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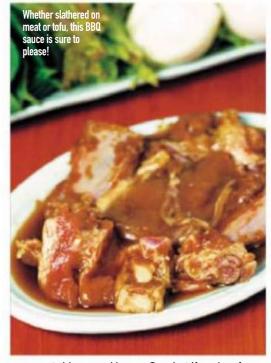
I just bought my first house for \$450. That's dollars, not K. For the price of a New York City ounce, I've become the proud owner of a pre-WWII double with true dimensional cypress lumber, stained glass and a rusty wind chime. It's very exciting. The great post-Katrina redistribution of property has commenced here in New Orleans, and with it, new opportunities for home ownership and the American Dream—at least for those of us who aren't afraid of getting dirty. Or drowning.

Yep, I've got a \$450 house. It was worth every penny, I tell ya ... and probably not much more. There's a calendar hanging on the living-room wall that still says "August 2005," so it kind of needs some work. Well, it needs a lot of work. Okay, okay, so it needs everything done and then some, but let's not get all technical about it. Jeez.

It's one of those structures best described in vague terms when I'm speaking to my family. I try to avoid phrases like "roof damage," "toxic black mold" and "subsidence," and focus instead on its positive attributes. For instance, I can sweep the dirt right through the generous crack between the fireplace and the wood floor, which means I've saved at least \$3 on a dustpan. And I found an old pair of jeans in my size that the floodwaters spared. They have life-size guns printed all over them and are totally gangstafabulous. Mom will love those.

But the best part about the house are the neighbors. The enormous fourplex next to me was just purchased for \$6,500 by a really friendly bar manager who has better pot than I do. We'll work on our houses for a while, then sit on my generous, sagging front porch puffing bowls and talking about the abandoned Art Deco theater across the street that'll come up for sale soonhow we should turn it into a live-music venue/bar/coffeeshop/independent-movie theater with a place to sunbathe nude and smoke pot on the roof. We've decided the neighborhood needs a cultural fulcrum.

With only two currently inhabitable houses on the entire block, my neighbors are urban pio-



neers, stubborn and brave. So what if packs of wild dogs roam the streets, dodging piles of illegally dumped tires and trash? It won't stay that way, because we don't see it that way. We see a citrus grove, fresh paint, a theater and hope. We see it the way it could be, the way it should be, and thank God we have that in common. We can turn that place around; it's just going to take some time and a gang of people to make it happen.

It's going to take a block party.

A few kegs of good local beer, some loud music and a mess of ganja barbecue should bring everybody together. It's pretty difficult for men to resist the old fire-plus-carcass-plus-weed combination ... unless they're vegetarians. And if any of them show up, I'll just slather some tofurky with my new BBQ sauce and tell them to quit their whining. Because, seriously, who's going to argue with a dirty, meat-eating woman wearing

I know I wouldn't.—Ashley Boudreaux

Sweet and Tangy Bar-B-Cannabis Sauce

1/3 cup vegetable oil (*not* olive oil)

10 grams commercial-grade cannabis (or 5 grams highgrade), finely ground

3 thsp chopped green onion 1 small lime (squeezed for the juice)

1 tbsp water

Cook the above ingredients at no more than 200°F for at least 90 minutes—if you have a Crock-Pot, the "keep warm" setting will probably do the trick. Next, add the ingredients listed below, mix well, and simmer very gently for an additional 35 to 65 minutes while efficient accessionally. to 45 minutes while stirring occasionally.

2 thsp apple-cider vinegar 2 thsp Worcestershire sauce 1 tbsp soy sauce

6 oz tomato paste

1 tbsp minced garlic

2 tbsp dark brown sugar

½ tbsp chili powder 1 pinch cayenne pepper

1 thsp honey 1/8 tsp ground ginger

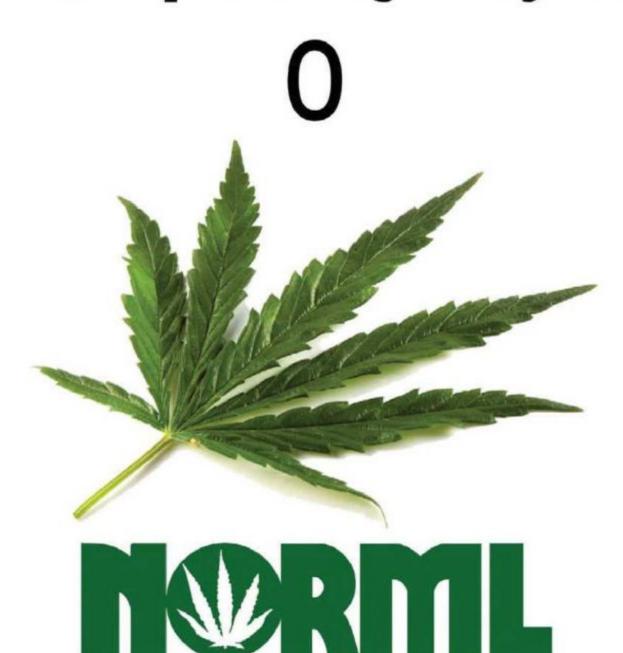
½ cup apricot nectar (you can substitute pineapple or mango

 $rac{1}{4}$ cup water

This makes a little over two cups. Getting a good, solid stone takes no more than three to four tablespoons per person. Use it for basting, dipping, or as a condiment on burgers and other sandwiches. Refrigerate after use.



Annual American deaths caused by smoking marijuana.







The Bong Hit Heard Round the World

NORMLIZER

After all of the cannabis community's collective lobbying, litigation, legislation and protests, the national and international tumult caused by a British tabloid photo of Olympic goldmedal phenom Michael Phelps smoking weed was still the most con-sequential event in marijuana-law reform since the passage of Cali-fornia's medical-marijuana initiative, Proposition 215, in 1996.

Why?

Was it the sight of Phelps hitting a bong (as opposed to a joint)? Was it seeing the planet's most celebrated Olympic athlete and overachiever—someone with zero percent body fat—engaged in an activity that government authorities claim makes you slovenly, fat and unmotivated? Was it that, after decades of government-sponsored reefer madness and aggressive law-enforcement policies directed at "sending the right message to children," parents found themselves confronted with the prohibition-created conundrum of having to explain why a highly successful and inspirational Olympic athlete uses cannabis in the first place?

Maybe it was the dozens of major editorials, columns and commentaries roundly supporting the premise that Michael Phelps's status as a cannabis consumer was completely immaterial to his status as an elite athlete and modern role model for youth?

Possibly, Americans—led by the baby-boom generation—have quietly come to agree with the conclusion of a recent University of Alberta study, which found that "most adult marijuana users regulate use



to their recreational time and do not use compulsively. Rather, their use is purposely intended to enhance their leisure activities and manage the challenges and demands of living in contemporary modern society. (italics added).

Or perhaps we're all wondering how, after he won eight gold medals this past summer following years of exhausting training and personal sacrifice, we as a society can punish a 23-year-old like Phelps for indulging in a little of the sacred herb to relax?

crazed Buford T. Pusser-type sheriff from South Carolina who threatened to arrest Phelps after the fact. Or the arrest of eight other people based on a tabloid photograph.... Oh, wait. I know what finally

And let's not forget the

tabloid photograph.... Oh, wait, I know what finally galvanized the public: It must have been the NORML-led boycott against the Kellogg Company for dropping Phelps as the spokesman for Frosted Flakes!

Any way you look at it, Phelps's outing has been the catalyst for a wide and revealing array of social comment regarding privacy, technology, media ethics, celebrity, public health, corporate endorsements, drug testing and—most importantly, from NORML's advocacy perspective—a desperately needed nationwide discussion about the reasons to end marijuana prohibition so that young men like Michael Phelps are no longer considered criminals in the first place when they choose to responsibly imbibe ganja.

Allen St. Pierre is the executive director of NORML. You can contact NORML at www.norml.org or 888-67-NORML.

Ask Dr. Mitch

Dr. Mitch, How long has hemp been around?

Joe Taylor

Hi Joe,

Archaeologists in Taiwan have discovered hemp fibers decorating clay pots that appear to date from around 8000 BC. After 10,000 years, you'd think we'd be able to grow some here in the US.

I keep hearing that the Chinese emperor Shen Nung first discovered marijuana in 2737 BC. Can we really know this?

Gramma Tan

Hi Gramma,

I was taught that Shen Nung discovered cannabis, Camellia sinensis (black tea) and ma huang (ephedra). But as my colleagues in East Asian studies point out, Shen Neng actually gets credit for discovering all of agriculture, not just drugrelated plants. Given that he was supposedly born with the head of a bull and the body of a man, he's really more of a mythological culture hero, sort of like our Johnny Appleseed.

Is there really any reason to deny marijuana users a liver transplant? This makes no sense.

Billy Rubin

Hi Billy,

Recent work in the American Journal of Transplantation shows that among folks with chronic liver disease, marijuana users have the same survival rates as non-users. Unfortunately, they are markedly less likely to receive a transplant. As you said, it makes no sense.

Can French inhaling get you higher?

Jacques

Hi Jacques,

The effects of French inhaling isn't exactly a top research priority, so there's not much data on this topic. However, THC is absorbed via the lungs very rapidly, so recycling the smoke is un-likely to increase its concentration in the blood, although the habit might increase your exposure to lung irritants. Some folks claim to feel higher using this technique, but it probably stems from holding their breath for a longer time.

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

FREEDOW FIGHTER

Cathy Jordan

Better Living Through Cannabis. By Russ Belville

Don't tell Cathy Jordan she's "dying" from ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease). As Cathy once reminded her neurologist, "I'm here to talk about living!"

Diagnosed in 1986 with the progressive, usually fatal, neurodegenerative disease, Cathy tried traditional prescription drugs that did little to ease her pain, spasticity and stiffness. Her condition continued to decline until finally, in 1989 (as Cathy writes at her website, alsand-cannabis.com), "I smoked Myakka Gold on the beach in Bradenton [FL]. I felt the ALS stop and every day I got stronger." Not that Cathy was cured—she's in a wheelchair now—but she's lived longer, and stronger, with ALS than the best diagnosis had predicted.

Meanwhile, five years after that fateful day on the beach, Cathy's amazed neurologist told her: "Smoke all the cannabis you can and never tell a soul, because they'll never believe you." In 1996, however, yet another neurologist decided that her advocacy for "illegal drugs" would make her ineligible for any stem-cell therapies that might be developed. "The very next day I became an activist," Cathy writes.

Since then, Cathy has worked with NORML and Patients Out of Time, participated in "Journey for Justice" marches and made numerous media appearances, including a memorable debate with drug warrior Calvina Fay on ABC News. Her entry in the NORML Pro-Cannabis Ad Contest (http://tinyurl.com/cathyjordan) makes a powerful statement against the cruel prohibition of marijuana as medicine and gives you some idea of the tenacity and spirit of our Freedom Fighter of the Month.

Russ Belville is NORML's national outreach coordinator and host of their daily podcast @ stash.norml.org



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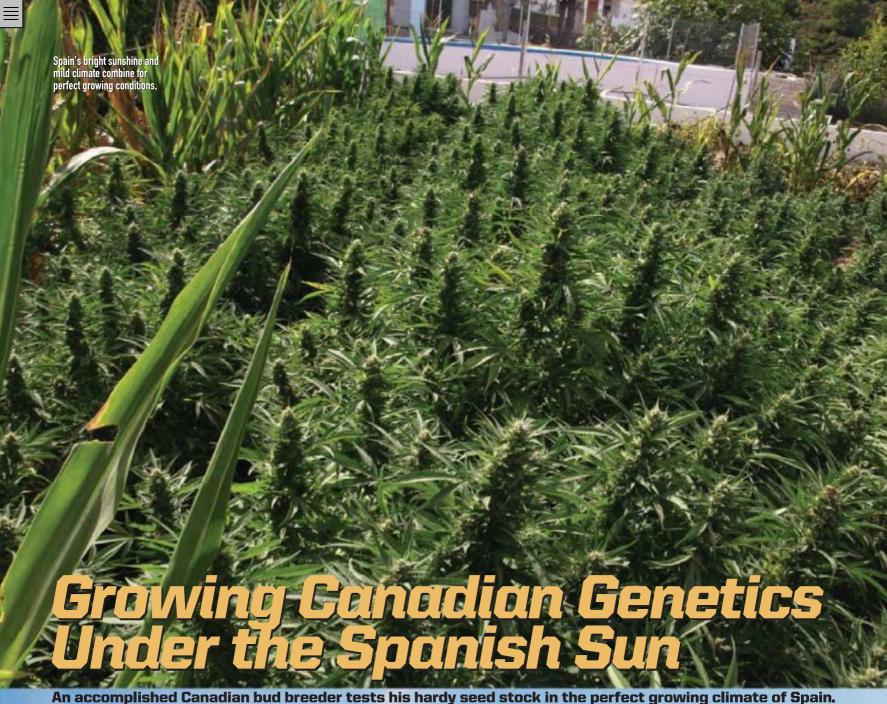
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An accomplished Canadian bud breeder tests his hardy seed stock in the perfect growing climate of Spain. Plants bred for short seasons and tough weather, when grown in the bright sun and mild conditions of the Mediterranean, produce huge bushes of perfect pot. Story & photos by Jay Generation

During 2008, a large number of Canadian seeds invaded the mountains and gardens of Spain. I arrived here a little late to take full advantage of the growing season, but I still had the chance to test-grow over 15 different strains outdoors in my first six months. I absolutely love growing outdoors and in greenhouses; it's the way cannabis was meant to be grown. Don't get me wrong: Indoor growing produces some of the best marijuana on the planet—but there's nothing quite as enjoyable and natural as growing under the sun. And in this climate on the Costa del Sol ("Coast of the Sun"), I've grown

This field will yield many pounds of primo pot.

some of the finest, most potent marijuana in the world.

It's long been a dream of mine to test my genetics in a more temperate climate like Spain's. Hot summer days and a long growing season make Spain an ideal environment in which to grow cannabis. Our location here was in a latitude similar to San Francisco and northern Afghanistan. As a breeder from the cool climates of Canada, I've been fantasizing about growing at this latitude for many years. Strains that won't naturally finish flowering fast enough to ripen in Canada are producing astounding results

here on the 40th Parallel.

Back in Canada, in the forests of British Columbia, the variety of strains we can grow is more limited, and the yields are diminished by the shorter grow season and harsher climates. Despite these drawbacks, we've bred many amazing strains that can thrive in harsh climates all over the world. Early-flowering Canadian outdoor strains like Timewarp, Avalon, Bonkers, Mighty Mite and Purple Pineberry have been producing massive crops in cold climates for decades. Here in Spain, we grew many of these seeds with amazing results. Timewarp is harvested in BC at the end of Sep-

tember; in Spain, we harvested it the first week of September! Both Timewarp and Avalon did great among my outdoor strains, with extra-early harvests and *double* the yields.

I was most looking forward to growing my sativa-dominant strains, like Island Sweet Skunk, Grapefruit Haze and Jamaican Grape. At this latitude, the cannabis is triggered to start flowering sooner than in more northern locales. We found that many of our strains finished flowering up to two weeks earlier here. In the best Canadian climate, Grapefruit Haze won't fully mature

without a good greenhouse; here in Spain, we harvested it the second week of October growing outdoors, and the quality was simply astounding.

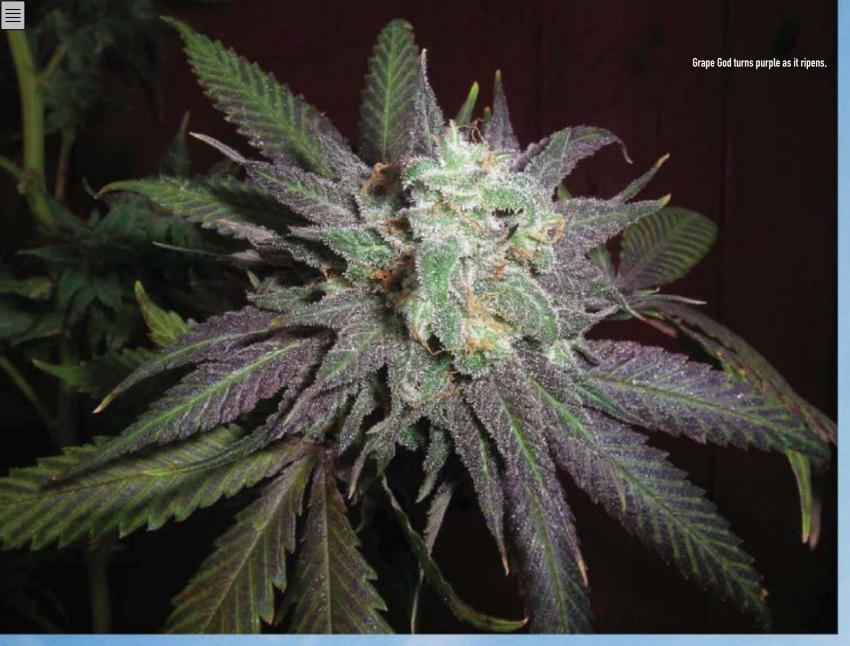
Among the biggest differences I've encountered between guerrilla growing in Canada and in Spain are water availability and soil conditions. Outdoor patches in Canada are located in rich, deep brown soil that is full of nutrients and moisture. On Vancouver Island, after the plants are established in the ground, they rarely need watering due to the regular rainfall and water reserves underground. Organic amendments like lime, bonemeal, fishmeal and seaweed compost are added before spring planting, when the ground is turned and prepared.

In the Spanish mountains, a lot of the soils are depleted and need extreme amendments and fertilizer additions for optimum growth. However, a bigger problem is the plants' need for water in such a hot climate. A plant can thrive here in bad soil if it's got a good water supply, and in the 40°C heat day after day, all plants are going to need plenty of water. During the hot summer months, plants with very little water can dehydrate and die in a few hours. On the other hand, the plant size that can be attained in midsummer is amazing, with some strains growing several inches a day. As the plants start flowering, the sun remains bright and hot, allowing the buds to ripen under ideal conditions. This makes for some extremely potent pot when you're growing the good genetics, as we are.

One thing I didn't expect to find here was the same problem with mold that we have back in BC. Within an hour's drive of the coast, the humidity levels are very high: Early-morning fogs regularly roll in from the Mediterranean, awakening funguses that I've never seen before. Many of the coastal growers are fighting mold regularly, and all of them had great results with our Canadian genetics and their heightened mold resistance.









SUMMER STRAIN REPORT

These 15 strains were test-grown guerrilla style in the Spanish mountains. A few (5 to 25) seeds or clones of each were grown for research and extra smoke. I couldn't give a lot of attention to all of the crops, but I couldn't let a season go by without a little guerrilla gardening.

Bonkers: Two different batches were grown. One batch was started on the balcony too early and auto-flowered, leaving me something to smoke in about 10 weeks. The next batch was grown in the mountains and was harvested in mid-September. The results were sweet and fruity, just like back home.

Romulan: I only tested two clones outside here. The one I got to taste was great, with a very thick and heavy smoke. The other clone was chewed down by some unknown animal that left me with only a stump.

Grape God: This one was amazing, and it's loving the sun! We had several seedlings in one patch that came up stinky and sticky, and they finished early enough to be smoked by the end of September. Also, several clone se-

lections from the indoor gardens were taken out to the hills, and the quality blew me away! The resin was so thick it looked like fake buds.

Island Sweet Skunk: This one got very big, very fast. The ISS was the one strain I was truly looking forward to seeing thrive under the Spanish sun. In Canada, it doesn't finish early enough for a mature harvest. As it turned out, I wasn't disappointed: The buds were large, potent and very sweet, and we smoked them as soon as they were cured. They were also very resistant to the bud rot that attacked a few other strains in the same valley.

Timewarp: I'm excited to be growing the Timewarp here. It flowered very early, with many of the seedlings auto-flowering—it won't stay in vegetative growth very long if it's in a container. Many of the Timewarp seeds were started in spring. Some were auto-flowered on the balcony in containers (we harvested buds from these throughout the summer), while others went up to the mountains for an experimental seed crop.

Durban: These seedlings went







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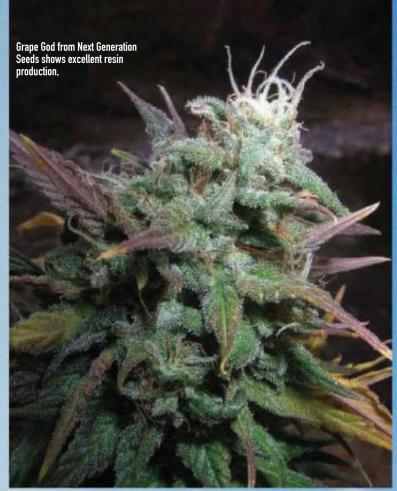
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straight to flower after being planted outdoors. I left a male to seed the patch, and it looked like the seeds were finishing up nicely. However, when I returned to harvest them the following week, I found that the patch had been visited by some seed-loving vermin: The seeds were all popped out of the bud, and the insides eaten out.

Avalon: By far the most prone to autoflowering, the Avalon clones we tried outdoors would grow only to a short height and then start budding. The buds kept getting bigger and bigger and ended up being some of the largest colas I've ever seen. The clones were planted outdoors and in containers in the beginning of July and harvested at the end of August.

Stinky: About a dozen seeds were started of the Romulan-Grapefruit hybrid that's now been dubbed Stinky. These plants turned out well in spite of outgrowing their containers and drying out several times. Yield and size suffered without enough water, but the quality was great and very potent. A strong, fruity smell tingled the sinuses, making you want to sneeze.

Grapefruit Haze: Six seeds were started, but only two female seedlings emerged. The quality was stupefying: an intense body stone, though your brain rambles on happily from thought to thought without a problem. (It's what I'm smoking now as I write this article.) The buds were a darker green, with lots of resin and a very spicy smell dominated by that Super Silver Haze odor. The Grape-

fruit genetics quickened the flowering time, and this hybrid was very resistant to the bud rot here.

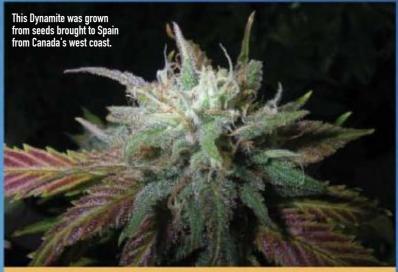
Dynamite: A few Dynamite clones were flowered on the balcony and produced some tasty results. The quality was phenomenal—better than I've ever experienced with Dynamite outdoors in BC. The smoke was thick and fruity-tasting.

Diablo: The Diablo was very late to start, but still stretched into a large plant in a short time. Very long colas with deep green buds.

Romulan x Hash Plant: A clone mother was selected from an indoor crop. I planted a few outdoors, with excellent results—very branchygrowing plants in a nice symmetrical pattern. The buds were round, chunky and easy to trim. Best of all, when it came time to smoke, they tasted amazing—even better than the indoor buds of the same type.

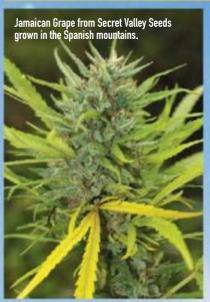
Grapefruit x Blueberry (3x backcross): This was among my favorites from our grow in the mountains this year. Very sticky buds, with an amazing amount of resin crystals and a fruity taste. This is my own special, mostly Blueberry selection, and it's now fruitier than the original Blueberry thanks to the addition of a little Grapefruit into the genes in the first backcross.

Jamaican Grape: The largest yields of all the plants I tried outdoors. They were the first to be planted and had a chance to get their roots into the



FEMINIZED FAD

In Spain, feminized seeds have become very popular. Most growers/ smokers just plant a few seeds on the balcony or in the backyard garden and then harvest their buds without much thought a few months later. As a result, a large number of growers here see regular seeds as a waste of time; they have no skill (or interest) in identifying males, so they avoid the "problem" by buying feminized seeds. (Also, indoor growing is just starting to gain in popularity, so cloning isn't practiced by the majority of growers.) In order to meet this demand for feminized seeds, we've started several lines that are currently undergoing testing. The first strains we've tried out are the Island Sweet Skunk, Dynamite, Edelweiss and Timewarp.



ground before the strong heat in August. My preparation time with the soil was limited, so they ended up a little under-fertilized. This meant a smaller yield, but the smoke was very clean and smooth-tasting. I was very impressed with all aspects of the Jamaican Grape in this climate: strong growth, great pest resistance and buds of an amazing quality.

Northern Flame: Only four seedlings went outdoors. They were planted in a separate area and never got much attention. After returning a few weeks later in early September, I discovered that a male in the middle of the group had pollinated the females. Now I only have Northern Flame hash to smoke and no seedless buds.

SPANISH POT POLITICS

Most Spanish smokers grow a few plants over the summer without much fear of legal jeopardy. The police tend to leave personal growers alonejust don't get caught dealing or it's straight to jail. This policy keeps profit margins down, which makes the cannabis culture here far less attractive to the criminal element than is the case in North America. In Spain, pot growers/smokers are more accepted as members of society and not harmfully stigmatized, and in return marijuana is used more respectfully as a regular part of life and not as an instrument of youthful rebellion. This means more community cooperation with the police and safer communities as a result. The adversarial relationship between teenagers and police that we see in North America isn't as large a problem here. People in Spain don't fear their local police like we do back home, but this doesn't mean the cops are pushovers. Just the opposite: When it's time to take down a real criminal, they don't hold anything back. The police here give you a lot more personal latitude than we have in North America, but if you cross a certain line, they will not hesitate to mess you up bad.

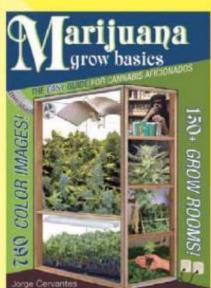
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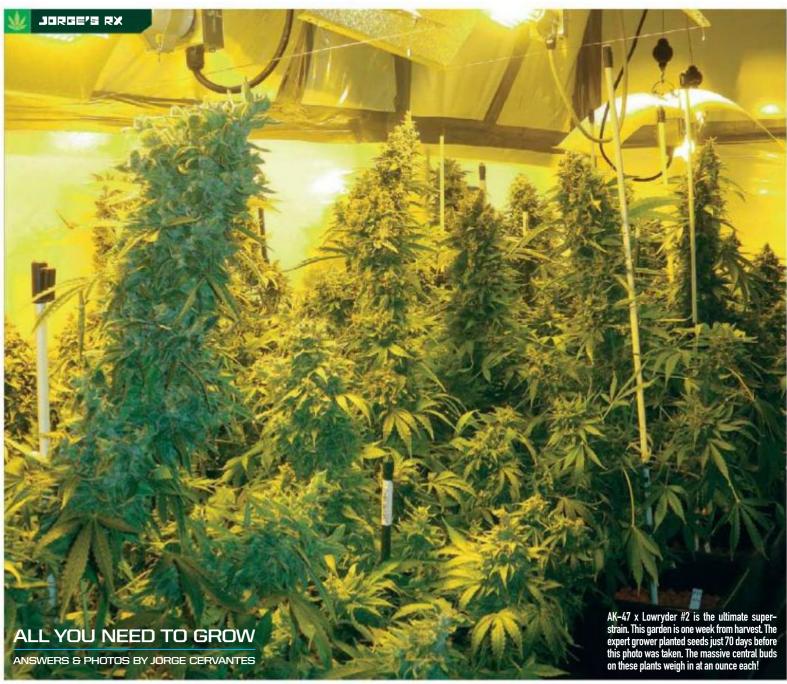
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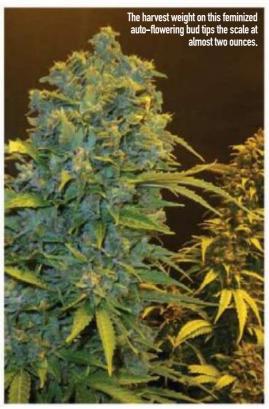
I'm planning a trip to Spain this summer. Can you buy seeds there? I would love to pick up some fresh seed stock. I started 65 seeds (Widow, Skunk, Papaya and Afghani) and ended up with only 10 female keepers—not good. I've been growing for five years and these are the worst results I've had.

Tammy Via Internet

Dear Tammy,

¡Muy importante! Not only is the legal seed business thriving in Spain, but you will find amazing new auto-flowering seeds there. These feminized (all-female) seeds are daylight-neutral and will flower under 24 hours of light. This means they do not need a 12/12-hour day/night light schedule. These strains have completely swept the European market: Last year, Lowryder II, a ruderalis-based cross, outsold every other strain around.

The only problem was that, over the last couple of years, these *ruderalis*-based strains weren't heavy producers—20 to 30 grams (0.75 to 1.0 ounce) per plant—plus they provided a decid-



edly lackluster buzz. Since then, however, breeders have overcome these drawbacks in the original ruderalis genetics. These new crosses are potent! This year, a couple to look for include Diesel Ryder and the AK-47 x Lowryder #2. I'd even say that the miraculous AK-47 x Lowryder #2 is the ultimate plant. The super-potent AK-47 genes are combined with compact Lowryder #2 genetics to yield a mind-boggling super-strain that grows 4 feet (1.2 m) tall and produces 50plus grams (over 1.8 ounces) per plant. If you plant AK-47 x Lowryder #2 seeds indoors, you will harvest up to two ounces of connoisseurquality buds in 70 days. That's right: I said you will harvest big, thick, resin-squirting buds 70 days after planting these super-seeds. This is the plant I've been looking for the last 25 years! You can find the best of the best of these feminized, auto-flowering seeds, including the AK-47 x Lowryder #2, at www.lowryder.com (the original producer) and www.vu-du.com. I give this strain my personal two thumbs up!

The trick with growing these seeds, however, is to take very special care of them during germination and the first three weeks of growth. The entire life cycle of this strain is less than 10













₩ JORGE'S RX

weeks, which means that the plants must be very healthy their entire life for maximum yield. Since you'll be harvesting them in 70 days, there's no time to make up for mistakes or diseases and pest problems.

MAKING BOYS FROM GIRLS

I'm an Italian grower living in Spain, and I've read many of your books. In one of them, you write about Stamen-it! from PG Solutions, but I can't find any information about it on the Web—I can only find forums with other people like me looking for it. Can you help? And thanks for all your good work.

Jacob Via Internet

Hi Jacob.

This month, I received three requests for information about Stamen-it!—two from North America and one from Italy. It must be very popular! So popular, in fact, that I've decided to post the information on my website, marijuanagrowing.com. You can find Stamen-it!—a product that chemically induces male flowers to form on female plants—by writing to this email address: plantaegenomic@live.co.uk. You can also use a product called eliteXelite, which you can find by typing "eliteXelite" into the Google.com search engine. Gibberellic acid works too, but I don't advise trying it because the acid is dangerous and difficult to use.

CLEAN BULBS

I just wanted to know if there are any products on the market designed to clean grease and fingerprints off the outer glass envelopes of highintensity discharge (HID) bulbs. Thanks a bunch for your time and effort in answering my question. Peace and more,

Via Internet

Hi J..

I always use Windex or some other kind of common window cleaner to clean the bulbs of dust and fingerprints. You don't need any "special" overpriced products—just make sure the bulb ballast has been unplugged and the bulb is cool before cleaning. Also, be sure to clean the inside of the reflector at the same time, because dust tends to stick to it. A clean bulb and reflector will boost your light output by as much as 10%, and all it takes is a little of your time.

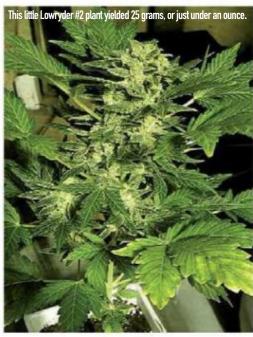
SAFE SEEDS

Where would be a good, safe place to order seeds? Also, where could I get all the right nutrients for the plants?

Rob Via Internet

Dear Rob,

I always advise growers to go to seedbankupdate.com to find reputable companies. This site is updated regularly and definitely has my seal of approval. You can also try the seed sellers that advertise in HIGH TIMES and on hightimes.com.



LEMON SKUNK

I recently went to the 'Dam (Amsterdam) and bought some Lemon Skunk seeds from the Green House. I have since emailed them and a few other places looking for information on the average height of this plant and any other info regarding the strain, but I can't seem to get any feedback. I'm growing with a Homebox 400-watt high-pressure sodium (HPS) light and a four-pot system. I spent big to get my kit, so I'm concerned about wasting seeds. Any info you can give me would be greatly appreciated.

Slan a Chara Via Internet

Hi Slan,

Here are the basics on your strain: The Green House (greenhouse.org) won first prize at the 2008 HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cup with Lemon Skunk, a tasty, fragrant, citrusy strain with a Haze-based heritage. The high is strong and long-lasting—22% THC, according to the Green House. Flowering time is about 10 weeks, but could take longer. Lemon Skunk grows well indoors and also does well outdoors in mild, longseason climates. Internodal distancing (i.e., the space between branches) is less than with most Haze strains. It's a good producer when grown properly—I haven't grown it myself, but I have talked with others who have. It's not as sensitive to fertilizer as most Haze-based strains are, so you can give it a bit of fertilizer, but be careful: As soon as you see signs of over-fertilization, flush the growing medium with water to leach out the excess fertilizer salts and then back off on the nutrient dosage. Signs of over-fertilization may include one or all of the following: curled-down leaves, burned leaf tips and edges, purple stems and/or leaf stems, and slow growth. Use good, clean water and quality hydroponic nutrients from a reputable supplier.

As with growing any strain, be sure there's plenty of air circulation and ventilation. I like the Homebox because it's inexpensive, very practical and easy to control. A few more tips: Be sure to take clones of all your plants before they start flowering so you'll have spare plants in case any problems develop with the ones grown from seed. You can also use these clones as mother



plants, or grow them out for another crop. The other big reason to take clones is that one of the cloned plants will be superior to the rest, and you want to make sure that you have a copy of the best genetics. Finally, to answer your initial question, Haze strains grow tall, so bending the buds to reduce and even out the garden profile will ensure better light coverage for all your plants.

WET DOPE

I'm from Quebec, Canada, right outside Montreal. I'm 19 years old with one year in this business, but with little success so far. The weather kinda didn't favor us—but without the info in your DVDs and "Bible," the situation would have been worse, so thanks a million, dude.

After seeing the Cannabis Cup 20th Anniversary DVD, I was wondering: If I'm a judge in Amsterdam next year, what can I bring back to my hotel? How do you end up with a bunch of dope to judge?

Thanks again for all your help. I've actually used a lot of the info for my vegetable garden, LOL.

Cz yaz! Via Internet

Hi Cz vaz!

Sadly, most decent dope at the Cannabis Cup isn't free: You have to go to the different coffeeshops participating and buy your weed there. But you won't have any trouble purchasing quality weed—the beauty of buying cannabis during the Cup is that you're virtually assured of getting pot that isn't wet or "screened." Screening means that either the coffeeshop or the producer tumbled their buds in a Pollinator (pollinator.nl) or bounced them a few times on a silk screen. This practice knocks off up to 5% of the best resin, which is collected and pressed into hash. Of course, you never see the high-grade hash!

Good on you, mate! You're a smart grower indeed to apply your knowledge to your vegetable garden. Fresh veggies rule!

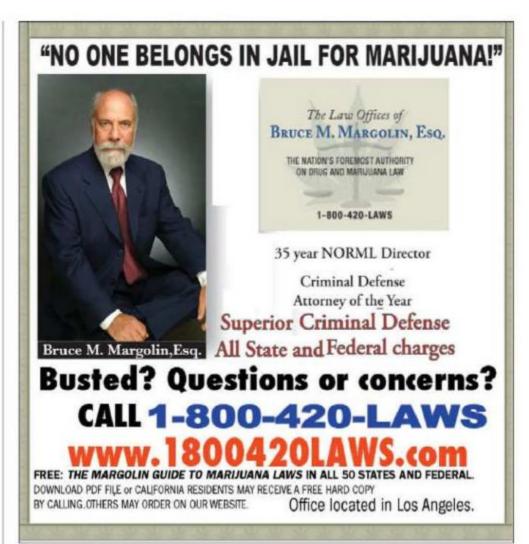
LIGHTING BASICS

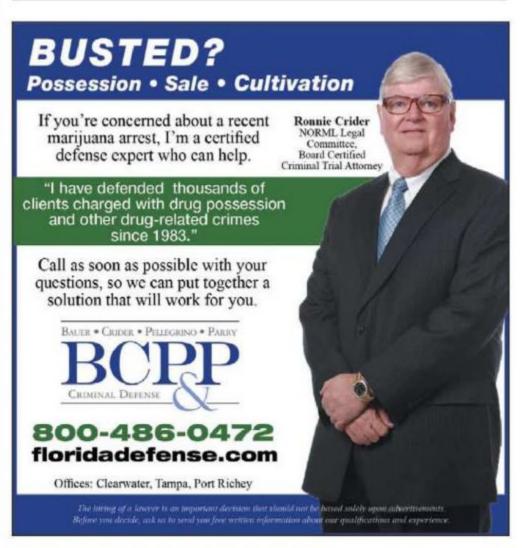
I have a small room (2' x 2' x 5') in which I want to use either metal halide (MH) or HPS lights. I found one version of each at a local hardware store, but these lights are for outdoor use. Is it okay to use them in my growroom? And which would be the better choice?

Wyatt Via Internet

Dear Wyatt,

As long as the lamps are either metal halide or high-pressure sodium, they're okay to use in your growroom. Do not use inefficient halogen lights that don't have the proper spectrum. A halogen bulb is tubelike, a little shorter and fatter than a common writing pen. Both MH and HPS lamps will supply enough light with the proper spectrum (color) and intensity to grow cannabis in your 2' x 2' x 5' room. HPS lamps deliver more lumens per watt (i.e., more light for the amount of electricity consumed); however, plants tend to stretch a little more with HPS lamps than if only a metal halide were used. Most MH lamps deliver "white" light similar to natural sunlight and are best employed for vegetative growth. The main thing to remember when using either an MH or HPS lamp is to orient the bulb horizontally over the plants so that half the











light they receive is directly from the bulb and the other half is reflected. Also, place a 100-watt lamp about 12 inches above your plants so they receive the most intense light possible. Keep in mind that light intensity decreases quickly: The further away the plants are from the bulb, the less light they'll receive.

VIRGIN GROWER

You are my cannabis god! I just recently picked up your "Bible" from Amazon.com, and I was stunned. I love it! I'm trying to start two plants for personal use. It's my first grow indoors, but I'm having trouble and I'm on a tight budget. I don't have room to do any more. Do you have any tips for a "virgin" grower like me? I could really use some guidance.

Jeremiah Via Internet

Hi Jeremiah,

Thanks for holding me in such high esteem. I'm just a regular guy like everybody else—all I've done is traveled and grown more than most. What sets me apart is that I share my information with other growers. This is something any grower can do, and trust me: If you do, you'll receive much more information in return, and have more to share the next time around. It's quite simple. But be smart about sharing information. Share with people over the Internet via a proxy server. Do not share with people who could pose a security risk to you or your loved ones.

Plants are simple, just like people—you just have to know what they want. First, get some good seeds. You can find them occasionally in a good bag of dope, often referred to as "bag seed." You can also can buy them, which can be complicated. Or you can get some female cuttings or clones from somebody. You don't have to spend a lot of money for seeds when you're a newbie. Cannabis needs light, air, a growing medium,

warmth, nutrients and water. The "Bible" can be a bit overwhelming for first-time growers, so I'll go over the basics with you in shorthand now.

Start with the proper light. In your case, since you're growing only two plants, you'll be able to use a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL). I like the 65-watt CFLs that you can find at most buildingsupply centers (such as Home Depot) for about \$30. Keep this light 6 to 12 inches above the plants. Place it at 12 inches when the plants are less than 1 foot tall and move it closer when they grow above this level. The air must be fresh and warm (70°F to 75°F) both day and night—this is the part most growers forget. Buying fast-draining, good-quality potting soil is also a must; you may need to add about 10% perlite to speed the drainage. Set your soil containers up off the cold floor so the soil stays about 60°F. Use quality hydroponic nutrients and follow the directions on the package. Water plants with clean, fresh water (i.e., water that tastes good when you drink it) and keep the conditions consistent in the growroom. Those are the basics; they're not complicated or difficult at all.

You may want to get a copy of Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados. I wrote this book especially for "virgin" growers like you. It provides simple step-by-step and week-by-week instructions that will help you achieve your goals.

MEDICAL GROWER AND THE FEDS

I live in Montana and I'm considering getting a medical-marijuana card. Once I do, I know that the laws of the state may help me, but what keeps the Feds away from me? Is it legal to have the card according to state law, but still illegal as far as the Feds are concerned? And if so, what is the law, really?

Alan Via Internet



Dear Alan,

The card itself is no problem, but thanks to federal law, people growing medicine legally under state law can still have problems with the Feds. Local police who arrest a sanctioned, card-holding medical-marijuana grower are obliged to inform the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) of cases that involve the cultivation of more than 99 plants. But if you grow fewer than 99 plants, you'll stay out of their crosshairs and not become a target. In the past, the DEA has gone after "big" growers, as well as growers who are politically active in the marijuana-legalization movement, both medical and non-medical. Now that Barack Obama is president, he has vowed to stop the DEA's persecution of registered medical-marijuana growers and patients. American politics and values are in the process of change. In the words of Bobby Dylan, "You don't need a Weatherman to know which way the wind blows."

You can find information on the current laws in each state at norml.org. The exact link is: norml.org/index.cfm?Group_ID=4516.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

I need step-by-step instructions on how to create a commercial marijuana grow op. I live in New York and I'm a beginner.

> Rafael Via Internet

Dear Rafael.

The answer you want would fill this entire magazine, which I think is a little unreasonable. As a beginner, I assume you have little experience growing plants, including cannabis. If you attempt your own commercial marijuana grow op at this stage, you'll soon be overwhelmed and make many costly mistakes. Your errors would cost you a great deal of money and time (more than a year)—and at the end of this period, you would know only a little more than you started out with and be very discouraged to boot. My advice is to keep it simple and start with a small indoor garden. Learn how to germinate and grow seeds, make clones, and cultivate and harvest a productive crop. Read everything you can find about growing marijuana, and grow houseplants or an outdoor vegetable or flower garden as well. Stay away from weird theories and get-rich-quick schemes. Enroll in greenhouse-management and horticultural classes at the local college, or take classes at the local Extension Service to become a Master Gardener. If you are dedicated, you can do all this in a year or two. Then you'll have more reasonable expectations. *

Jorge Cervantes is the author of Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados (July 2009), Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor/Outdoor Medical Grower's Bible (January 2006), Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD (shot in BC) and Jorge Cervantes' Ultimate Grow DVD II (shot in Spain), Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible, Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens, Marijuana Outdoors: Guerrilla Growing and Jorge's Rx. He writes for 20 magazines in seven languages. Jorge's books are published in Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. Hit marijuanagrowing.com for more information.









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GARDEN CALENDAR

OUTDOORS

Plant in June! You can plant outdoors in all but the coldest mountain climates. If temperatures drop a lot at night-below 50°F (10°C)—grow under a plastic or glass covering. Warm climate growers should plant now too! Planting now practically guarantees a crop that will do well and be easy to harvest. Growers get so keyed up in March that they start planting outdoors. By the time June rolls around, plants are 4 feet tall and very difficult to hide. Hiding huge plants is hard: Security becomes a bigger issue than growing a healthy crop!

Make indica-dominant clones flower indoors with a 12/12-hour day/night light schedule. Flower the clones for four weeks, then move them outdoors to enjoy the summer sunlight and warm temperatures. Many indica-dominant strains will continue flowering even though they don't receive 12 hours of uninterrupted darkness. These early bloomers will be ready to harvest four to six weeks after you take them outdoors. Small plants that are flowering in summer attract little or no attention from cops and robbers: These opportunistic sorts don't waste their time searching for flowering plants in the summer. An early crop will increase your chances of a successful harvest immenselv.

Add polymer crystals, coconut fiber, peat moss, mulch, etc., to planting holes to help the soil retain moisture. Remember to keep your guerrilla garden looking as natural as possible so that it blends in with the local flora.

Pests and diseases thrive in warm weather. Keep an eye out for them; check leaf undersides as well as the soil. Slimy snails, slugs and ruthless cutworms will demolish a crop in a few days if left unchecked. Wild pigs, deer, mice, etc., are easy to exclude with chicken wire or an inexpensive, low-slung, singlestrand electric fence. Repellents work well too, Apply repellents correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions. Set out bait for slugs and snails; my favorite bait is Deadline. Ask at your local nursery about common pests and uncommon plagues in your area.

Mulch around plants! A heavy layer (6 to 12 inches) of mulch



keeps moisture in the soil—in fact, it will attract more moisture. Move mulch a few inches away from stems so that mice don't set up housekeeping and dine on your plants; these rodents will "girdle" your plants (i.e., chew around their stems), cutting off the fluid flow. You can use almost anything for mulch—sticks, brush, rocks, plastic, etc.

Picture an abundant harvest in your mind's eye!

INDOORS

June marks the first day of summer and the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. (Technically, summer starts on June 20 in the Pacific Time Zone and June 21 further east in North America.) Don't get distracted: Keep your wits about you and remember to properly tend your indoor garden, even though the weather outside is beautiful.

Pests and diseases are thriving now and will sneak indoors any way they can. Don't schlep insects and spider mites into your growroom: Even a few healthy pests will reproduce indoors much more quickly than they would outside. Change your shoes and wash your hands before entering your growroom, and be sure to wipe down all tools with alcohol after use. A little prevention will help you avoid big problems down the road.

Monitor pH and EC (ppm) levels in your nutrient solution daily. Marijuana uses more water and fewer nutrients when the weather gets warm. Over-fertilizing plants during hot summer weather is common. Check the pH and EC of the growing medium to see if there's a nutrient buildup. Avoid toxic nutrient buildup by flushing with three times the volume of a mild (5%)

nutrient solution as the volume of substrate.

Top off the nutrient solution reservoir with fresh water every day. Irrigate plants more frequently if necessary. Check irrigation fittings to ensure they work properly. Check all containers to ensure that the growing medium is evenly moist. Pick up or tip each container to monitor how much moisture it contains. It's easy to forget to water one or two pots if irrigating by hand; I like to line the pots up and water them in sequence. Irrigate using a water wand with a shower-like head that delivers a soft, aerated spray to the soil surface. A drop of liquid dish soap per gallon helps the water penetrate thoroughly.

Flush the soil or soilless mix every 30 days! Leach pots with two to three times the volume of a mild nutrient solution as the volume of growing medium.

Children and nosy neighbors will be roaming the area during the summer. Kids are out of school and have more time to loiter around; they stay outside later at night and get up earlier in the morning. A nighttime walk outside the vicinity of your growroom will let you check for the incriminating click of solenoid switches, humming transformers and smell. Take every precaution necessary to disguise or get rid of any telltale evidence.

Take clones two to three weeks before harvest. Germinate seeds about two months before harvest so they're ready to move into the flowering room.

Harvest!

Clean room thoroughly and move in the next crop of clones, ₩





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JORGE'S ULTIMATE 12-WEEK GROW SCENARIO

Follow along day by day as our cultivation expert Jorge Cervantes takes you through a full 3-month grow cycle in this excerpt from his new book, *Marijuana Grow Basics: The Easy Guide for Cannabis Aficionados*. If you're seeking a bountiful harvest, take heed of Señor Cervantes' wisdom!

THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON

Take a look inside a "Hanging Garden" of earthly delights as Freebie takes us into the lair of a marijuana madman, mixing and blending nutrients by eye, while still achieving astonishing results. Learn how to adjust plant heights without having to ever move your grow lights.

SEEDS OF THE NORTH

Who does the deed of breeding the seeds of our pleasure? Senior Editor Dan Skye travels to Canada to talk with three different breeders who provide magnificent merchandise for a thriving seed bank based in Toronto.

REEFER AND THE RECESSION

It's in the news everywhere these days: if we tax cannabis we can soothe our economic woes. Are the benefits of legal pot for real, or is all this talk just another pipe dream? Deputy Director of NORML Paul Armentano takes a hard look at the stoned cold facts.

THE GREAT SMOKEOUT

Our staff of experts examines all the ins and outs of smoking: etiquette, stealth tactics, Hollywood stoners, and thumbs ups and downs for a whole slew of toking trivia. Educate yourself on the fine art of stoning oneself.

Russell Means Business!

The Native American activist and actor Russell Means talks about the modern Indian experience. He also discusses the newly formed Republic of Lakotah and the recent withdrawal from treaties with the US by tribal leaders.

PLUS: The HIGH TIMES summer music festival guide; Cultivation Editor Nico Escondido reports from Spannabis.

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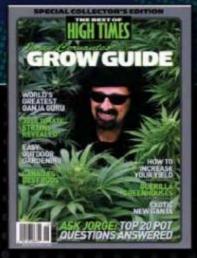
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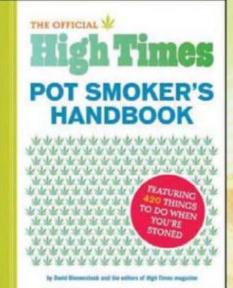




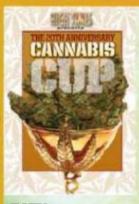
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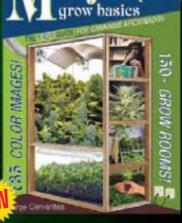


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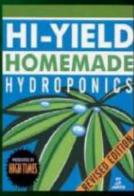


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