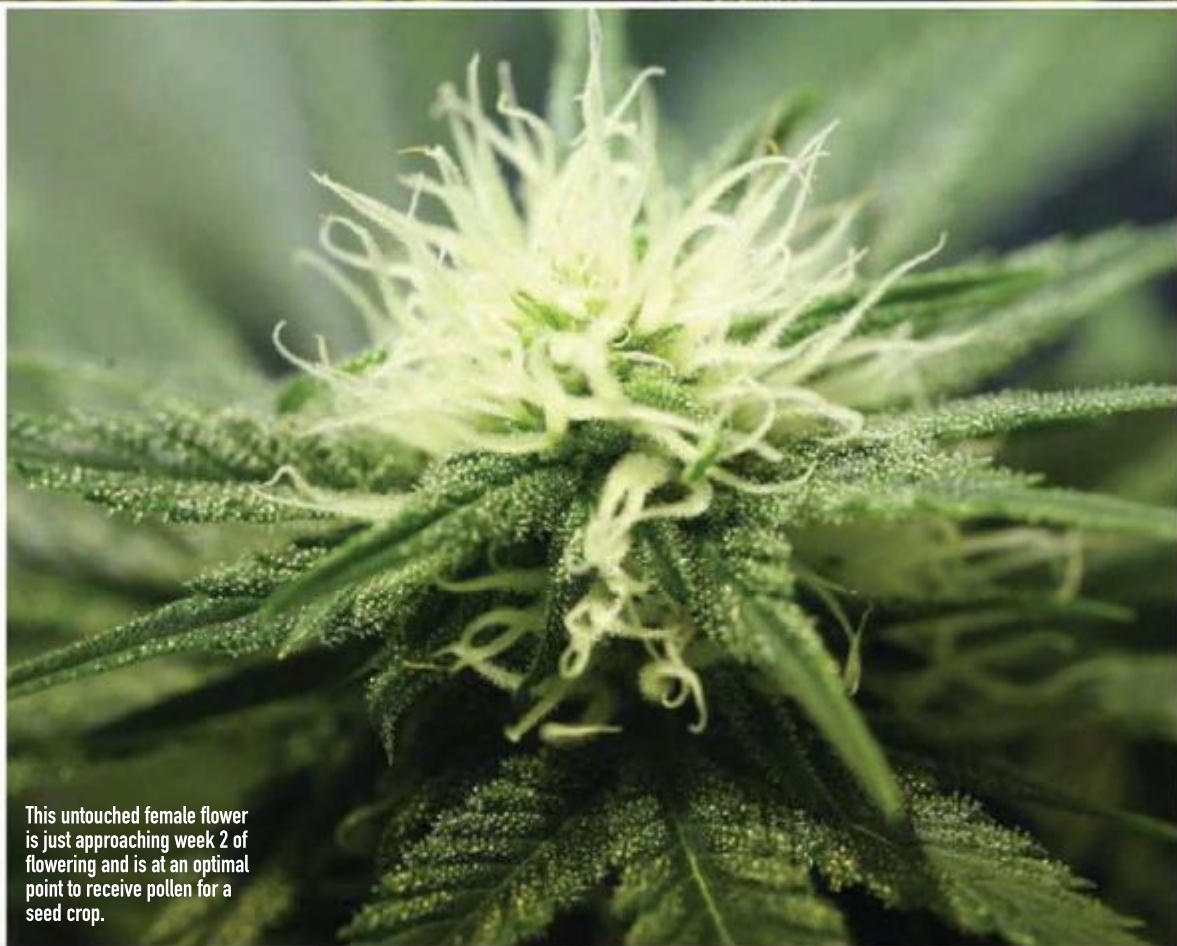
### HOW'S IT MADE?

So how is it done? Well, the process of creating feminized seeds has to be done without using a male to pollinate. In some instances, there isn't even a same-strain male available to make regular seeds, and using a different strain's male would result in a hybrid strain (i.e., a mix of two different types of cannabis).

So what breeders must do is stress out a female plant to the point where she turns hermaphrodite. They do this by using a combination of chemicals and harsh conditioning. The most commonly used compound is silver nitrate ( $\text{AgNO}_3$ ) carefully diluted with water. Spraying this solution onto a female plant early in the flowering cycle forces the female to start producing small male flowers within the premature buds. The male flowers in turn pollinate the female buds, and the plant begins forming seeds.

However, the seeds from forced females aren't the most ideal candidates for germination, as they have come from an abused parent. Rather, breeders take the pollen from the male flowers on these plants and use it to pollinate other, healthy female plants that have been chosen as strong mothers and that have not come into contact with any chemical solutions.

Once a room of flowering mothers is pollinated, a seed crop will



This untouched female flower is just approaching week 2 of flowering and is at an optimal point to receive pollen for a seed crop.

begin to grow. The seeds from these plants will be 99% female when germinated. Some problems have been known to arise, though: Feminized seeds will sometimes produce hermaphrodite plants or females with less vigor than usual. This is why it's usually a good idea to buy the larger packs of feminized seeds.



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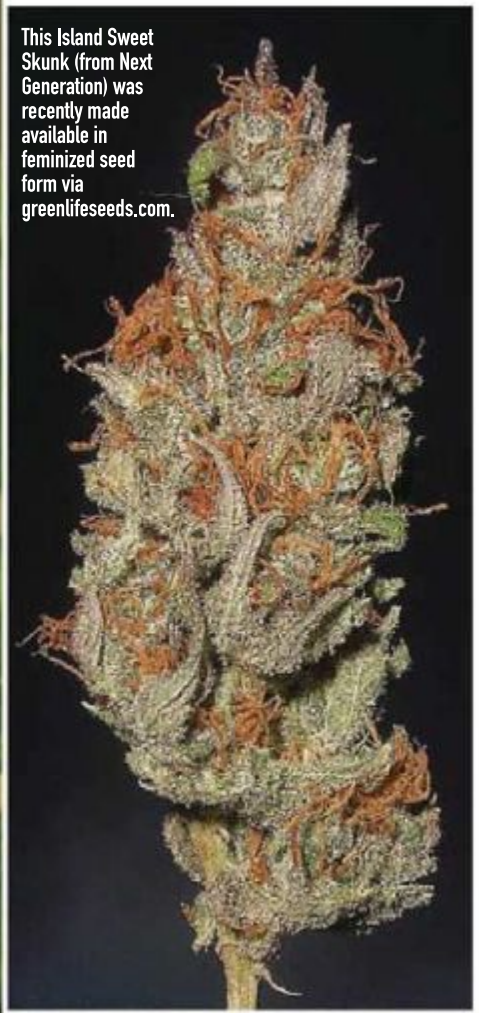


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This Thai bud in week 3 of flowering has just received her pollen for seed production. She will go a little longer than the standard 8 weeks.



This Island Sweet Skunk (from Next Generation) was recently made available in feminized seed form via [greenlifeseeds.com](http://greenlifeseeds.com).



This Spanish breeder's garden is about as big as it gets indoors in Spain.

## AUTO-FLOWERING STRAINS

Another trend in southern Europe that varies significantly from other major grow centers is the marketability of auto-flowering strains. These are strains that require no "trigger" for flowering: They simply flower automatically whenever the plant senses that the time is right. This can be for a variety of reasons, including plant height, root-ball size or temperature change.

Again, the reason these strains appeal to certain growers is because they fit in well with a low-maintenance lifestyle choice. Simply letting plants grow on their own with little worry as to when or how to switch light cycles is just one more attractive option for carefree growers. But like anything else that is easy, there are drawbacks.

Auto-flowering strains come from a species of cannabis that most of us have never even heard about. While we're all familiar with *sativas*

and *indicas*, there's a third, lesser-known type called *ruderalis*, a hardy, hempy variety that is usually found only in the wild. When farmers cultivate *ruderalis*, it's usually for its strong fiber, which can be used industrially to make rope, paper, clothes and other products. Marijuana growers generally stay away from *ruderalis* because of its very low THC content, and the fact that its auto-flowering properties prevent them from being able to grow plants to a desired height. This results in smaller yields of less potent buds.

Breeders, however, have used *ruderalis* in their projects because these genetics can produce the shorter, squatter hybrids more suitable for indoor growing. And since *ruderalis* is a hardy wild variety, it is more resistant to molds, diseases and pests. In short, once breeders were able to add potency to these strains via hybridization, some growers found them to be a suitable and attractive enough option for ganja growing. 🌿



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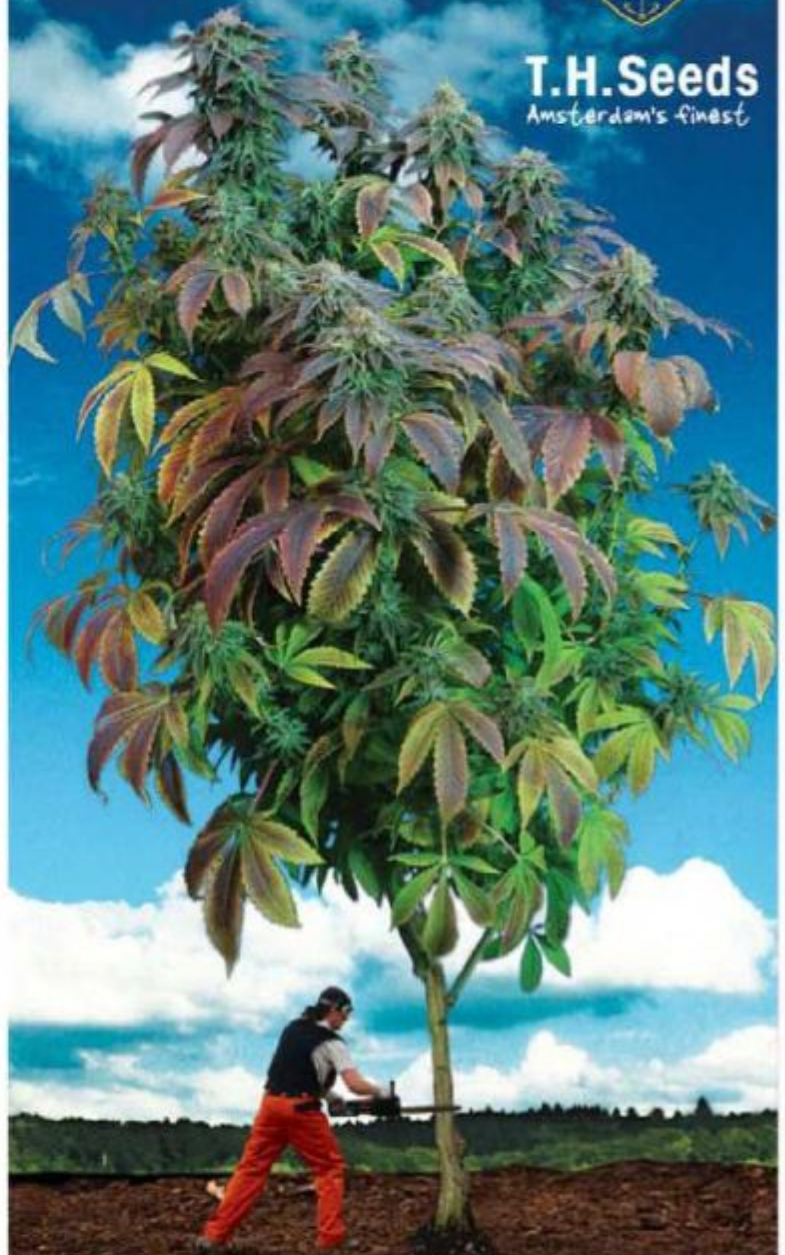
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# EURO GROW

## SEEDS VS. CLONES COMPARISON



Dark, striped seeds shells usually indicate they are ripe and ready for popping!

### SEEDS

Genetics can be easily stored and transported due to the small size of seeds.

Seeds properly stored in a cool, dry, dark place can remain viable for several years, allowing growers to set their own timetable for propagation.

Feminized seeds can take the guesswork out of sexing a garden.

### CONS

Germinating seeds and/or waiting for seedlings to gain vigor can increase the time of a grow cycle.

Seeds may produce unwanted males in the garden and require careful attention when sexing plants in the early flowering stage.

Some seeds may never germinate, and expensive feminized seeds may produce hermaphroditic plants.



Clones usually root within 10–12 days and are ready for potting.

### CLONES

Guaranteed female plants, as clones are the exact genetic replica of their mother.

No fear of mutant phenotypes or unstable genetics; growers know exactly what they're getting and will have uniform plants throughout their garden.

The possibility for a shorter grow cycle exists: Cuttings generally root in 10 days and can be sent into flowering within a week of that if the grower desires.

Once a cutting is taken, the grower is on a set timetable—better have your room ready!

After multiple generations of cloning, certain strains may start to lose vigor.

Any genetic flaw (i.e., susceptibility to pests or diseases) will be passed on from generation to generation.

## THE REIGN IN SPAIN

Southern Europe is home to a long list of distinguished growers, including HIGH TIMES' very own cultivation guru, Jorge Cervantes, who lives in Spain. Among the network of expert growers in Spain, you'll find an extensive base of knowledge, passion and camaraderie between people. Some of the best Spanish growers opened up their grow ops to give us a small glimpse of what's happening along the Mediterranean, on the edge of the EU.

These growrooms all showed a certain affinity for classic strains from around the globe. Among some of the rarities we found were **Critical Mass**, **Oaxacan Gold** and an old-school **Yumboldt**. The Spanish growers, although simple in their approach, are able to use their green thumbs to produce new and very different varieties from what might be seen in North America. One Spanish seed company, Barcelona Seeds ([www.bcseedscompany.com](http://www.bcseedscompany.com)), took the flavor of the original California **Yumboldt** and crossed it with the omnipotent **G-13** to create an enterprising new strain named **Plutonyum**. A little further south, in the areas surrounding Valencia and Malaga, growers



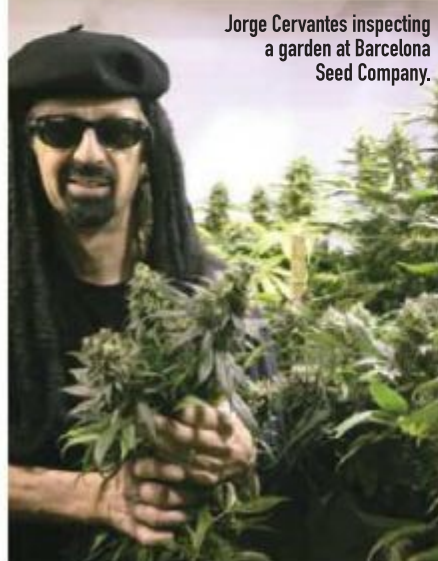
A happy farmer in a patch of Edelweiss under the potent sun of southern Spain.

were producing small outdoor crops of **Edelweiss**, a popular local brand. All throughout Spain, there are patches of farmers who have kept such strains alive for years—another advantage of the art of cloning.

But don't think that Spanish gardeners are greedy growers who hoard their prized genetics. In fact, it's just the opposite, with many making efforts to spread their knowledge and genetics beyond the borders of Europe. Many helping hands have been extended to farmers located even farther south than Spain, to cultivators in Africa. Countries in northern Africa such as Morocco and Tunisia have been the beneficiaries of a genetic dissemination of sorts. Because these countries are heavily involved in the hash trade, it makes sense that the better genetics they have, the better hash they'll be able to make.

A lot of Spanish growers would love to boast that the marijuana fields being grown to make fine Moroccan hash are populated with their very own strains. Many breeders—including Elite Seeds from Spain, Next Generation Seeds from Canada and Green House Seeds from Amsterdam—have brought their genetics to African countries for this very reason. But when you're dealing with massive outdoor crops, you need seeds that number in the tens of thousands. This is one situation where using clones would be a much more tedious process. And, of course, with the advent of feminized seeds, the need for taking cuttings by the thousands really makes even less sense.

In the end, however, all the growers agree on one thing: It doesn't matter so much how a crop is started; what matters most is how it finishes. In Europe, the final product defines a grower—and in that regard, when you find something that works well for you, don't mess with success!



Jorge Cervantes inspecting a garden at Barcelona Seed Company.





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Read about VISC in the March 2008 issue of High Times

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Liberty and VISC photos by Kat in Skunk issues v3#5 & v3#8

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See photos and articles in Cannabis Culture issues #66, 67, 70





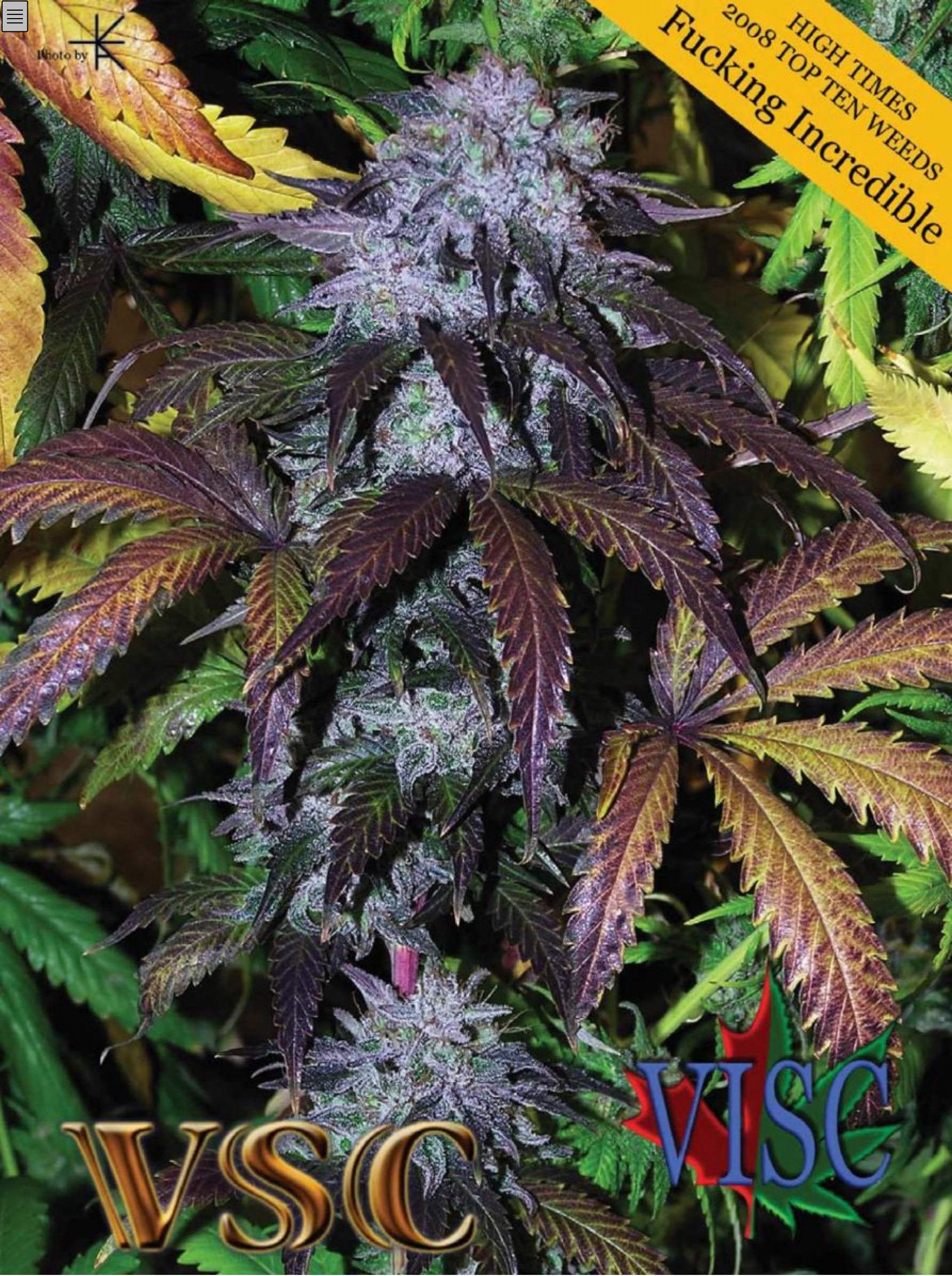
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HIGH TIMES  
2008 TOP TEN WEEDS  
Fucking Incredible

WSSC

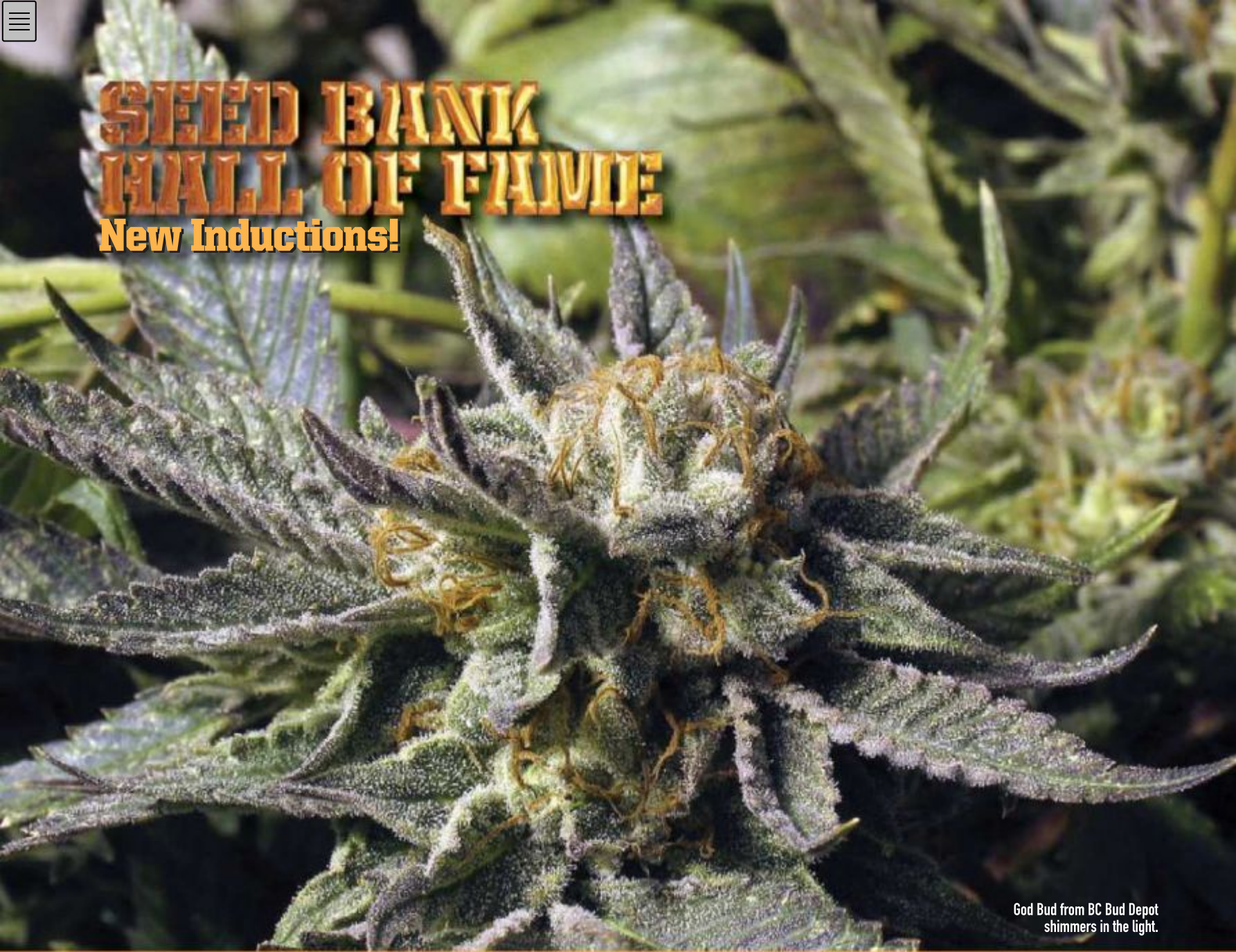
visc





# SEED BANK HALL OF FAME

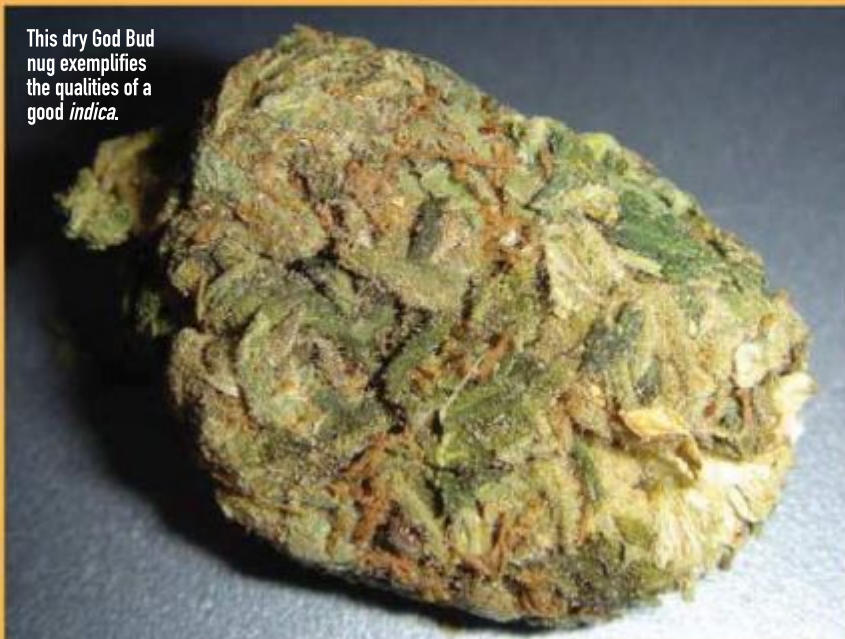
## New Inductions!



God Bud from BC Bud Depot shimmers in the light.

Introducing the newest members of HIGH TIMES' hallowed list of the world's best and most consistent seed companies. After extensive testing and research, we've identified the finest bud breeders and honored their contributions to ganja genetics by enrolling them forever in our sanctified sensi shrine. The seed companies listed here, in no particular order, have been providing some of the best beans available to cannabis connoisseurs and pot aficionados worldwide. **By Danny Danko**

This dry God Bud nug exemplifies the qualities of a good *indica*.



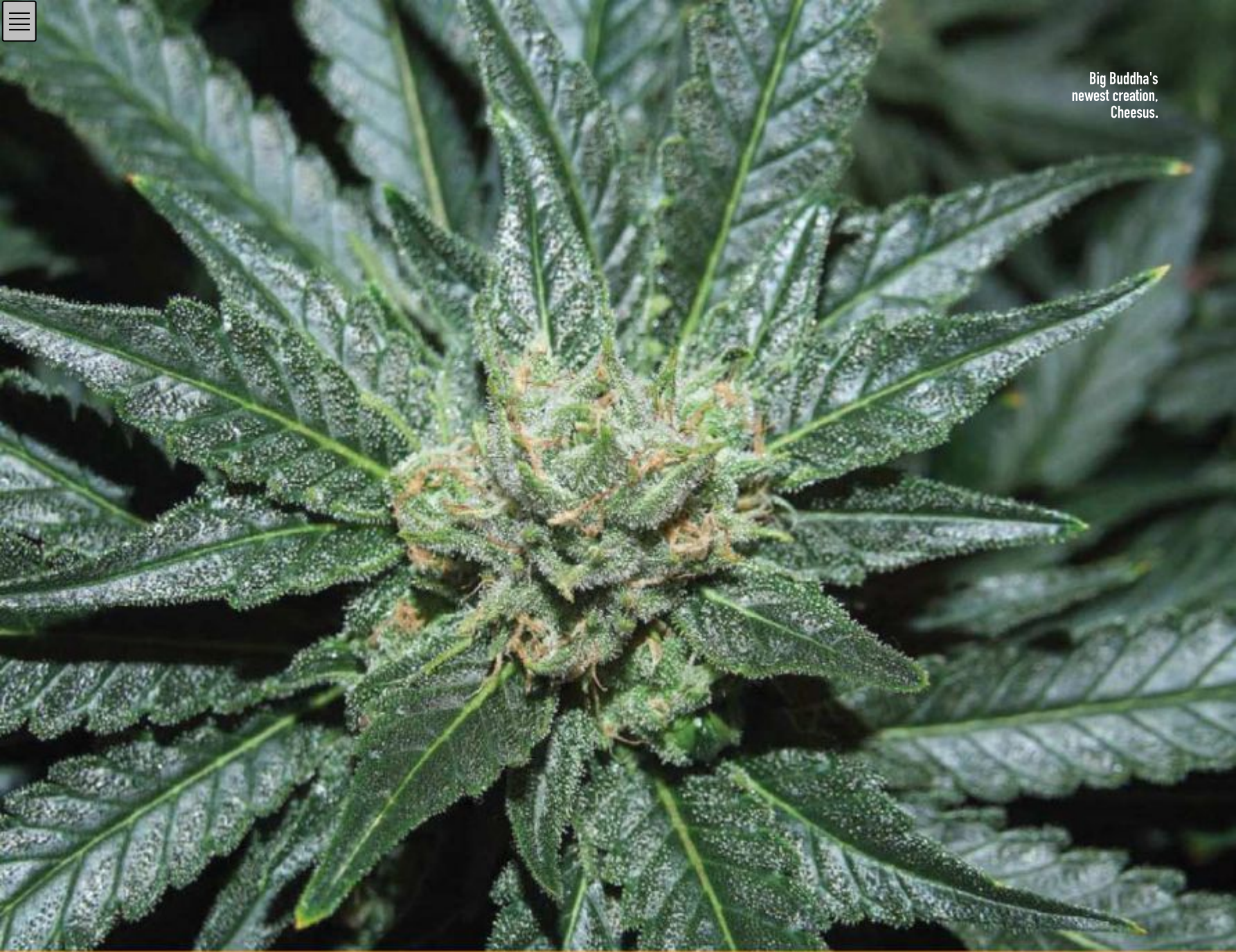
### BC Bud Depot

The BC Bud Depot was formed in the late 1990s by a hardy band of breeders, cultivators and connoisseurs creating premium cannabis in their coastal British Columbia. Their unsurpassed skills and love for the plant quickly set them apart from the rest, and they garnered high acclaim for providing compassion clubs and medical-marijuana users with access to their buds and genetics. Trying to keep it low-key, but already icons in their homeland, it wasn't until 2004 that the BC Bud Depot finally triumphed on the world stage, winning first place for Best *Indica* at the Cannabis Cup with their God Bud. This award was followed by several others in recent years, including a third-place finish for Best *Sativa* at the 2007 Cannabis Cup with the Purps. Despite some growing pains that resulted in a number of disgruntled customers, the boys remain committed to rewriting the history books and developing high-quality marijuana strains for the cannabis community, both in Canada and abroad. Plus, Matt insists that all customer-service issues have been dealt with.

"The BC Bud Depot is very proud to have been inducted into the Seed Bank Hall of Fame. We'd like to thank all our friends and customers who, for so many years, have been enjoying the fruits of our labor. Our mission is to create the very best and most flavorful marijuana genetics for the good of the marijuana gene pool and mankind. From this higher calling, we will never waver." —Matt and the BCBD Team  
Contact: [bcbudonline.com](http://bcbudonline.com)

COURTESY OF BIG BUD DEPOT (2)





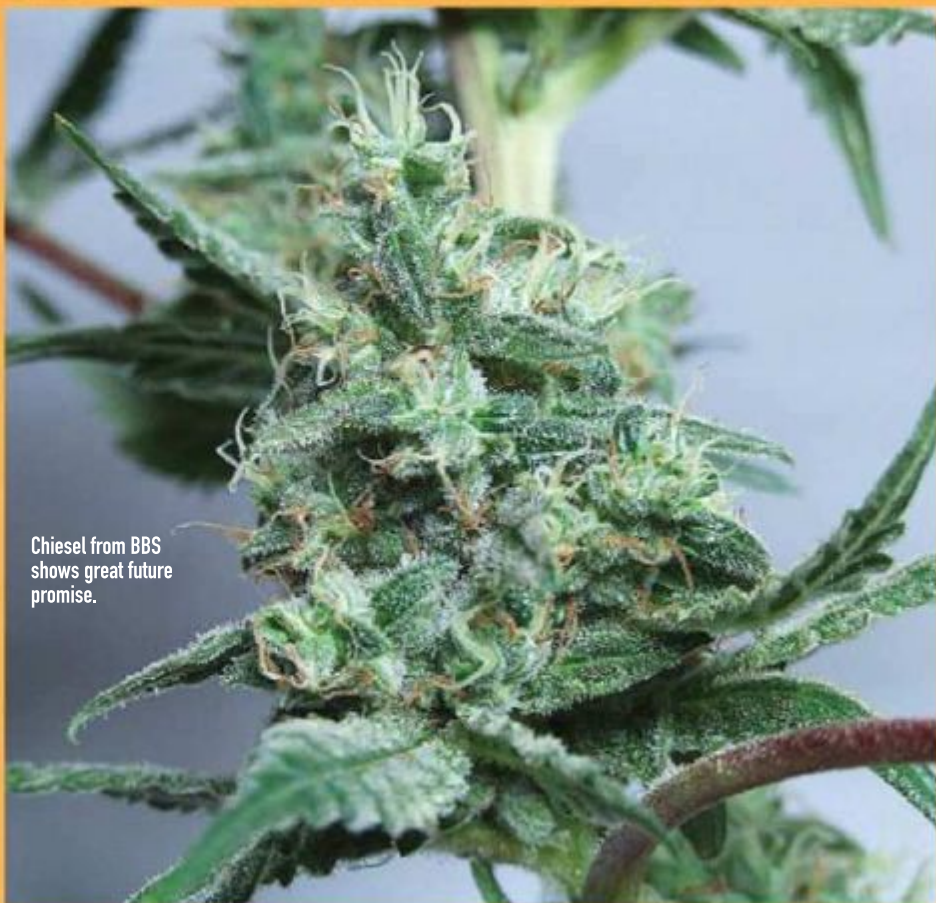
Big Buddha's  
newest creation,  
Cheesus.

### Big Buddha Seeds

Founded in 2004 in Birmingham, England (the birthplace of Ozzy Osbourne), Big Buddha Seeds have quickly become one of the biggest winners on the cultivation landscape. Breeder Milo burst onto the sensi scene by making available the legendary UK clone-only strain Cheese, whose obvious Afghan heritage and uniquely pungent aroma won it first prize for Best *Indica* at the 2006 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup. Since then, BBS have specialized in potent, flavorful *indicas* available in feminized seeds, establishing them as an integral part of the new wave of modern breeders. Their latest creations, Cheesus (Cheese x BC God Bud), Bubble Cheese and the Woody (named in honor of buddy Woody Harrelson), ensure the continued success of this formidable seed-breeding outfit.

"Big Buddha Seeds humbly accepts its induction into this prestigious Hall of Fame. We would like to thank all of our supporters and friends who have made Big Buddha Seeds what it is today. We always say, 'You're only as good as the people you work with'—lucky for us, they're brilliant! A big thank you to Martin at Avalon, Justin at Basil Bush, San at Tangy Gifts, Susana & Thomas at Planta Sur (Spain), Matt & Danny at HIGH TIMES, Phil at *Weed World Magazine* (UK), and all of the retailers around the world who have pushed the message of Big Buddha Seeds. We wish we could ship to the USA!"—Milo and Andrew

Contact: [bigbuddhaseeds.com](http://bigbuddhaseeds.com)



Chiesel from BBS shows great future promise.



### Hall of Fame Esteemed Seed Bank Pioneers

(inducted in HIGH TIMES issue #381, Oct. '07)

Sacred Seeds/Cultivator's Choice  
The Seed Bank  
Super Sativa Seed Club (SSSC)  
Lowlands Weed/Seed Company  
Positronics

### Original 10 Members of the Seed Bank Hall of Fame

(inducted in HIGH TIMES issue #381, Oct. '07)

Sensi Seeds/Sensi Seed Club, sensiseeds.com  
Paradise Seeds, paradise-seeds.com  
Flying Dutchmen, flyingdutchmen.com  
Reeferman Seeds, thcfarmer.com  
Serious Seeds, seriousseeds.com  
Soma Seeds, somaseeds.nl  
Green House Seeds, greenhouse-seeds.nl  
Sagarmatha Seeds, highestseeds.com  
TH Seeds/CIA/KGB, thseeds.com  
Legends/DJ Short, legendsseeds.com

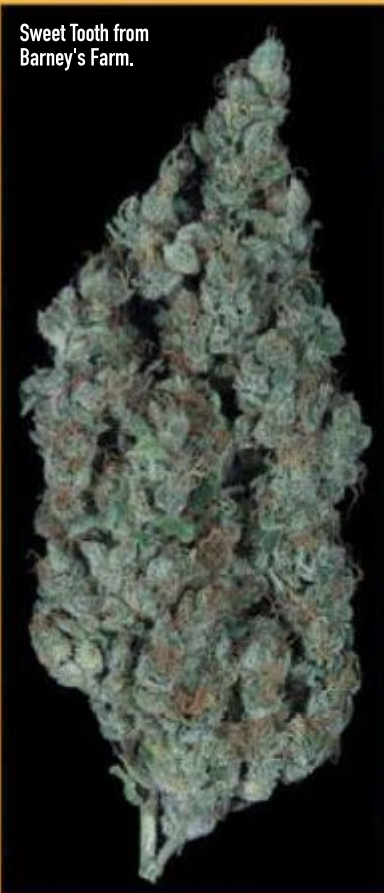


These Stargazer buds from Delta 9 Labs are dense and fruity.

Crimea Blue in action.



Sweet Tooth from Barney's Farm.



### Barney's Farm

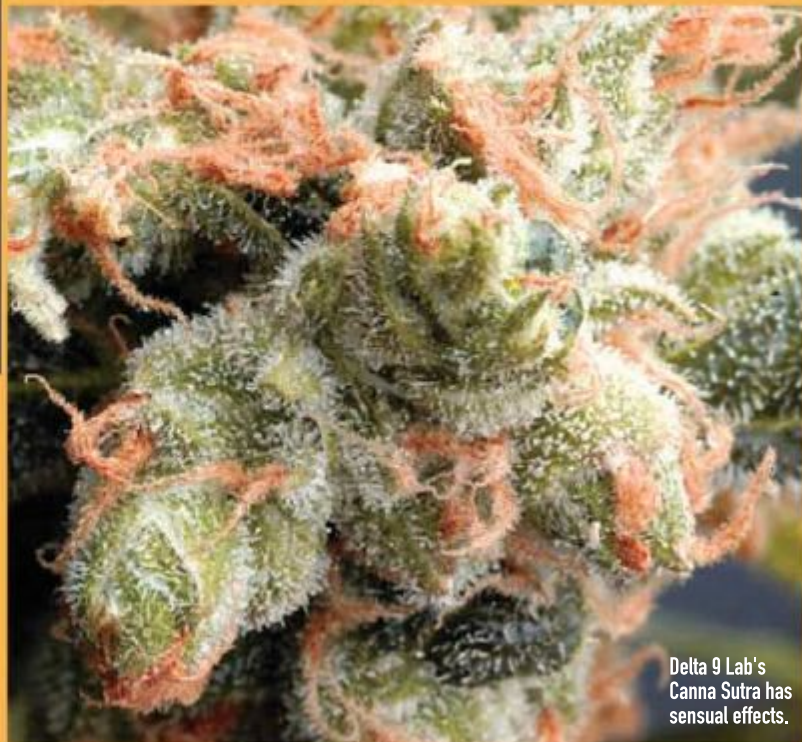
Barney's Breakfast Bar, known for many years as one of the best places for food, weed and hash in Amsterdam, has inspired a seed company called Barney's Farm. Owner Derry has scoured the planet for high-quality seed stock, and many of their strains have already become legends. Now he's leading a team of experienced breeders to develop such strains as their G-13 Haze, Laughing Buddha and Top Dawg. Barney's focus is on flavor, potency, germination rates and stability of genetic traits. Their new Amnesia Collection highlights female breeders and their unique energy and pot perspective. Cheers to Derry, Sissi and all the Barney's family for providing top-quality pot without compromises.

Contact: [barneys.biz](http://barneys.biz)

### Delta 9 Labs

Another of the influential seed companies founded in the early 2000s, Delta 9 Labs seeks to make truly medicinal marijuana available to the general public. Harry and Ed have traveled the world looking for the best breeding stock, with a special emphasis on soaring *sativas* like their Brainstorm Haze, one of our Top 10 Strains of 2008 (HT, Dec. '08). Delta 9 Labs produce all of their seeds organically, and they're one of the few companies to use "born-on" dating to ensure proper germination rates and healthy seedlings and mothers. Their Canna Sutra, Mekong Haze and Super Star are available to try at the Rokerij Cof-feeshops in Amsterdam, and they stand behind all of their strains 100%.

Contact: [delta9labs.com](http://delta9labs.com)



Delta 9 Lab's Canna Sutra has sensual effects.



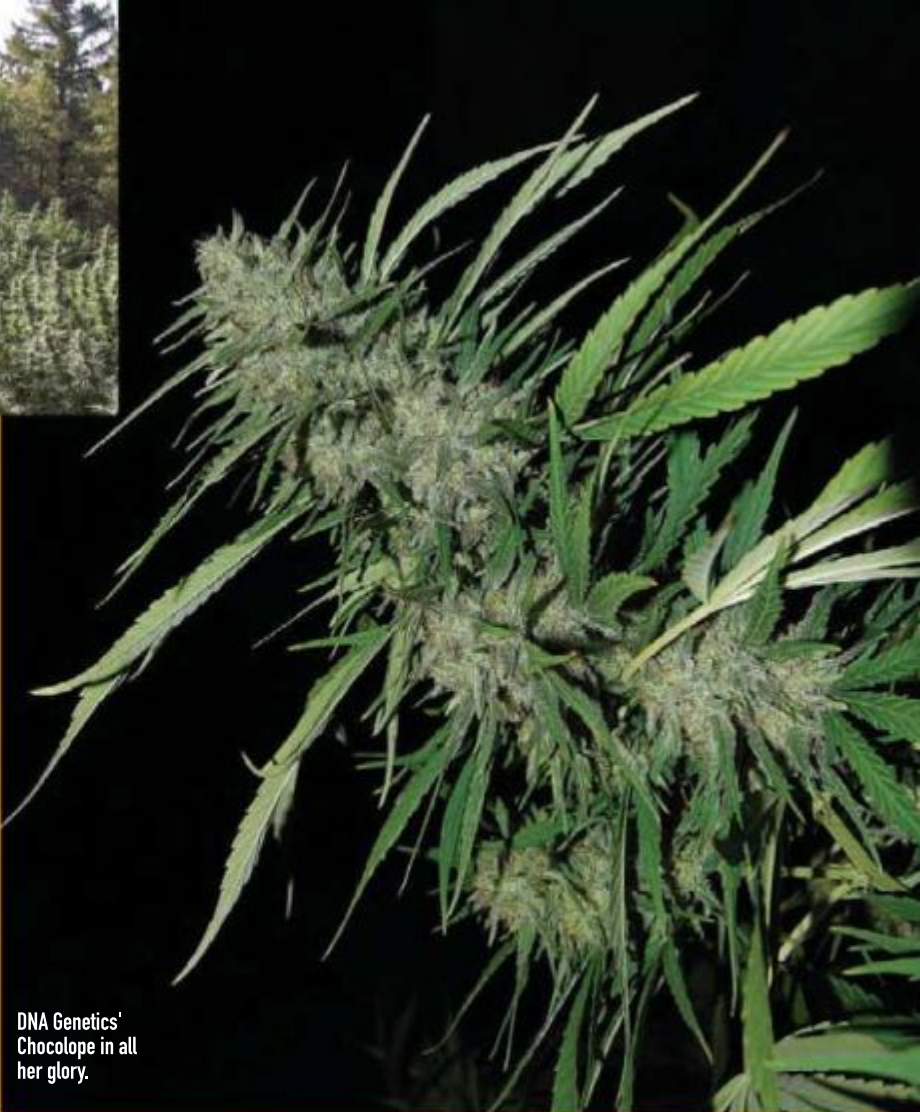


Fields of Choclope as far as the eye can see.

### DNA Genetics

Since being founded in 2003 by breeders Don and Aaron, DNA Genetics have won or placed in every cannabis competition that they've entered. The two had been growing since the late '80s in their hometown of "Hollyweed," CA, so it's no surprise that strains like LA Confidential, Choclope, Martian Mean Green and Cannalope Haze have firmly established DNA Genetics as a force to be reckoned with. Despite their laid-back demeanor, these boys mean business, constantly putting their reputation on the line and challenging all the other companies to step up their game. They've even started a boutique offshoot called Reserva Privada to showcase some of their favorite genetics from the Southern California area, where they first put down roots. Based out of Amsterdam these days, DNA Genetics have altered the industry and lit a fire under other breeding outfits.

"We pride ourselves on quality and uniqueness. DNA would like to thank all the growers around the world who have done what it takes and grown our strains worldwide! Being chosen for the HT Hall of Fame is an honor and a pleasure. Thank you, HT, for your continued support, and also for producing a counterculture magazine for more than 35 years! Growers around the world agree: DNA is connoisseur-grade genetics!"—D. 'n' A.  
Contact: [dnagenetics.com](http://dnagenetics.com)



DNA Genetics' Choclope in all her glory.

### Vancouver Island Seed Company

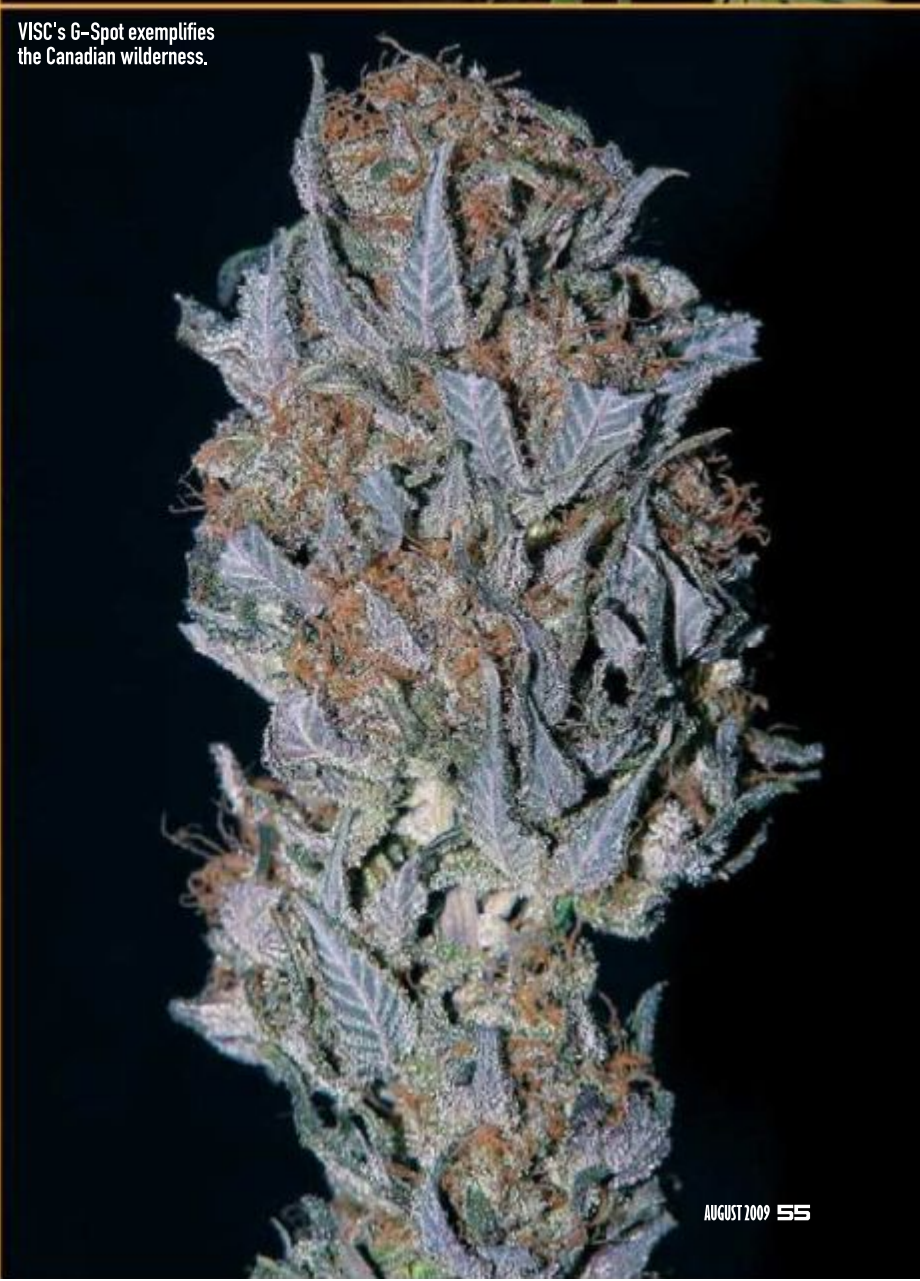
A grower named G has been collecting seeds since 1975, breeding hundreds of different varieties while keeping notes and gathering knowledge and experience. By 1991, he was producing seeds for numerous growers both indoors and out; placing an emphasis on flavor and potency as well as yields, he'd earned a reputation as a reliable supplier of gourmet cannabis with the motto "Breeding Fine Cognacs for the Mind."

By 1998, G had a partner, Kat, and an official seed-company name, as well as ads in *Cannabis Culture*. VISC went on to win a number of BC competitions, and their aptly named Fucking Incredible became one of our Top 10 Strains of 2008.



Kat from VISC grows thick and potent.

VISC's G-Spot exemplifies the Canadian wilderness.



"It's a great honor and a longtime dream for VISC to have been nominated to enter the HIGH TIMES Seed Bank Hall of Fame. Since the early '70s, HIGH TIMES has offered knowledge, encouragement and inspiration to marijuana growers, both novice and expert alike. Literally, for as long as I have grown, HT has grown alongside us, often providing the only benchmark by which a grower could measure the success of their endeavors. This recognition of VISC's years of work and dedication in producing 'Fine Cognacs for the Mind' is something that, as a young man, I could only dream of. In the near future, I believe that together we shall achieve the goal of cannabis legalization—something else that, when I was young, we could only dream of. Grow and you help the world grow, too. Thank you!"—G, Kat and the VISC crew  
Contact: [vancouverseed.com](http://vancouverseed.com)

COURTESY OF DELTA 9 LABS (2); HT ARCHIVE (2); COURTESY OF KAT (2)





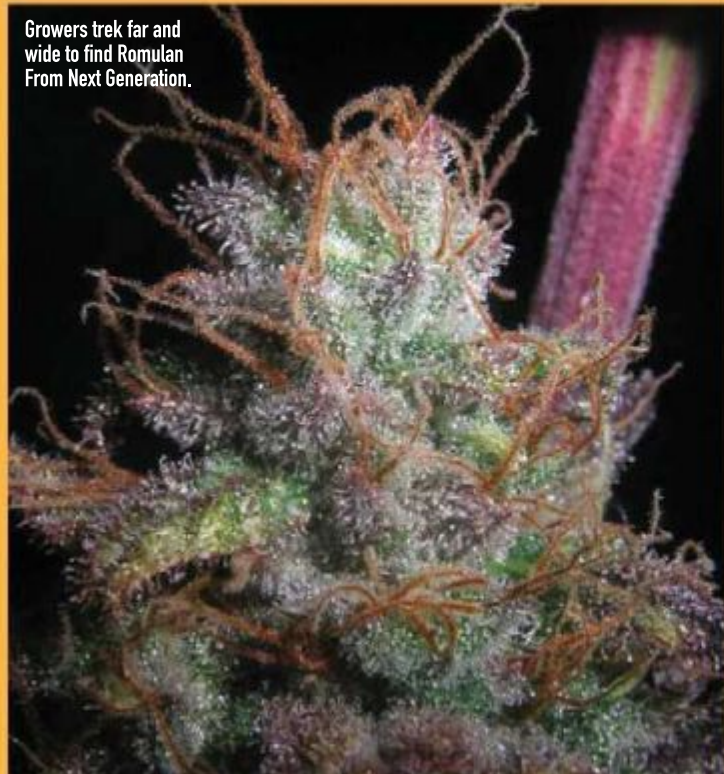
Island Sweet Skunk from Next Generation Seed Company produces tasty strong colas.

### Next Generation Seed Company

This company from the Great White North was founded in 1997 to provide hardy plants that would thrive under tough growing conditions. Jay, the main breeder at Next Gen, has been growing and crossing strains for years, and his patience and excellent eye for quality genetics have created some real standouts on the BC scene. Now the secret is out, and growers all over the world are turning to strains like Romulan, Bonkers, Timewarp and Island Sweet Skunk whenever they need a strong, mold-resistant plant that has been bred to survive harsh climates like the one on Vancouver Island. But these Next Gen varieties truly shine when grown in milder conditions, as many a Spanish grower has been finding out recently. Plus, their Dynamite is one of the strongest *indicas* I've smoked out of the Pacific Northwest—and that's saying something.

Contact: [greenlifeseeds.com](http://greenlifeseeds.com)

Growers trek far and wide to find Romulan From Next Generation.



Jorge's Diamonds #1, named in honor of our "grow guru", shines brightly for Dutch Passion.

### Dutch Passion

A longtime stalwart of the Amsterdam scene, Dutch Passion—established way back in 1987—has celebrated over 20 years in business as a pioneering pot company committed to potency, flavor, quality and exceptional germination rates. In 1999, Dutch Passion was the first to develop feminized seeds, and they continue to redefine the industry with such legendary strains as the original Skunk #1, Ortega *Indica*, Super Haze, Holland's Hope and Durban Poison.

A new auto-flowering strain called Taiga, as well as one dubbed Jorge's Diamonds #1—their seed-y tribute to HIGH TIMES cultivation expert Jorge Cervantes—all but guarantee that Dutch Passion will remain a landmark on that scene for a long time to come.

Contact: [dutch-passion.nl](http://dutch-passion.nl)



Dutch Passion's Euphoria makes us happy.

COURTESY OF NEXT GENERATION SEEDS (2), HT ARCHIVE





Introducing  
A New Bloom Booster

# Finally a Strain-Specific Bloom Booster That Makes Your Kush Plants Yield Larger, More Potent Buds

In California's medical marijuana community, Kush is Cannabis King. And now the most successful Kush growers are using a Kush-specific bloom booster to satisfy patient demand for premium-grown Kush medicine.

"I get incredible prices for my Kush," explains David R., a grandmaster Humboldt County medical marijuana cultivator who only grows Kush. "I am getting more from my grow room using this Kush booster that makes more harvest weight and medicinal potency."

To understand how this Kush-specific flower enhancer produces bigger buds, recall that major varieties of medical marijuana produce different medicinal effects by creating unique ratios and types of active compounds.

These valuable compounds include THC, cannabidiol, aromatics, terpenoids, essential oils and resins that individually and together have a wide range of therapeutic effects.

So how does the Kush bloom booster work? By feeding the specific Kush metabolic pathways and processes that produce larger, more potent Kush buds.

## What Makes Your Kush Tick & How Can You Give Your Harvest Value a Kick?

Hydroponics experts at Advanced Nutrients saw that Kush is a must-have for the medical community, so company co-founder Michael "Big Mike" Straumietis asked his team of plant scientists to immediately find what makes Kush tick and what fires up its flower-making machinery.

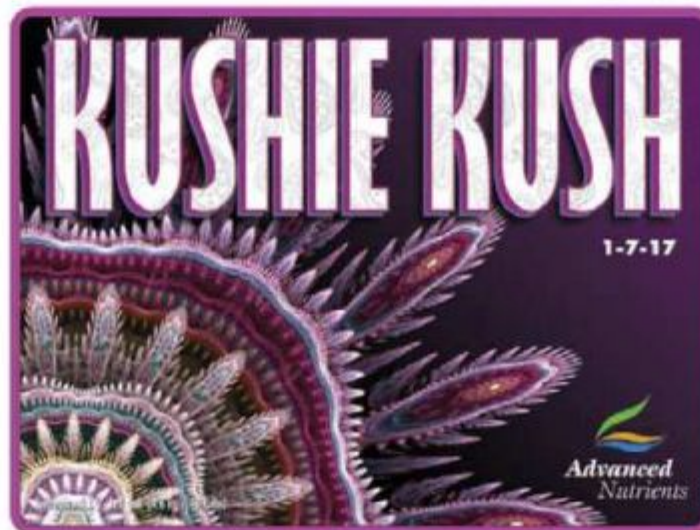
First the scientists gathered a vast array of seeds and clones of the most popular Kush sub-varieties and grew them in test labs.

Every day they took plant tissue samples to discover

how nutrient inputs and other supplementation affects Kush yield, potency, taste and aroma.

The good news is that Advanced scientists learned the precise combinations of phosphorus, potassium, amino acids, co-factors, metabolic triggers and other substances that feed Kush exactly what it needs so it far exceeds its genetic potential.

Using Kushie Kush, you get gooey, glistening, resin-dripping, weighty, tight, dense, sticky Kush buds.



*Scientists grew dozens of Kush plants to discover the precise bloom booster ingredients that make larger, more valuable Kush flowers.*

## Get the Advantages of Kush-Specific Ingredients

One thing to notice is that while Kush growers have spent many years and dollars using other bloom products, never before has anyone given Kush cultivators a bloom booster that specifically pumps more value, yield and potency into their beloved Kush buds.

And you bet you'll feel your medical problems very quickly recede when you've inhaled your tasty bowl of custom-fed Kush medicine.

Please take a moment right enjoy the fact that feeding Kushie Kush to your crops heralds an unprecedented new era in crop supplements with you wielding grandmaster control over the most intimate, flower-stoking mechanisms your Kush plants have deep inside them.

Better yet, you're guaranteed at least 17.73% increase in bud weight, you'll be glad you use Kushie Kush to unleash your kush plants full genetic potential.

*Please note that Kushie Kush is a medical cannabis specific formula only available to medical marijuana dispensaries. If your dispensary doesn't carry it, please ask them to contact Advanced Nutrients and get some for you right away.*



Auto-Flowering Lowrider Diesel  
from High Bred Seeds.



### High Bred Seeds

The Joint Doctor, the innovator behind High Bred Seeds, became an instant legend in 2003 when he released the original Lowrider, a *ruderalis*-inflected strain that flowers automatically in any amount of light. This quick trigger enables growers in northern climates to harvest within their window before frosts and molds attack, while keeping the plants easy to conceal. The next generation of auto-flowering plants is quite possibly one of the biggest innovations in ganja genetics in many years. Europeans are delighted with the results of these seeds, which can go from planting to harvest in 90 days or less while staying short and stout. Despite some initial skepticism, the compact nuggets are getting stronger and stronger in potency and taste as new genetics are crossed into these strains. The latest High Bred catalog includes several new auto-flowering strains, including feminized versions of Lowryder #1 and Lowryder #2.

**"I'm honored by your selection of High Bred Seeds for the HIGH TIMES Hall of Fame. We at High Bred are proud to be associated with you longstanding innovators of the magazine biz, as innovation has also been the foundation of our success." —JD**

Contact: [lowryder.co.uk](http://lowryder.co.uk)

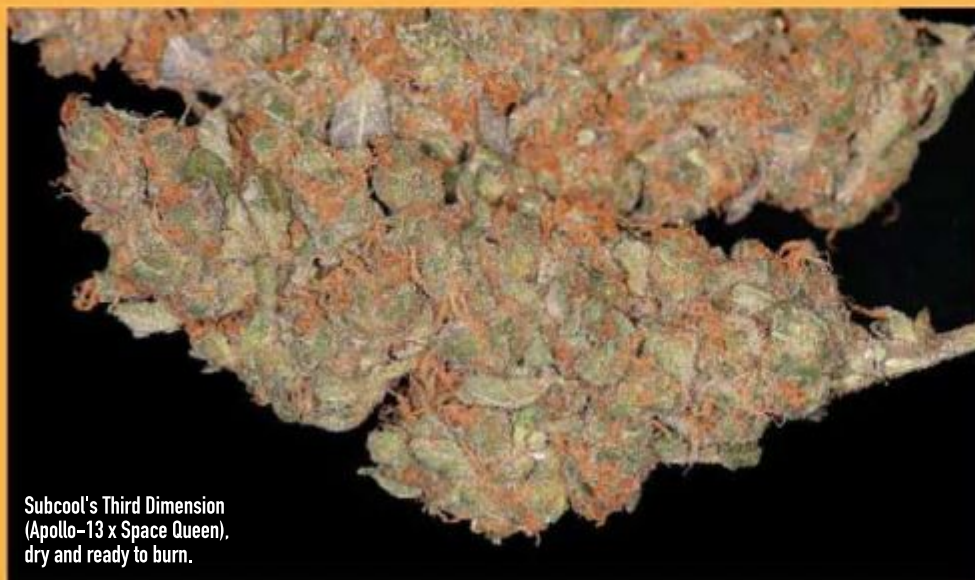
### Subcool Seeds/TGA/The Green Avengers

Early in 2004, Subcool relocated out west, where he met the lovely MzJill; after the two started breeding hybrids, TGA was officially formed. TGA now has several proven hybrid strains, and they've developed quite a reputation for customer support. Their main goal when creating a new strain is combining the necessary characteristics to replicate as closely as possible a clone-only phenotype that's already in demand by the growing public. The results range from old favorites like Jack the Ripper, Space Queen and Purple Urkel down to their newest release, Querkel. They make it a regular practice to donate free seeds to the medical community, and high-quality photos, descriptions and grow tips can be found on their daily forum.

**"It's quite an honor to be nominated. We get much satisfaction from the feedback we receive from medical growers, but to be included with such established breeders as Serious, SSSC and Sensi Seeds in this Hall of Fame is more than we ever expected. I'd like to thank Danny Danko for being such a good friend and confidant over the years. Of course, I would also like to thank the thousands of Green Avengers that have taken on my idea to make high-quality cannabis available to anyone in need. In these distressing times, the need for fine genetics worldwide is greater than ever. Join us as we spread the seeds that will heal the nations." —Sub and Jill**  
Contact: [cannaseur.com](http://cannaseur.com), [breedbay.co.uk](http://breedbay.co.uk), [hempdepot.ca](http://hempdepot.ca)

*TGA genetics can also be found in seed and clone form in many California dispensaries like the Blue Sky Café.*

*Always purchase cannabis seeds in their original packaging from a trusted supplier or directly from the breeding company.*



Subcool's Third Dimension  
(Apollo-13 x Space Queen),  
dry and ready to burn.





**ORANGE VELVET**







# diablo

HIGH TIMES











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Pre-historic stoner art? Are the floral designs in this magnificent Scythian chest piece based on cannabis?

# THE BIG BANG

## How Cannabis Shaped the World's Great Religions.

**For centuries, the complex role that cannabis played in the early days of Hinduism, Taoism, Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam was shrouded in mystery. But thanks to Chris Bennett's relentless research, it now appears that the plant had a powerful impact on them all. By Steven Hager**

This story starts on the banks of the Dnieper River, near the world's shallowest sea, the Sea of Azov in Ukraine, around 4000 BCE. Recent evidence suggests that it was here that horses were first domesticated—and it is here that cannabis spirituality emerges from prehistory, since there's a possible connection between the first horse riders and the early use of hemp as rope. Today, this culture is known as Sredny Stog, after the Ukrainian village close to the spot where some of the best artifacts have been found.

In fact, the early use of horses may be the primary reason why cannabis spread from Russia throughout Europe, the Middle East, China and India, argues Bennett in his forthcoming book, *Cannabis and the Soma Solution*:

"With the spread of cannabis came a religious cosmology often based around the plant itself. The late archaeologist Andrew Sherratt referred to the discovery of a 5,500-year-old smoking cup, which may be the oldest existing evidence of the use of cannabis for its psychoactive properties."

Over the course of a few thousand years, the Sredny Stog culture evolved into a people known as the Sakas or Scythians, named after an agricultural tool likely invented for harvesting hemp. Thanks to the famous Greek historian Herodotus, writing in 430 BCE, the Sakas have gone down in history as the world's first documented stoners.

"Hemp grows in Scythia," Herodotus wrote.





**Although cannabis intoxication may have started with flowering tops being thrown on open fires (and later burned indoors in pottery braziers and metal censers), at some point a cannabis-infused beverage became preferred.**

Above: Frieze Carpet depicting a horseman approaching the great Goddess who holds the Tree of Life, 400 BC.

Below: Tent frame and bronze vessels for cannabis burning that were discovered with the Frieze Carpet in a burial mound in Siberia.



"It is very like flax; only that it is a much coarser and taller plant .... The Scythians, as I said, take some of this hemp-seed, and, creeping under the felt coverings, throw it upon the red-hot stones; immediately it smokes, and gives out such a vapour as no Grecian vapour-bath can exceed; the Scyths, delighted, shout for joy ...."

Although cannabis intoxication may have started with flowering tops being thrown on open fires (and later burned indoors in pottery braziers and metal censers), at some point a cannabis-infused beverage became preferred. "Sherratt was the first to suggest that the cannabis-burning braziers eventually went to the wayside, replaced by a beverage," says Bennett. "The disappearance of ceramic bra-

ziers was followed by the appearance of pottery drinking vessels ornamented with impressions of twisted cord." Some researchers believe the hemp-like decoration suggests that these vessels were used to consume a cannabis-infused drink.

It now appears likely that a cannabis-and-milk beverage was first used in Russia and then other parts of Europe, eventually spreading all the way to China before returning via India and Afghanistan as a worshipped deity. This beverage, variously known as *soma*, *huma* and *hoama*, set off waves of religious fervor in China, India and the Middle East before being prohibited by Catholics and Buddhists alike. As it happened, the identity of this original

sacrament of some of the world's major religions became so muddled that, until recently, its very identity remained in doubt.

According to ethnobotanist Christian Ratsch, the ancient pagan culture of Germany honored the goddess Freya through cannabis: "It was believed that Freya lived as a fertile force in the plant's feminine flowers and, by ingesting them, one became influenced by this divine force." These traditions would have been handed down directly from the Sakas, whose extensive trade routes once stretched from Germany in the west, to China in the east, to Egypt in the south. Had the Sakas ever become politically unified, they would have been a dominating empire; instead, they remained clustered in nomadic tribes. And little is known for sure about them, because the Sakas never developed a written language.

Since it is now indisputable that some of our most respected spiritual traditions once held cannabis as a central part of their culture, continued research is necessary to understand how and why all knowledge of the plant's contributions to the evolution of religion seem to have been systematically effaced or ignored throughout subsequent history.

### THE HORSE PEOPLE

Considering that they laid down a cultural foundation still evident in myths and rituals today, it's amazing how obscure the Sakas are to most of their descendants on the planet. In their day, the Sakas were immediately recognizable by their distinctive pointed caps, the sort of gear later associated with witches. In Europe, their immediate descendants became known as the Goths, Saxons and Jutes. The Sakas wore a lot of gold, most of it fashioned into ornate jewelry and armor embellished with fantastic animal motifs, including griffins and other mythical creatures. These images were also tattooed on their arms and shoulders, and some of them bear an eerie resemblance to the psychedelic imagery of the '60s counterculture.

The Sakas were formidable warriors, as well as one of the few cultures that allowed women to fight alongside men. But when they were not at war, they were famous for being law-abiding and civil. The Sakas wore trousers and drank an early version of bhang in ceremonial cups (including some fashioned from the skulls of their enemies). Their highly regarded shamans were known as *enarees*, which translates as "men-women" or "half-men." The *enarees* spoke in high-pitched voices, wore women's clothes and employed cannabis as part of their magical rituals.

The first recorded encounter with the Sakas occurred when the Persian King Darius invaded their lands in 514 BCE. Since they built no cities or temples and lived in covered wagons pulled by oxen, the Sakas simply withdrew to safer ground as a Persian army of 700,000 advanced into their territory. Darius repeatedly tried to force a battle, but the Sakas just kept retreating. Finally, Darius sent an envoy



to the Saka chief and received the following message: "There is nothing new or strange in what we do. We follow our mode of life in peaceful times. We have neither towns nor cultivated lands in these parts which might induce us, through fear of their being ravaged, to be in any hurry to fight you. But if you must needs come to blows with us speedily, look about you, and behold our fathers' tombs. Attempt to meddle with them and you shall see whether or not we will fight with you." Eventually, Darius's army was forced to retreat to Persia, at which point the Sakas turned around and dogged its every step back home. Darius would never dare invade the Russian steppes again.

There are amazing parallels between the Sakas and the Indians of the American West. The Sakas took scalps in battle and hung these grisly souvenirs from their bridles to display their prowess. They had no stirrups but were famous for being able to shoot arrows in rapid fire while riding on horseback. They built teepees, using them primarily as cannabis-inhalation tents. Unlike the Greeks and Romans, who established a vast pantheon of gods and goddesses, the Sakas recognized only the sacred energies of earth, sky, sun, moon, fire, water and war. Ironically, the Sakas also had some resemblances to the European pioneers of the American West: When threatened, they would arrange their four- and six-wheeled mobile homes into large circles. One can only imagine the impact one of their wagon trains might have had upon arriving in a community unfamiliar with horses, wagons and psychedelic tattoos.

## CELTS IN CHINA

Cannabis also had a major impact on the development of religion and medicine in China. The ancient Chinese word for cannabis is the primordial *má*, symbolized in writing by a pictogram that resembles two plants hanging upside-down, as if being dried for intoxicating purposes.

Shen Nong Shi—these days generally known as Shennong—was the emperor of China nearly 5,000 years ago. Today, he is a quasi-legendary being who is venerated as the founder of Chinese agriculture and traditional Chinese medicine. His name translates as the "Emperor of the Five Grains." He is believed to have introduced the technique of acupuncture, and was the first person in recorded history to scientifically study herbs for their medicinal qualities. He was also reportedly the first person to brew tea.

Shennong classified cannabis as one of the "Superior Elixirs of Immortality" and recommended *chu-ma* (female cannabis) for absent-mindedness, constipation, malaria, beri-beri, rheumatism and menstrual cramps. Two thousand years after his reign, Chinese Taoists created the first modern pharmacopoeia. Tao Hongjing produced the famous *Shennong Bencao Jing*, the classic work of Chinese herbal

medicine named in honor of Shennong, adding 365 herbs and bringing the total number of known medicines to 730.

Interest in medicine was closely guarded by the Taoists, who were associated at the time with the highest levels of Chinese royalty and government. According to historian Joseph Needham, the famous master Yang Hsi (these days spelled Zhuangzi) attributed the founding of the first major Taoist center to a cannabis-based vision. And in the sixth century, the Taoist encyclopedia *Wu-shang Pi Yao* recommended that two types of cannabis be burned in the ceremonial incense braziers called *boshanlu*. One branch of Taoism, the Mao Shan or "Supreme Clarity," even elevated cannabis into a goddess known as Ma-Ku or the "Hemp Damsel." Ma-Ku was depicted as a beautiful



**These discoveries continue to support the hypothesis that a cannabis cult exploded out of the Hindu Kush and spread east to India and west to Iran.**

young woman with bird claws instead of feet.

However, theories about the origins of hemp intoxication in China are currently being revised due to the discovery of hundreds of Caucasian mummies from the Bronze Age along the ancient Silk Road in the Taklamakan Desert in Western China. Some of the mummies were dressed in Celtic-style Tartan cloth nearly identical to the clothing used in the region of Europe now occupied by Austria over 3,000 years ago. One of the women was wearing a conical hat—the distinctive emblem of the Sakas. "Archaeologists found a sack of marijuana leaves buried alongside one mummy," writes Bennett, referring to a two-pound stash of female cannabis flowers that were some 2,700 years old, "as well as a mortar and pestle that was used for grinding the plant matter." The mortar and pestle would indicate that a soma-like beverage may have been consumed by the Sakas in Western China, where they are believed to have lived since 1800 BCE.

## THE RIG VEDA

The *Rig Veda* is one of the oldest religious documents in the world, the Old Testament of both Hinduism and Buddhism. And the central sacrament in the *Rig Veda* is soma, which is referred to as "the king of the healing plants." Many researchers throughout history have suggested the obvious: Soma is cannabis, which was used in the preparation of bhang, an intoxicating beverage still widely consumed in India today, especially at ceremonies honoring Shiva. However, in the 1960s, an amateur historian named R. Gordon Wasson became the first to theorize that soma was actually the *Amanita muscaria* mushroom. Before he retired in 1963, Wasson had been a vice president at J.P. Morgan, one of the world's most powerful international banks. His contacts in the publishing world were extensive, and despite having a poor understanding of Sanskrit, Wasson was able to convince many Western historians to accept his mushroom theory. However, Bennett shows without a doubt that Wasson's theory is seriously flawed. In fact, the *Rig Veda* clearly describes soma as a greenish-gold plant, not a mushroom. And today in India, one finds the Kumbh Mela, the world's largest spiritual event, which takes place every several years. Though smoking cannabis and drinking bhang are widespread in India to this day, particularly at the Kumbh Mela, mushroom use is rare. It is difficult to understand why Wasson and other Western researchers on Vedic culture seem to have had such an intense aversion to recognizing the central role of cannabis in the *Rig Veda*.



## THE BMAC TEMPLES

In the Kara Kum desert in Turkmenistan, near where cannabis is believed to have originated, lies the Bactria-Margiana Archaeological Complex, a recently discovered temple the size of a football field. Dated to 2000 BCE, it is the oldest and most elaborate temple devoted to the drinking of soma, the most influential pre-biblical sacrament in world history. After the remains of cannabis, ephedra and poppies were discovered on the temple grounds, in vessels used to prepare the ceremonial drink, Wasson's 40-year-old mushroom theory should have been forever laid to rest. Unfortunately, the ramifications of these recent findings at Kara Kum have not yet fully penetrated the academic mainstream—but these discoveries continue to support the hypothesis that a cannabis cult exploded out of the Hindu Kush and spread east to India and west to Iran, causing cannabis-based religious cultures to blossom in both areas.





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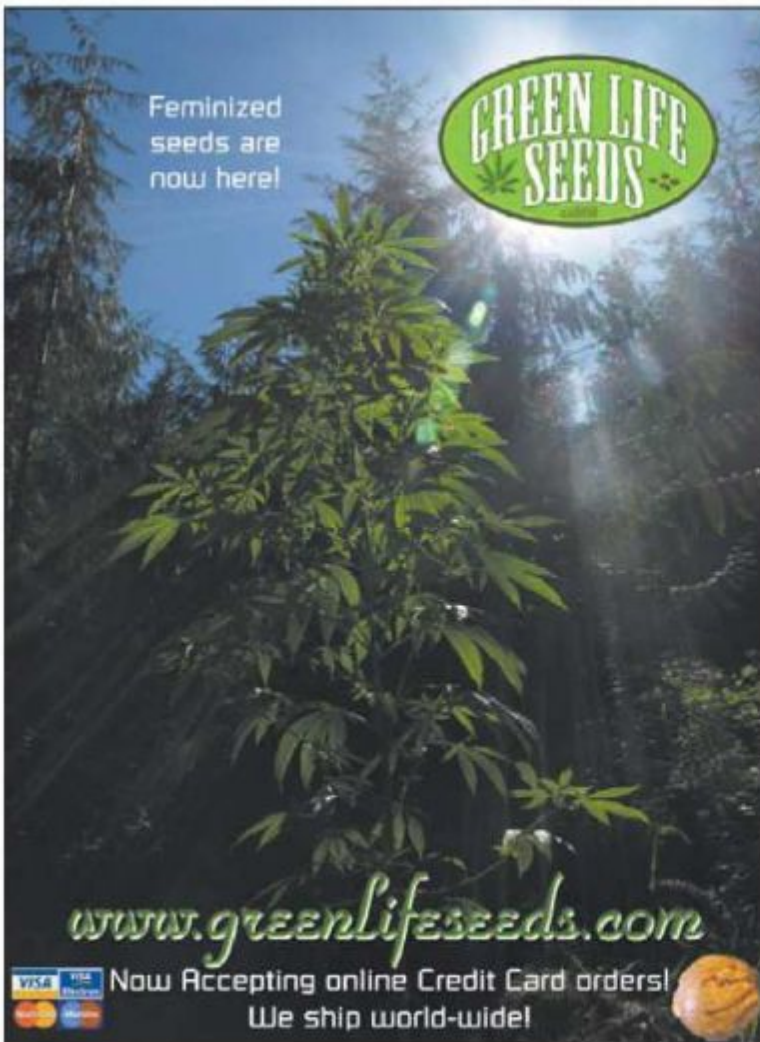


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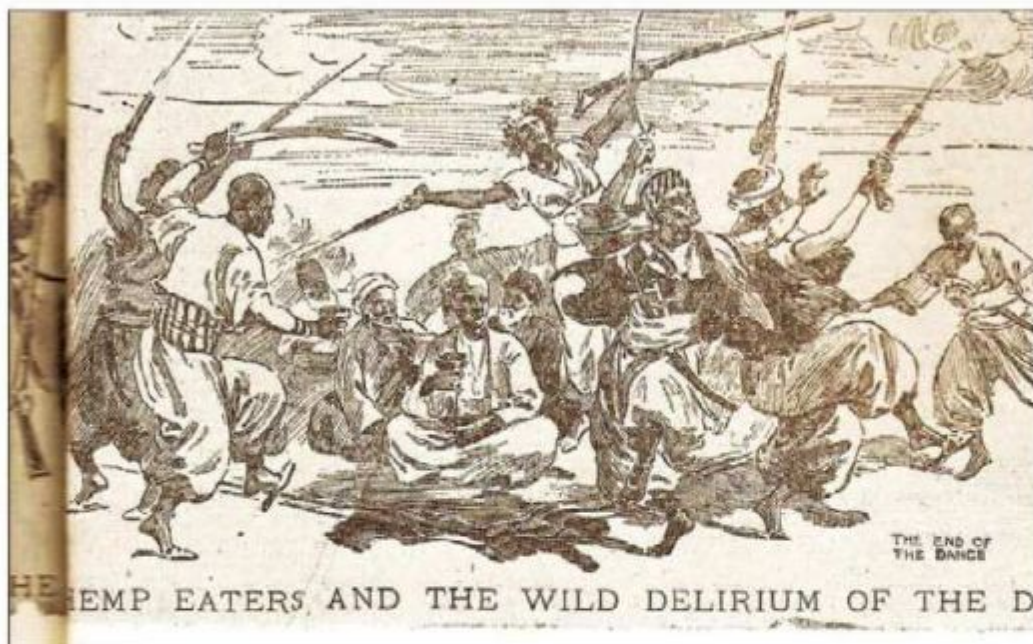
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Tribesmen engage in mock combat during a full moon ceremony in Syria. *New World Herald*, "Ogies of the Hemp Eaters," 1985.

## ZOROASTRIANISM

Zoroastrianism was the world's most powerful religion from 500 BCE to 650 CE. It had a major influence on the development of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and other religious faiths. According to historian Mary Boyce, "It has had more influence on mankind, directly and indirectly, than any other single faith."

Think of Zoroastrianism as the Old Testament's Old Testament. The Magi who attend the birth of Christ were Zoroastrian priests. And wouldn't you know it: There's a central sacrament in Zoroastrian culture, a milk-based intoxicant called *haoma*. According to the *Avesta*, the Zoroastrian Bible, *haoma* is a tall, fragrant, greenish-gold plant with leaves, stems and fiber—one that grows like a weed, possesses healing powers, and stimulates awareness and sensuality without negative side effects. Later Zoroastrian literature also makes mention of *mang*, an intoxicating drink long assumed to be the Iranian version of bhang. Bennett theorizes that the prophet Zarathustra made changes in the official *haoma* recipe after its use became too widespread. This theory is based on the fact that although *haoma* appears as a central part of the *Avesta*, it doesn't appear in later official texts. In fact, over the years, many attempts seem to have been made to muddy the waters as to *haoma*'s original composition, which was undoubtedly cannabis-based and related to the Indian soma.

Such a change in the *haoma* recipe is supported by the findings at Kara Kum, where cannabis seems to have been eventually replaced by ephedra (and, in some cases, possibly the addition of poppies). Today, most mainstream Zoroastrians recognize only ephedra as being part of the *haoma* ceremony, just as some renegade sects have always recognized only cannabis.

## CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

In the February 2003 issue of *HIGH TIMES*, Bennett published a groundbreaking article, "Was Jesus a Stoner?", in which he examined the evidence of cannabis use revealed in the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Jesus portrayed in these scrolls is a



In 1990, while working at a West Coast fishplant, Chris Bennett had a revelation that the Tree of Life mentioned in the Bible (Revelation 22:2) is cannabis.

much different figure from the one described in the standard Christian Bible. Bennett concluded that Jesus was anointed with a sacred oil by John the Baptist, and that the recipe for this oil could still be found in Exodus 30:23.

In Exodus, Moses is instructed by the voice of God, emanating from a burning bush, to mix myrrh, cinnamon and six pounds of cannabis ("250 shekels of keneh bosem") into about a gallon and a half of olive oil. "The Greek title 'Christ' is the translation of the Jewish term 'Messiah,'" says Bennett, "which in English becomes 'the anointed one' and makes specific reference to the cannabis-based oil described in Exodus. In fact, there is evidence that many of the so-called miracles performed by Jesus and his followers were accounts of actual medical applications of this topical oil."

According to Bennett, the sacred anointing oil had fallen into disrepute with the Jewish priesthood during the time of Jeremiah and wasn't revived until the emergence of John the Baptist. In the hundred years following Jesus' execution, dozens of Christian sects appeared, many of which were Gnostic (meaning that they placed an emphasis on knowledge rather than faith). Many Gnostics were also known for sacra-

mental drug use involving cannabis and mushrooms. This trend peaked with the rapid spread of Manichaeism, a synthesis of Zoroastrianism, Buddhism and Christianity that eventually was intensely persecuted by all three religions.

Bennett's theory on the use of cannabis in the Bible received a major boost when one of the foremost scholars in the field—Carl P. Ruck, a professor of classical mythology at Boston University—agreed with him in an interview with the London *Sunday Times*. Ruck is most famous for being part of the team that coined the word *entheogen*. "There can be little doubt about a role for cannabis in Judaic religion," said Ruck. "There is no way that so important a plant as a fiber source for textiles and nutritive oils and one so easy to grow would have gone unnoticed ... the mere harvesting of it would have induced an entheogenic reaction."

## ISLAM

Although the Koran expressly forbids the use of alcohol, it makes no mention of cannabis. This seems strange, for two reasons: First, Islam was constructed upon the foundations of Zoroastrianism, which, in its early days, used cannabis as its central sacrament; and second, cannabis has a long and well-documented history of use in the Arab world. However, it isn't until the Middle Ages that cannabis emerges in Arab literature.

"Mohammed's potential relationship with cannabis has been more fully explored recently in Yoel Natan's *Moon-o-Theism*," writes Bennett. "Natan is amongst those who have seen the origins of Islamic cannabis use with the Zoroastrian haoma tradition. He also believes that Koran references to Mohammed rubbing devotees may be evidence that the Prophet was using the cannabis-based ointments of the Hebrews and Christians, and moreover, that the Islamic sacred site of the Kaaba was nothing more than a medieval hashish den!"

## CONCLUSION

Many of the world's largest religions were initially shaped or even created by the sacramental use of cannabis. Yet in every case where cannabis and religion converged, those cultures that initially embraced cannabis intoxication seem to have eventually forbidden it. Whether this happened at the instigation of a corrupt priesthood trying to hide or monopolize access to enlightenment, or came about simply as a reaction against mass intoxication as a lifestyle, we may never know. Whatever the reason for rejecting these sacred intoxicants, the reality is that they offer a potential direct connection to the divine—and this is a door that most mainstream religions prefer not to open. "I believe the change happened as shamanism made the transition into organized religion," says Bennett. "Little room was left for the ecstatic visions of cannabis- and other entheogen-imbibing prophets and seers, and the focus turned to the construction of a monopolistic hierarchy, rules of conduct, and how much of one's wages were to go to the priesthood! Thus the living religion dies, and we are left with its petrified corpse in the form of unchanging, outdated religious doctrines." ✨



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# HAZY SHADE

Interview by  
**Bobby Black**

Photos by  
**David Ungar**

When I was just a wee little rocker of about 15, my dad took me to see my first live concert—Dr. John, Buddy Guy, Junior Wells and headliner Johnny Winter. I'd barely heard of the albino axeman before that night, but after hearing his Southern slide style and watching his lightning-fast fingers tickle out guitar solos that would leave Eddie Van Halen in the dust, I acquired a profound new appreciation for the blues—and for the long-haired, tattooed virtuoso who'd turned me on to it. So when Johnny's manager contacted me about an interview, I naturally jumped at the chance.

You can't help but look with awe upon this unlikely icon: a pale, frail Texan who'd struggled through alienation, addiction, injuries and illnesses to become one of the greatest guitarists of all time. From his humble debut playing with his brother Edgar in the early '50s, to his historic performance on the final night of Woodstock in '69 and beyond, Johnny Winter has entertained audiences for over half a century with an incredible legacy of soulful blues and rock music.

Sadly, like many other bluesmen before him, Johnny developed problems with heroin and alcohol. But eventually, after many years of addiction and depression, he finally kicked the junk in 1973, and celebrated by recording *Still Alive and Well* with his longtime friend and collaborator, Rick Derringer. He would again battle addiction in the early '90s (this time anti-depressants), as well as injuring his hip (which forces him to perform seated). But with the support of new manager and bandmate Paul Nelson, Johnny is now clean, relatively healthy and touring again.

Winter's long career has been filled with honors. In July 1980, his image graced the cover of the very first issue of *Guitar World* magazine; in 1988, he was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame; and in 2005, he became a part of the Southeast Texas Walk of Fame. He's also been nominated for numerous Grammy Awards over the years, winning three for the albums he produced with his longtime hero, Muddy Waters. Tonight, just a week after his 65th birthday, he'd be adding a new, smokeable trophy to that collection—the HIGH TIMES Doobie Award for Lifetime Achievement.

HT associate publisher Rick Cusick and I headed down to the Fillmore NY bristling with excitement—not only at the chance to see Johnny and Edgar perform, but also to meet and interview this most unique guitar-slinger. But despite being the politest of Southern gentlemen, Johnny turned out to be a man of few words—very, very few words. I was desperate for him to relate some revelation he'd had, or some wild time backstage, but no. I kept fishing, but he just wouldn't bite. He seemed either too humble or too shy to talk about himself, and I must confess to feeling a bit exasperated. That is, until he took the stage later that night. As I sat there next to my parents watching him perform (as I had 20 years earlier), I realized that there was no mere quote or anecdote he could have told me that could ever compete with that electric hum of a bottleneck scraping down the neck of his trademark '63 Gibson Firebird. Whatever Johnny needed to say, he said it with his music.

After their set, the band invited us onstage to present the Doobie Award to Johnny in front of the cheering capacity crowd. And though we were technically there to honor him, the honor was all ours.

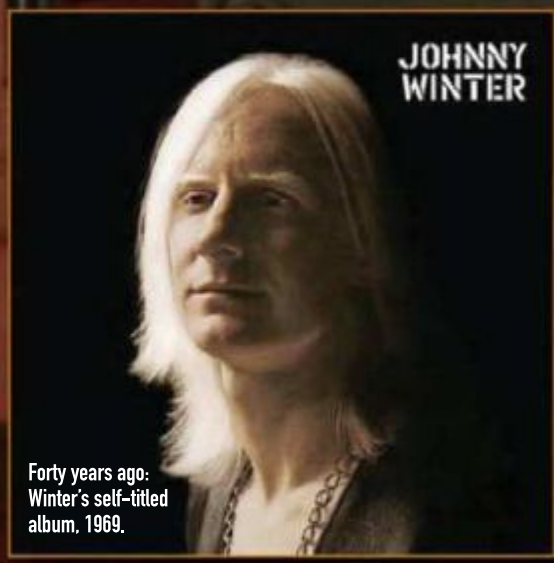
"When I get the blues, there are two things that are absolutely guaranteed to make me feel better," confessed Cusick. "One: really, really good marijuana. And two: every time, without a doubt—the music of Johnny Winter."



Blues legend Johnny Winter accepts his Doobie Award at the Fillmore NY.



# OF WINTER



Forty years ago:  
Winter's self-titled  
album, 1969.

**What was it like for you, growing up in Texas? Did being different make it hard for you as a kid? Oh yeah, it definitely did. But it was a pretty good place to grow up, though. There was a lot of good music around. People like the blues in Texas.**

**What was the first blues record you ever heard—do you remember? Umm ... yeah, it was "Somebody Walked In My House" by Howlin' Wolf.**

**How old were you when you started playing guitar? Twelve.**

**How much did you practice? About six or eight hours a day, at least. I practiced all the time.**

**Were you a natural, or did you have to work at it? I worked at it real hard, but I was pretty good by the time I was 15.**

**How old were you when you played your first gig? Fifteen. Well, I'd played little gigs before that, but that was when we started our first club gig—Johnny and the Jammers.**

**Did you and your brother start playing together right away in the beginning? Yeah, we played ukuleles and sang together when we were about eight or nine.**

**Your axe of choice was always the Gibson Firebird, and then later you kind of switched over to the Erlewine Lazer. Is there a technical advantage to having a guitar without a peghead? Nah ... it just sounds real nice. It's just a good-sounding guitar... easy to play.**



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## THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW



Johnny with his trademark 1962 Gibson Firebird, which he played at Woodstock.

## "I got so high that I couldn't even stand up."

How many guitars do you own?  
I probably have 50. I've got five Fire-  
birds, several Lazars, and four or  
five Nationals. And a Thunderbird  
bass. But I pretty much stick to  
those same two.

You've collaborated with some  
amazing guitarists over the years  
... Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix,  
Duane Allman and, of course, your  
idol, Muddy Waters. Who was the  
most fun to jam with?  
Probably Muddy. He was a lot of  
fun to play with.

Would you say you learned any-  
thing from playing with him?  
I'd pretty much learned it all al-  
ready by listening to his records.  
By the time we started playing  
together, I already knew all of  
his stuff.

How much of the blues can be  
taught, and how much has to come  
from inside?  
I think *everything* has to come  
from inside. You just can't *teach*  
somebody to play the blues.

In the past few years, you've shied  
away from playing your rock  
songs and just played blues. Was  
this a conscious decision to go  
back to your roots?  
I just love the blues—it's just my  
favorite thing.

You played with Eric Clapton at his  
Crossroads concert, right? What  
was that experience like?  
Oh, that was great. I got to play  
with Derek Trucks—he's one of  
my favorite new guitar players.  
He's really good.

Had you played with Clapton  
before that?  
Yeah ... once with Muddy.

What about Woodstock? Who did  
you hang out with? Who had the  
best drugs?  
I don't really remember.

You didn't take any brown acid,  
did you?  
No, I don't think I took any acid at  
Woodstock.

But you have tried acid?  
Oh yes, I took plenty of psye-  
delics. I liked them.

Do you remember the first time  
you ever got stoned?  
Yes, sir—it was in New Orleans,  
LA. It was a joint. I was about 22 or  
23 ... something like that. We were  
playing in New Orleans at the  
time, and another musician  
turned me on to it. I'd smoked a  
couple times before and didn't  
never get high, so I wasn't expect-  
ing much. But I got so high that I  
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## THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

Johnny performing with brother Edgar at the Fillmore NY.



**"There never was a time when I didn't like smoking weed."**

lay down. I loved it ... I'd never felt like that before.

How influential would you say marijuana's been in your life and career?

I'd say it's helped me a lot ... mostly just to relax. And I think it enhances music—makes it a lot more fun to listen to.

How often do you smoke?

About every hour. I usually smoke about half an hour before I go on, but I don't smoke right before.

I heard you have a prescription card for medical marijuana. Is that true?

Yeah, for glaucoma.

You struggled with heroin addiction earlier in your career ... what's the biggest difference between being high on heroin and on weed?

Heroin's just not a good thing at all. It makes you feel good at first, but then pretty soon you get used to it and you have to use it just to feel *normal*. You don't even get high anymore. I hated it.

Did you ever have an epiphany moment when you said to yourself, "That's it—I'm done with this shit"?

Yeah. I went back to Beaumont and told my parents I thought I

was going to die. They talked me into going into rehab, and it worked. I was in rehab in New Orleans for nine months.

A lot of people that were into heroin back then didn't like weed. At the time, I liked both of them. There never was a time when I didn't like smoking weed.

So all you do now is smoke weed? Yeah, that's it—just weed.

For some stoner musicians, their bong can be as dear to them as their axe. Did you ever have a favorite pipe or bong?

No, not really.

Well, you do now! [Cusick hands him the Doobie Award.]

Yes I do, that's for sure! That's so nice—thank you.

For some people, winning a Doobie Award might be considered a somewhat "dubious" honor. How do you feel about getting an award from a marijuana magazine?

I'm very happy about it—I don't think it's dubious at all. Thank you, HIGH TIMES!

See the video of Johnny receiving his Lifetime Achievement award at [hightimes.com/doobies](http://hightimes.com/doobies).



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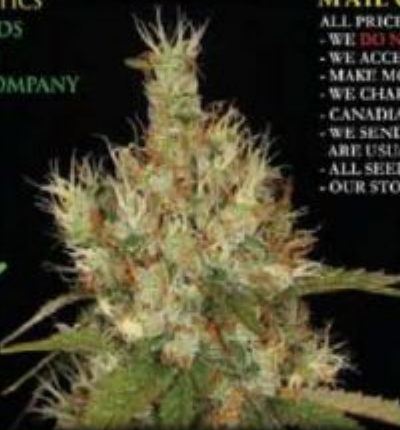
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# TOP 10 TIPS TO PICK YOUR BOX

It is estimated you will save 1-3 years on the "learning how to grow" curve AND production, by choosing the perfect, all-in-one, fully assembled, fully automated, hydroponics cabinet. Follow these top 10 grower tips, when choosing your ideal perfect roommate with benefits:

- 1. "The Look"** - You want to make sure your cabinet looks like one, not like a futuristic time machine with controls on the front. Make sure it is 100% light tight, 16 gauge "Cool-Running" metal, and looks like it belongs in your house.
- 2. Dimensions** - Be aware of misleading pictures. Realize that 24 inch deep cabs grow 33% more than generic 18 inch deep ones. The major factor of how much you grow is by Height, Width, AND Depth of your cabinet.
- 3. Airflow** - Lights are PROPERLY air-cooled by bringing air in from outside the chamber, then pushed out as well. Some only bring air from inside the unit itself, then through the light. You do not want this. Also, make sure your cab is "Cross Corner Ventilated" AND has an adjustable internal circulation fan. The output air should go out through a professionally made carbon filter.
- 4. Ease and Expertise** - Make sure your system is user friendly and the company knows what they are talking about. Your cabinet should come and look professionally assembled, automated, and easy to grow.
- 5. Net trellis and adjustable lights-** you grow up to 50% more when using a net trellis. A bonus is if both the light and veg. chamber is adjustable to allow for maximum height and lumen intensity.
- 6. Comes with Everything-** Let them shop for you. You want every possible thing you need to start growing the day you get it, including an automated Cloning Machine, nutrients, DVD, TDS meter, PH kit, Make sure it is fully assembled, automated, and ready to grow with ease and confidence.
- 7. Good Warranty-** Make sure the company backs your investment with at least a 3 year warranty and excellent lifetime customer support - for free.
- 8. Made in USA** - That is if you are in the US. For obvious reasons, such as supporting the economy, it also means not worrying with US Border Customs and such when dealing with your warranty and replaceable parts.
- 9. Customer Support-** Prompt phone and email service, knowledgeable support and replies. Accredited by the Better Business Bureau with little to no complaints over the past 3 years. Friendly and helpful is also a must.
- 10. Options-** Make sure you have the choice to switch from soil to hydro, and can decide between ebb n flow for taller units, and aero for the shorter ones. Pay attention the details. Now save a year or two start growing!



Supercloset scored a perfect 10 out of 10.

HIP HOT TIPS

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# SPINOFF

## BEAT THE HEAT 94

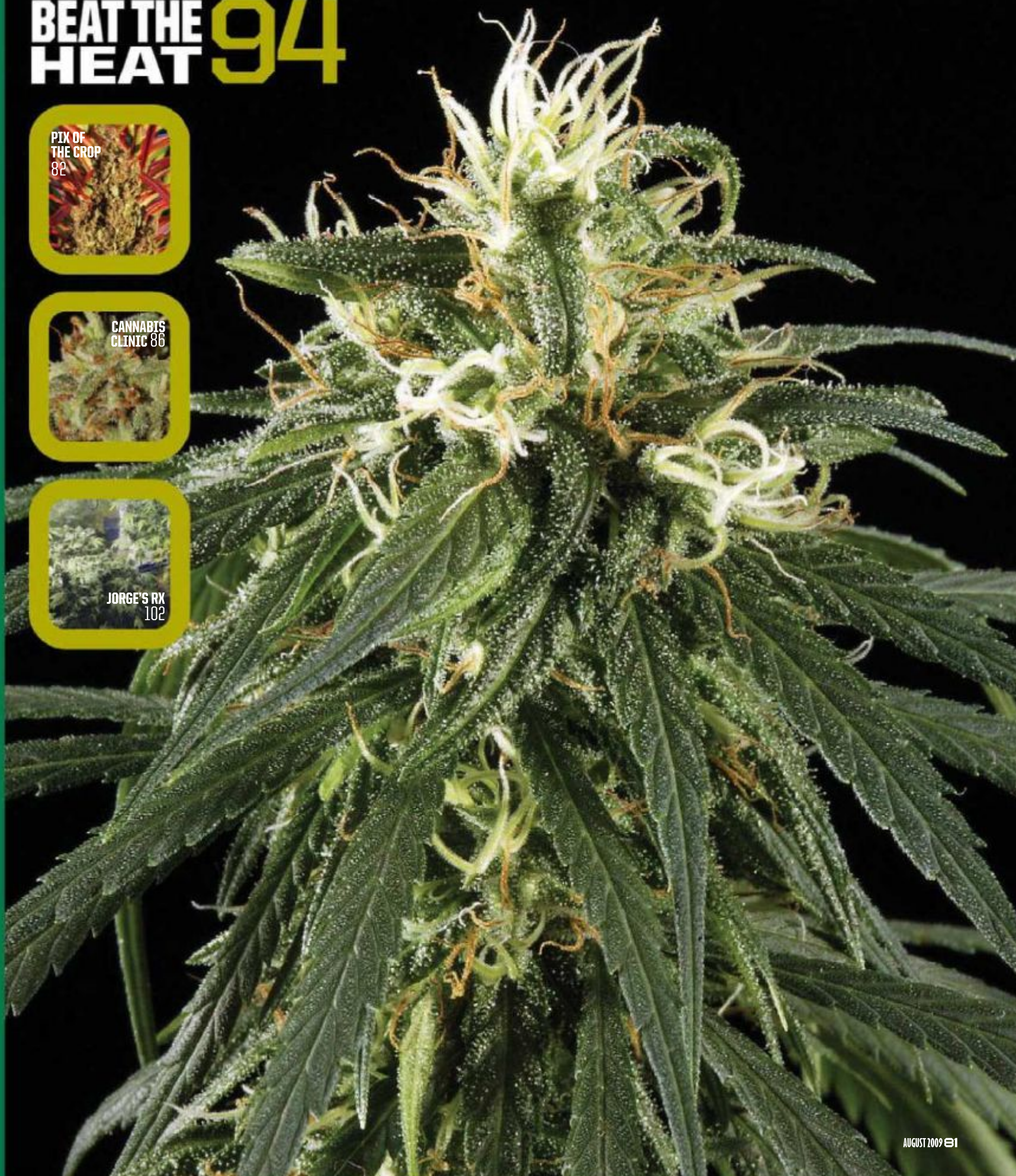
PIX OF THE CROP  
82



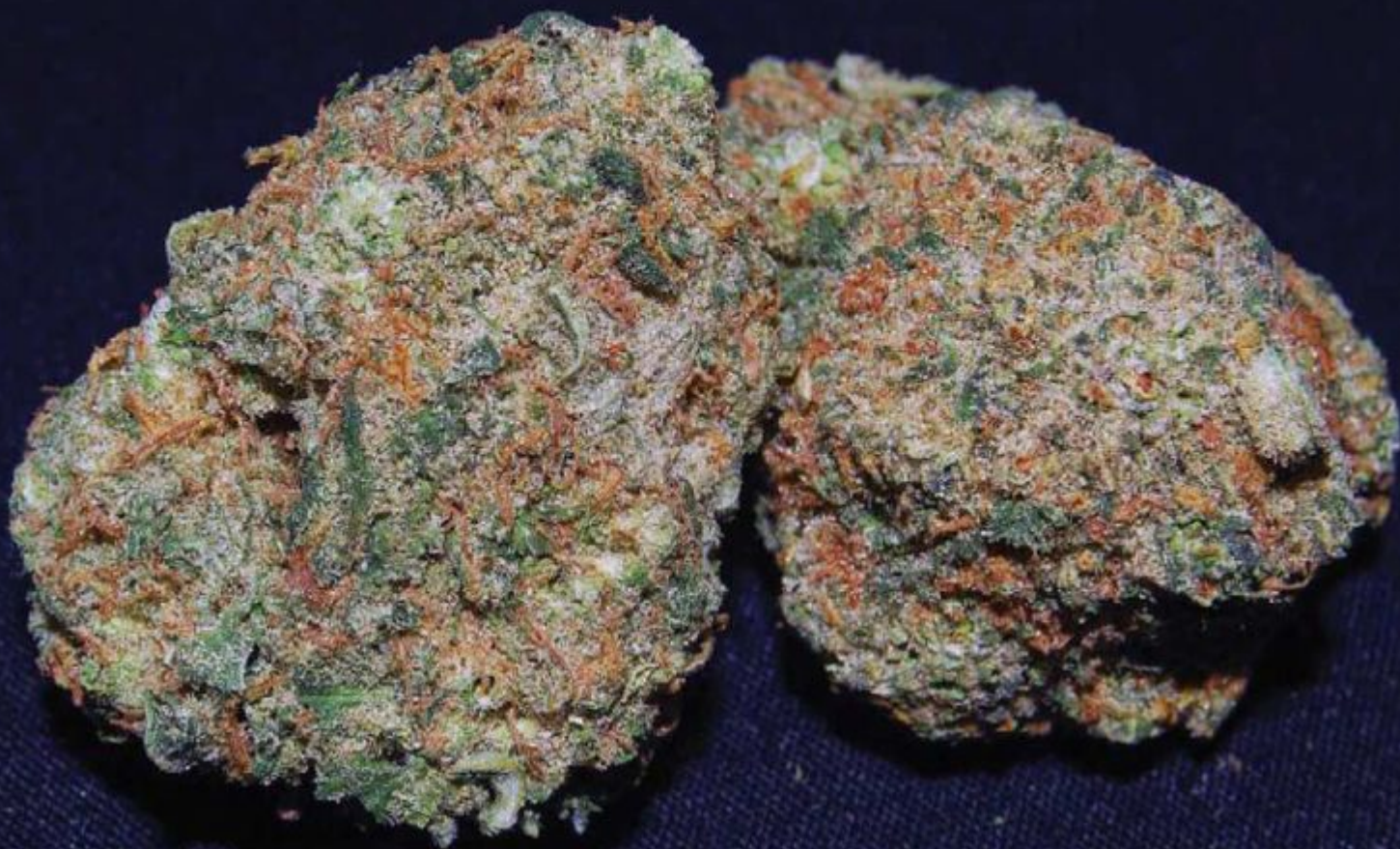
CANNABIS CLINIC  
86



JORGE'S RX  
102







**DEEZ NUGS**

These are two Grapefruit buds we scored recently. Tasty and potent!—TheMadPotHead



**TOOTH SOME** (Above)

Here's a pic of some Sweet Tooth right at harvest.—Soda Pop

**ALOHA!** (Left)

This is an eight-inch long Holland's Hope top bud. It is dried and ready to smoke. It still has a beautiful pine smell. I took it outside at sunset and got this photo in my garden using only the natural light of nature. So beautiful.—South Bay Ray



**LAVENDER HILL MOB**

Here's some Purps ready to be harvested, trimmed, dried and fried!—The Unknown Soldier





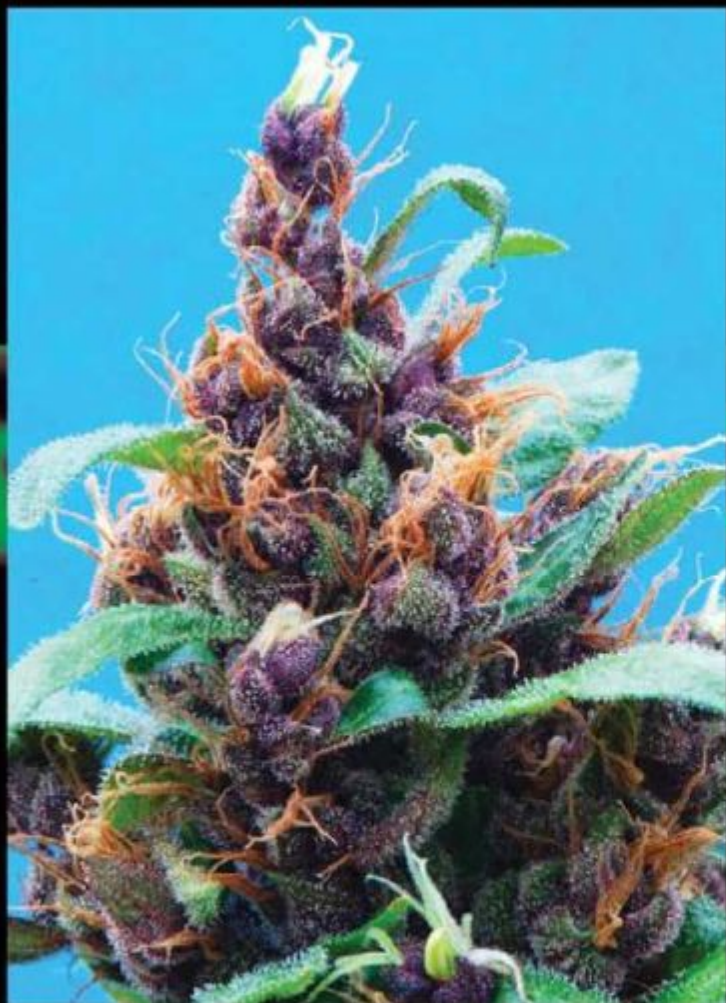
### THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

This is my second home in Humboldt County, USA.  
—Mr. Garth-Culti-Vader of the Dank Amumni



### BIG ISLAND BUDS (Left)

Mahalo from Hilo Hawaii where plants grow colorful and sweet.—MeloYelo



### BOSTON RED HAIRS (Above)

In our hands is our first crop of Diesel Ryder by the Joint Doctor. At the left, Kalichakra by Mandala Seeds. And to the right another Diesel Ryder. All 100% organic and from Fox Farm. Thank you HIGH TIMES, couldn't have done it without you.  
—Dr. Bones & Prof. Skunk

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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

# EVERYTHING MEDICAL & MORE

Welcome to our latest 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 new *Cannabis Clinic!*

## Study Shows THC Has Anti-Cancer Effects

Doctors and scientists at the Complutense University of Madrid in Spain have recently provided evidence showing that cannabinoids like 9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the main active component in marijuana, can trigger the destruction of cancer cells in humans.

In the study, THC was found to induce the death of various brain-cancer cell lines by a process known as *autophagy*. Autophagy (from the Greek for “self-eating”) is a cellular process in which cytoplasmic materials are sequestered into double-membrane vesicles and delivered to lysosomes for degradation or recycling.

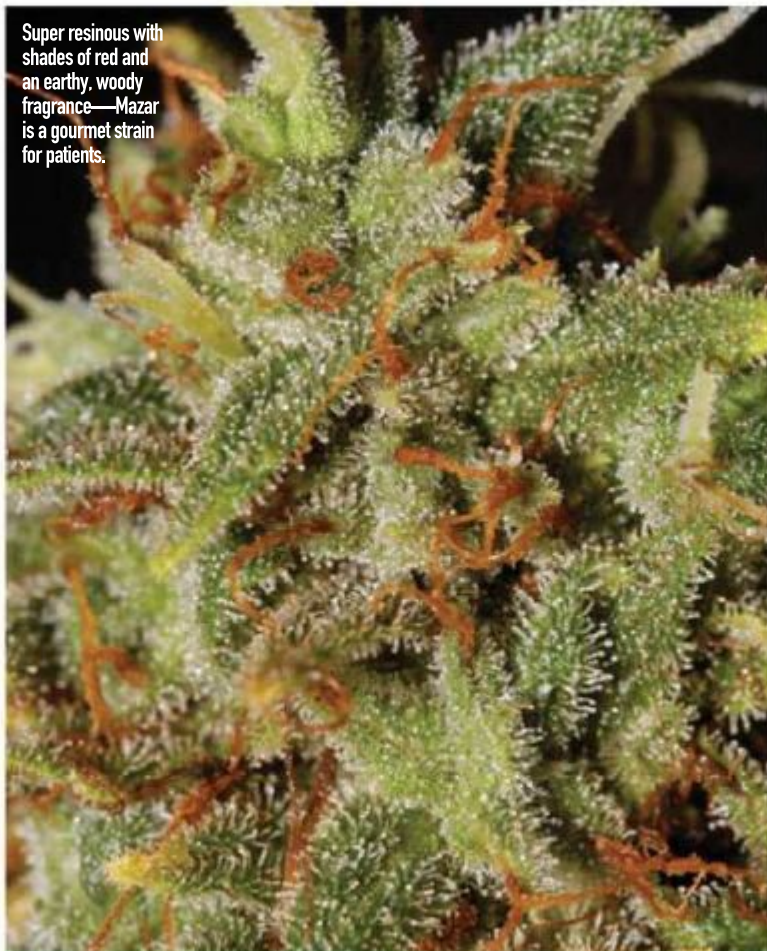
Sound about right? In other words, autophagy is a process by which the body disposes of unwanted cellular materials—and THC acted as a catalyst to promote autophagy in cancer cells. In fact, the administration of THC to mice implanted with human tumors not only decreased the tumors’ growth, but actually induced the cancerous cells to undergo autophagy-mediated cell death.

Additionally, the tumors from two patients with highly aggressive brain cancer who were given intracranial THC showed signs of autophagy as well. The authors of the study are hopeful that the use of cannabinoids may provide a successful new approach to targeting human cancers.

## Federal Monopoly Obstructs Medical-Marijuana Research

Americans for Safe Access, the national medical-marijuana advocacy group, issued a report in Washington, DC this summer aimed at drawing attention to the federal government’s monopoly on the pro-

Super resinous with shades of red and an earthy, woody fragrance—Mazar is a gourmet strain for patients.



## MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH: MAZAR

It’s no wonder that reports out of numerous medical states show Mazar popping up all over the radar. Once a rarity in North America, Mazar is a heavily medicinal strain with strong, sedating properties.

The potency of this legendary strain comes from an Afghani mother (of course), while the father is none other than Skunk #1. The Afghani genetics make her almost a full *indica*, with an exact ratio of 80/20 on the *indica/sativa* scale. The body stone that accompanies Mazar’s high is perfect for patients who are battling physical pain but can’t afford to get couch-locked, as her *sativa* heritage is expressed in an uplifting mental state.

Taking home a second-place finish in the 1999 Cannabis Cup, Mazar is usually grown indoors in Holland. However, the plant flourishes in the warmer climates of places like California and Spain—and because of her unusually late finish outdoors, Mazar makes an excellent choice as a greenhouse flower.

The original Mazar can be obtained from the Dutch Passion Seed Company in Holland. Her stone is recommended for patients who need a body sedative, muscle relaxation, or are looking for help falling asleep at night.

duction of marijuana for research. The 14-page report, entitled “Obstruction of Medical Cannabis Research in the U.S.,” also exposes a conflict of interest for University of Mississippi professor Mahmoud ElSohly, who holds the only license to cultivate marijuana issued by the DEA.

“In the United States, research is stalled,” said Caren Woodson, the ASA’s government-affairs director. “And in some cases, research is blocked by a complicated federal approval process, which restricts access to research-grade marijuana.” Specifically, the report empha-

sizes the way in which government agencies—namely the DEA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse—selectively delay the process by which researchers can obtain marijuana for FDA-approved studies. The report also highlights a federal “double standard” on medical marijuana, as illustrated by testimony from public officials who will concede to marijuana’s therapeutic efficacy—as long as it’s pharmaceutically produced in pill form.

The report also cites a 2007 ruling by the DEA’s own administrative-law judge, Mary Ellen Bittner, that “the existing supply of [research-

grade] marijuana is not adequate,” and that an expansion of such research is “in the public interest.” (Yes, you read that right.) Judge Bittner’s recommendations were issued in response to an application by Lyle Craker, a professor in the Department of Plant, Soil and Insect Sciences at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, to become a cultivator of marijuana for FDA-approved studies. The application was denied by the DEA in the final weeks of the Bush administration and is currently being appealed.

Perhaps most disturbing is the report’s exposure of the federal license that enables Mahmoud ElSohly, a research professor at the University of Mississippi—and the director of his own private company, ElSolhy Labs Inc.—to exclusively produce marijuana for the pharmaceutical company Mallinckrodt, a subsidiary of Tyco International. This arrangement appears to be for the purpose of bringing to market a generic form of Marinol (a pill that uses THC, the active compound in marijuana, suspended in oil), which is due to go off-patent in 2011—thereby directly enriching ElSohly at a price that he and/or the federal government will set.

The ASA report concludes with a set of proposals for the Obama administration, which include implementing Judge Bittner’s 2007 recommendations; streamlining the approval process for those who wish to obtain research-grade marijuana; and removing marijuana from the federal government’s list of Schedule I substances (i.e., dangerous and addictive drugs with no medical use whatsoever)—which would allow it to be made available to all who could benefit from its therapeutic properties. “The current research challenge is to conduct large-scale human clinical trials that evaluate the remarkable range of potential applications for cannabis-based treatments to specific medical conditions,” the ASA’s Woodson stressed. And we couldn’t agree more. ✨

For more information, and to read the ASA’s full report on the obstruction of medical-cannabis research in the US, go to [AmericansForSafeAccess.org](http://AmericansForSafeAccess.org).

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