

buds for everybody' ... that's not realistic.'

What is realistic, according to Lee, is a legalization plan that offers "local control" over implementation. Which means the taxand-regulate initiative allows local communities to permit commercial cultivation and sales and reap the related tax benefits, but doesn't mandate that they do so. In fact, so long as federal law continues to outlaw marijuana in all its forms, Lee believes that any initiative requiring state and local authorities to defy the Feds will be dead on arrival. All of which means that while every adult 21 years of age or older in California would have the right to possess up to an ounce of cannabis, and also cultivate up to 25 square feet per private residence for personal use anywhere in the state, the initiative still leaves the door open for "dry counties" much like those that currently exist for alcohol, where all sales would be banned.

In the meantime, it's an open question exactly how the Justice Department and the DEA

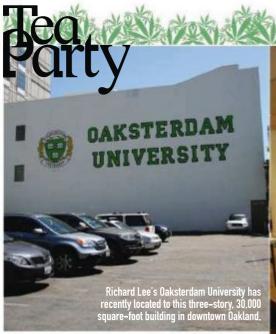
'We'll just have to wait and see what happens with the Feds, but I can't imagine that Obama has the time and political capital to waste on this.'—Richard Lee

would respond to recreational legalization in the world's eighth-largest economy. Will they maintain the "states' rights" approach they've mostly adopted toward medical marijuana, or open the door to a new era of raids, arrests and open civil disobedience like the one that followed the passage of Prop. 215?

"We'll just have to wait and see what happens with the Feds," Lee admits, "but I can't imagine Obama has the time and political capital to waste on this."

The good news is that local control not only allows the most conservative communities to drag their feet; it also empowers the most far-sighted and opportunistic to lead the way. And it's no coincidence that Oakland seems poised to do just that. The city fathers got their first real taste of the action in 2009, when the Lee-backed Ballot Measure F passed with 80 percent support, creating a special business-tax rate of 1.8 percent for medical-marijuana sales—a first-of-its kind revenue stream that the mayor of Oaksterdam credits with greatly increasing the local government's interest in promoting the industry.

At best, electoral victory in November will ignite a "race to the top," where pot-progressive communities across California compete and innovate in order to attract the green jobs and tax dollars that will inevitably result from moving marijuana out of the black market. But if American history—recent or otherwise—teaches us anything, it's that it's not all



smiles and sunshine when the invisible hand of the market gets unleashed and starts reaching into your pocket.

The Oakland City Council, which now unanimously supports legalization, has lately been investigating licensed cannabis cultivation as a means of closing the city's \$42 million budget shortfall, including a plan to authorize just four industrial-scale indoor facilities, one of which would reportedly be up to 100,000 square feet in size and capable of harvesting and processing 58 pounds per day—every day. Numbers like that indicate Oakland's clear interest in growing cannabis for far more than local consumption.

While the Oaksterdam Empire hopes to secure one of those lucrative cultivation licenses for its own use. Lee nonetheless favors a plan that would allow more and smaller growers to make a living. Meanwhile, after a vote, over 100 employees of Oaksterdam University and related businesses (including Lee) recently joined the United Food and Commercial Workers union, a practice that would presumably extend to Oaksterdam's future cultivation plans. Still, the "head honcho" fears that communities already hesitant to regulate marijuana may prefer to deal with a handful of large, established entities rather than trying to sensibly oversee what exists now: an unaffiliated, unregulated hodgepodge of many smaller, difficult-to-quantify growers.

"I hate that trend," Lee says with obvious sincerity. "That's what we're seeing in Oakland, and while I don't mind there being a big facility, it's the idea of having *only* two or three big ones that I don't like."

Ultimately, if marijuana goes the way of American-style free-market capitalism, larger and larger fish—taking advantage of economies of scale and political clout never before seen—will keep gobbling up bigger and bigger pieces of the pot pie, until the cannabis industry from seed to stash looks just like every other segment of an agricultural system dominated by large, powerful business interests. And even if the existing federal ban on marijuana—which is extremely unlikely to be lifted in the near future—keeps multinational corporations like Phillip Morris and Monsanto out of the pot fields for the time being,





Ideas long considered pot-fueled 'pipe dreams' soon began to look more and more like the most sensible way to move forward.

anyone who's paying attention already sees that the "American family farmers" in need of Willie Nelson's support may soon include those who grow his favorite green herb.

"If it goes totally legal, the mom-and-pop growers are going to be a thing of the past," says Dale Gieringer, a co-author of Prop. 215 and the state coordinator of California NORML since 1987, who now supports Prop 19 despite initial reservations. "The price will go way down, and it ought to go way down—but it will take awhile."

Gieringer credits the export market for California cannabis across state lines as the main thing propping up pot prices as medical-marijuana laws continue to make cultivation less risky, thereby removing at least part of what consumers have come to know as the "prohibition tax." Still, since the legalization of medical marijuana, indoor prices in California have slid noticeably. while top-quality outdoor now sells for under \$2,000 per pound wholesale—less than half of what the same crop would have commanded 15 years ago. According to Richard Lee, if the initiative passes, retail prices should eventually reach \$100 per ounce, including all taxes.

So where does that leave the legendary growers of Northern California's famed Emerald Triangle? In a word: *panicked*.

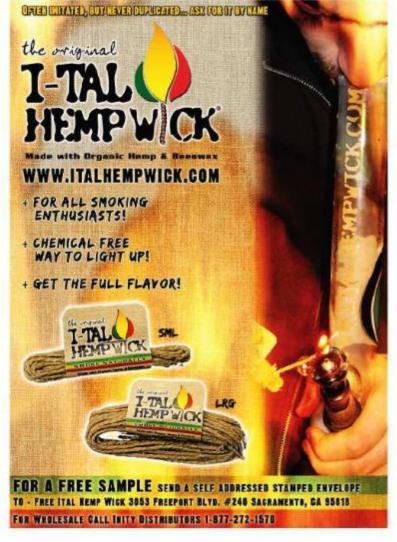
Up in Humboldt County, local musician, activist and KMUD radio host Anna Hamilton read the writing on the wall and decided to get proactive. Her first foray into pot politics came about five years ago, when she used her radio show to help spark a public debate about the rash of diesel spills caused by unsafe, illegal, indoor grow ops powered by generators in the remote hills. Initially, Hamil-

ton felt considerable fear about going public with a complaint about marijuana growing—a major taboo among those living behind "the Redwood Curtain"—but once the topic was broached, the locals began to talk among themselves about solutions. The result was a dramatic reduction in diesel spills, without any new laws or regulatory oversight other than an altered sense of what was acceptable behavior in the community.

KMUD first won the enduring affection of local growers via participation in the Civil Liberties Monitoring Project, which was formed in 1983 (the same year as the federal government's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting) to curtail civilrights abuses in the Emerald Triangle, most famously by announcing the arrival and likely destination of anti-marijuana helicopters over the airwaves. To Hamilton, those earliest incursions by heavily armed Vietnam vets and CAMP fanatics—flying their choppers low enough over the land to literally scare livestock to death—will always represent the truest and most brutal face of the War on Marijuana.

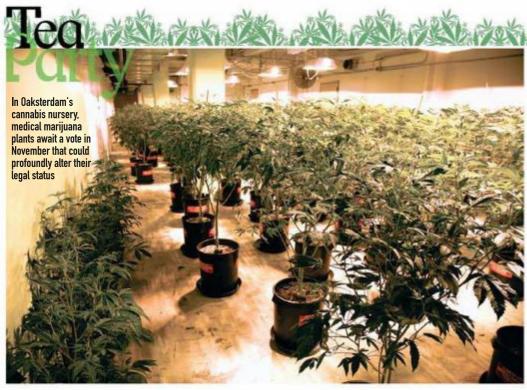
Now she sees a far more existential threat on the horizon, one with the potential to sink not only the "big-time growers," but also the lower middle class and working poor who tend smaller gardens just to get by—not to mention all of the unrelated businesses and individuals that have come to rely on marijuana money in a little corner of the world where cannabis production represents the No. 1 economic activity. If legalization pulls that rug out from under Humboldt County—particularly in this economy—pretty soon property values could tank, schools and hospitals could lose their funding, and











'Growers who are against legalization are harvesting bad karma. When somebody else gets busted, that's the subsidy that keeps prices high.'—Richard Lee

the whole fabric of society could start to unravel.

When confronting these harsh realities as an individual commercial farmer, the only logical response is to plant twice as much of any crop to help make up for the drop in prices. Based on local gossip, as well as the sheer number of trucks that have been spotted hauling 24-pallet loads of soil along Highway 101, it looks like many local growers have indeed decided to "double down," adopting a strategy that, unfortunately, when writ large, will only serve (in Hamilton's own words) to "drive the price into the toilet."

And so she realized that the cannabis cultivators of Northern California must either grow together or fall apart. Following months of speaking with friends, colleagues, neighbors and strangers—not to mention repeatedly cold-calling every government worker listed in the blue section of the phone book—Hamilton organized a public forum last March called "What's After Pot?" that brought together elected officials, business leaders, cannabis growers, medical-marijuana patients and providers, local law enforcement and other interested parties for a no-holds-barred discussion about how Humboldt County might not only survive legalization, but learn to thrive because of it.

Close to 200 people showed up for a truly historic evening that garnered considerable national press coverage but, more importantly, started the locals talking again about their own mutual best interests. The crystallizing moment came when Tony Smithers, the executive director of the Humboldt County Convention and Visitors Bureau, acknowledged that he fully intends to promote the region as a Mecca for marijuana tourists just as soon as the law allows.

"It was a shock," Hamilton admits. "Everybody went from hush-hush to 'Well, let's just paint the whole thing purple!"

Soon, ideas long considered pot-fueled "pipe dreams" began to look more and more like the most sensible way to move forward. Noting that their neighbors in Napa Valley produce only four percent of California's wine but maintain a worldwide reputation and a thriving, vineyard-based tourism industry, those who have grown accustomed to hiding out and laying low actually started debating the relative merits of branding their bud, forming growers' collectives, and creating the kind of progressive cultivation regulations that would protect the small-scale, outdoor, organic family farms that made Humboldt-grown grass famous in the first place.

Perhaps the greatest promise lies in plans to offer attractions like a marijuana museum and education center, "bud and breakfasts," farmers' markets, guided tours of the fields at pot-growing "dude ranches," high-end cannabis-friendly healing centers and yoga retreats, and other as-yet-unimagined businesses catering to the kind of travelers who will come to sample the legendary local produce, then stay for the redwoods, beaches, restaurants, fishing, hiking, bird-watching and lively cultural scene.

In an ironic twist, marijuana tourism could bring back the far mellower vibe that pervaded the Emerald Triangle when the back-to-the-landers first arrived from San Francisco in the late '60s as flower-power refugees and started growing pot up in the hills for their own heads, and to subsidize their homesteads. Before the government's paramilitary raids terrorized an entire generation of local youth, and before the modernday gold rush that prohibition spawned brought in an era of big money, energy-intensive indoor "gardens" and unfriendly neighbors, this really was a kind of pot paradise—and maybe, just maybe, it could be again.

As for the initiative, Hamilton calls it "the most reasonable thing" she's ever read, despite reservations about the new sentencing guidelines for minors. Still, while she wishes legalization were just a couple of years off so her community would have more time to prepare, "it's a good thing someone like Richard Lee is doing this, because it could be a whole lot worse."

So how do you vote when the issue at stake pits your own (and your neighbors') economic interests against the continuing human misery that is the status quo?

"Growers who are against legalization are harvesting bad karma," Richard Lee says flatly. "When somebody else gets busted, that's the subsidy that keeps prices high—that and the violence down in Mexico."

Anna Hamilton recommends that the truly torn admit they have a conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the decision by declining to vote on Prop. 19 entirely. But don't skip the races at the top of the ticket, as you'll have the chance to vote against Los Angeles District Attorney Steve Cooley, the Republican candidate for attorney general, who is running on a platform that includes banning all sales of medical marijuana anywhere in the state.

So while it's tempting to think that the amazing recent gains in common sense when it comes to marijuana—at least in California—are part of an inevitable march toward rationality, compassion and (ultimately) freedom, the very existence of Steve Cooley reminds us that reactionary forces will never give up their inexplicable hatred and intractable misunderstanding of this most beneficial plant.

In 1972, when the baby boomers first came of age and *everybody* smoked pot, a ballot initiative—unrelated to the current one, but also called Prop. 19—proposed a statute ensuring that "no person eighteen years or older shall be punished criminally or denied any right or privilege because of his planting, cultivating, harvesting, drying, processing, otherwise preparing, transporting, possessing or using marijuana."

Only 35 percent of Californians voted yes.

A lot has changed in the last 40 years, but certainly not everything. In a sane world, the challenge facing the professional political consultants working to pass Prop. 19 would be laughably easy, literally the stuff of farce. After all, in a society that not only allows legal alcohol and tobacco but cheers for a Jack Daniels-sponsored NASCAR team and sells candy cigarettes to children, convincing voters that maybe it's time to stop arresting their fellow citizens for growing a harmless plant—especially when we're all going broke—should be a pretty easy sell.

The latest opinion polls estimate public support at around 50 percent, with just a few months to go before Election Day. But the only poll that really matters takes place on November 2. Check out taxcannabis.org for more information about the initiative, including how you can help legalize marijuana in California once and for all! **



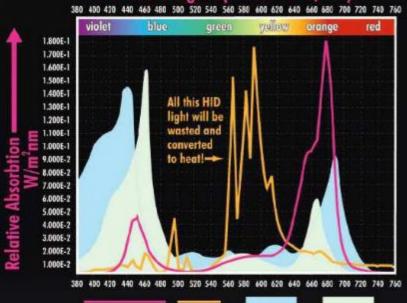
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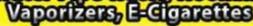
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THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW WITH GARY JOHNSON, BY DAVID BIENENSTOCK

When Gary Johnson first proposed legalizing marijuana in 1999, shortly after winning his second term as governor of New Mexico, he recognized in advance that taking such a principled and common-sense stand would result in his total marginalization from mainstream national politics, at least in the short term.

More than a decade later, he's decided not only that the moment's right to return to the political arena, but that this time around, the very same issue just might prove a winner. After all, the latest polling shows that well over 40 percent of American voters support marijuana legalization, with the needle still moving in the right direction, and yet no national politician has ever really tried to ride that green wave into high office. Until now.

With all due respect—and a great deal of respect is due—to Representatives Barney Frank, Ron Paul and Dennis Kucinich, their unequivocal support of marijuana-law reform didn't get them elected and doesn't keep them in office. And while there's certainly a lot more to Gary Johnson, both as a person and a politician, than this one issue, it is the thing he's best known for, as well as the single issue capable of—forgive the pun—igniting his nascent 2012 presidential campaign, taking him from principled fringe candidate to potential dark horse.

"I choose not to smoke marijuana, but you know what I thought when I smoked it the first time? The government lied," Johnson told Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert during a recent appearance clearly aimed at raising his name recognition among *The Colbert Report*'s politically-minded stoner demographic. "I just think the government should tell the truth."

A consistent, reasonable voice in support of small government, low taxes and personal liberty, Johnson seems to match the national mood. Still, most political pundits would put his chances

of reaching the White House on a "Legalize it!" platform somewhere between slim and none. Then again, it wouldn't be the first time that Johnson came out of nowhere to disprove the "experts" and win an election.

Johnson was a political unknown when he ran for governor the first time in 1994, promising to bring a "common-sense business approach to politics." Prior to seeking office, he had founded and operated his own business—which eventually employed over a thousand people—while pursuing passions that included ski racing, competing in triathlons and smoking marijuana a couple of times a week.

Johnson won't get "pinned down" on exactly when he quit smoking herb, but he was certainly a personal and professional success long before he ever stopped puffing. In fact, there's been some speculation that Big J Construction was named in honor of one of its owner's favorite pastimes, although he denies the rumor.

Regardless, while Johnson may have refrained from using the L-word until after New Mexico's term-limits law made him a lame-duck governor, he hasn't looked back—or backed down—since then. Even when discussing his own cannabis use, he never apologizes or feigns a tale of sin and redemption. Instead, his version of "hitting rock bottom" involves logging a slightly slower time on a practice run after smoking a joint on the chairlift while training as a competitive skier.

As a member of the board of directors of Students for Sensible Drug Policy, Johnson continues to lend his name and reputation to an emerging student revolution in opposition to the War on Drugs. And while winning the Republican nomination in 2012—never mind the presidency—remains an incredible long shot, simply having his voice as part of the national conversation may help pull the rug out from under marijuana prohibition once and for all.

For a preview of how Johnson would approach the issue during a televised debate with his Republican primary opponents, witness this exchange from a recent appearance with Sean Hannity on Fox News:

JOHNSON: I find it funny that Republicans would talk about the fact that this country stands for freedom, this country stands for liberty and the personal responsibility that goes along with that, but not when it comes to marijuana. And, Sean, if the government made drinking beer illegal tomorrow, would you continue to drink beer or would you stop drinking beer?

HANNITY: I always obey the law

JOHNSON: But you would work to change that law HANNITY: I drink—I'm a lightweight, I don't drink a lot. But you can drink alcohol, a beer, two beers, a glass of wine, two glasses of wine, and you're not impaired. If you smoke marijuana, you are impaired. JOHNSON: I would disagree. In my experience, I would disagree. Denver voted to decriminalize the use of marijuana on a campaign based on marijuana being safer than alcohol, so I guess that got put to the test with a campaign. And as you're aware, Massachusetts voted to decriminalize marijuana this last general election 65-35. And to my knowledge, no incidents. Nothing.

Returning his pro-legalization message to a decidedly more receptive media outlet, Johnson was kind enough to sit down at the HIGH TIMES booth during the THC Expose in Los Angeles for an interview just weeks before he officially declared his candidacy for president.

When did you first personally conclude that the legalization of marijuana is a good idea? It would have been back in 1999. I wanted to take a hard look at the War on Drugs, and as part of that, I wanted to examine legalization as a potential alternative to what we were doing. Before that, I had no idea of the compelling argument that existed.



So you went into this with an open mind?

I really did. But I had to start with the perception that the government was putting out—that Holland had such terrible drug use and abuse, and that their crime was through the roof. So I wondered: How is that explainable, and should we really legalize if this is their experience? And I came to find out that what the government was saying about Holland was a lie.

And to whom would you attribute that lie?

[Former Clinton administration Drug Czar] Barry McCaffrey, for example—he used the argument that Holland was a terrible place. And you know that is not the case. So I did engage in that argument with a lot of the drug-enforcement people that initially came out to bash me.

Do you think that was a misconception the government truly believed, or were they disseminating what they knew to be false statements?

Well, it seems to me that the head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy ought to know better. I can't say what their motives were—all I can say is what was actually coming out of their mouths.

Is this something that you feel your fellow Republicans should embrace as a personal-liberty issue or a small-government issue?

Yes. And on top of that, it's a pocketbook issue—90 percent of the drug problem is prohibition-related, and yet half of what we're spending on the courts and prisons is drug-related. We're arresting 1.8 million people a year, and what are we getting for it? What is the result? There is no decrease in use. It's just really insane. And I think a lot of the people opposed to legalizing marijuana are opposed to it because they simply haven't tried it.

How about you—still smoking?

I choose not to, and I haven't had a drink of alcohol in 23 years. But I will just echo what everybody reading this already knows, which is that marijuana is safer than alcohol.

And is it safe to say that you're a supporter of the tax-and-regulate voter initiative in California? Yeah, I support the movement and have for a long time. The idea of taxing and regulating will make California a better place and a good example for the rest of the nation.

What dangers do you see in legalization? What could go wrong?

Government overregulation of what should be the absolute right to put into our bodies whatever we want, as long as it isn't going to cause harm to anybody else.

Arnold Schwarzenegger can't run again, so if the legalization initiative does pass in November, a new governor will have to figure out how to deal with it. As a former governor, what advice would you offer?



'A lot of the people opposed to legalizing marijuana simply haven't tried it.'

When I was still in office, I would often be criticized by people claiming that, "if we legalize marijuana like Governor Johnson wants to, New Mexico will become a Mecca for pot smokers." And I would always joke and say, "You mean millions of doctors, lawyers, business owners, entrepreneurs, authors and musicians are going to move to New Mexico because of legalization? Gee, that's going to be really terrible!" And I think it could actually have that kind of impact on the state of California.

What protections would you like to see in place for people who are existing growers of marijuana? Do you think it's important to protect their jobs and their livelihoods as we move toward legalization?

No, I don't—I'm a free-market guy, so legalize it and let the markets prevail. Those that have been growing it will have a head start, and it certainly would be tough to play catch-up in a market that individuals have a lot of expertise in.

How would you rate the Obama administration in dealing with this issue and the War on Drugs in general?

The dialogue seems to be a little bit better—but on the other hand, maybe the rhetoric isn't matching up to the actions.

As the former governor of a border state, what effect do you think legalization would have on the Mexican drug cartels, particularly the violence

along the borders and in those communities?

I realize that you're serving me up a gigantic softball, but the Mexican drug cartels make 70 percent of their profits off of marijuana. Legalize pot and you're going to do away with a lot of prohibition-related border violence. Basically, these are business disputes played out with guns rather than in the courts.

Do you think citizens who still support the prohibition of marijuana are willing to suffer these secondary costs, or are they unaware of the real price of this policy?

I really think that you can attribute all of this to unawareness—I don't want to say "lack of education" so much as just listening to government dogma for the last 50 years. It has a way of actually having an impact on the way people think.

How often do you meet prominent people who say, "I agree with you 100 percent about legalizing pot, but I can't say anything"? Is that still a common phenomenon?

Yeah, it is—not so much prominent individuals as politicians, then and now. That's the comment I get from politicians to this very day.

Do you think that when public opinion changes enough, they will move with those prevailing winds?

Of course.

Well, I ask that because there's a well-established and powerful status quo that benefits from the prohibition of marijuana and wants it to continue, despite the costs.

I am going to argue that, in this next election, the

sentiment is to vote them out—Republicans, Democrats, whatever. Which means that when marijuana legalization reaches the tipping point, which I think it's actually close to doing, the politicians that have opposed it are not going to be in office. **





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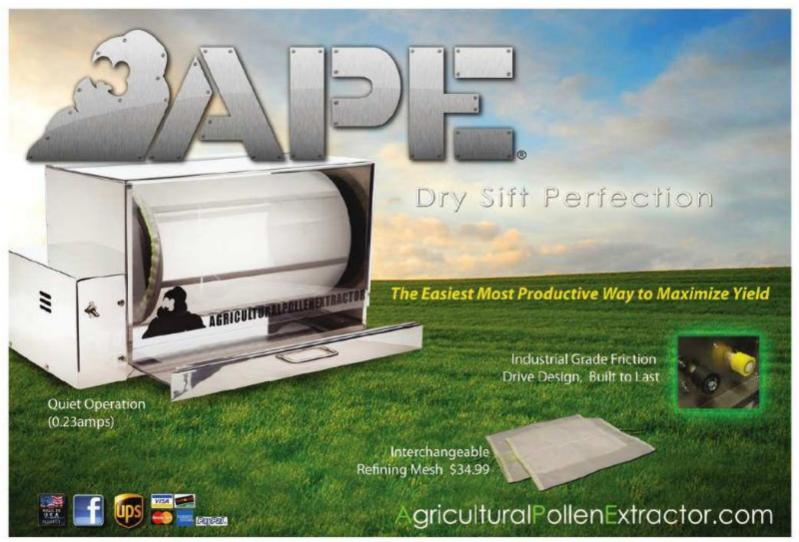
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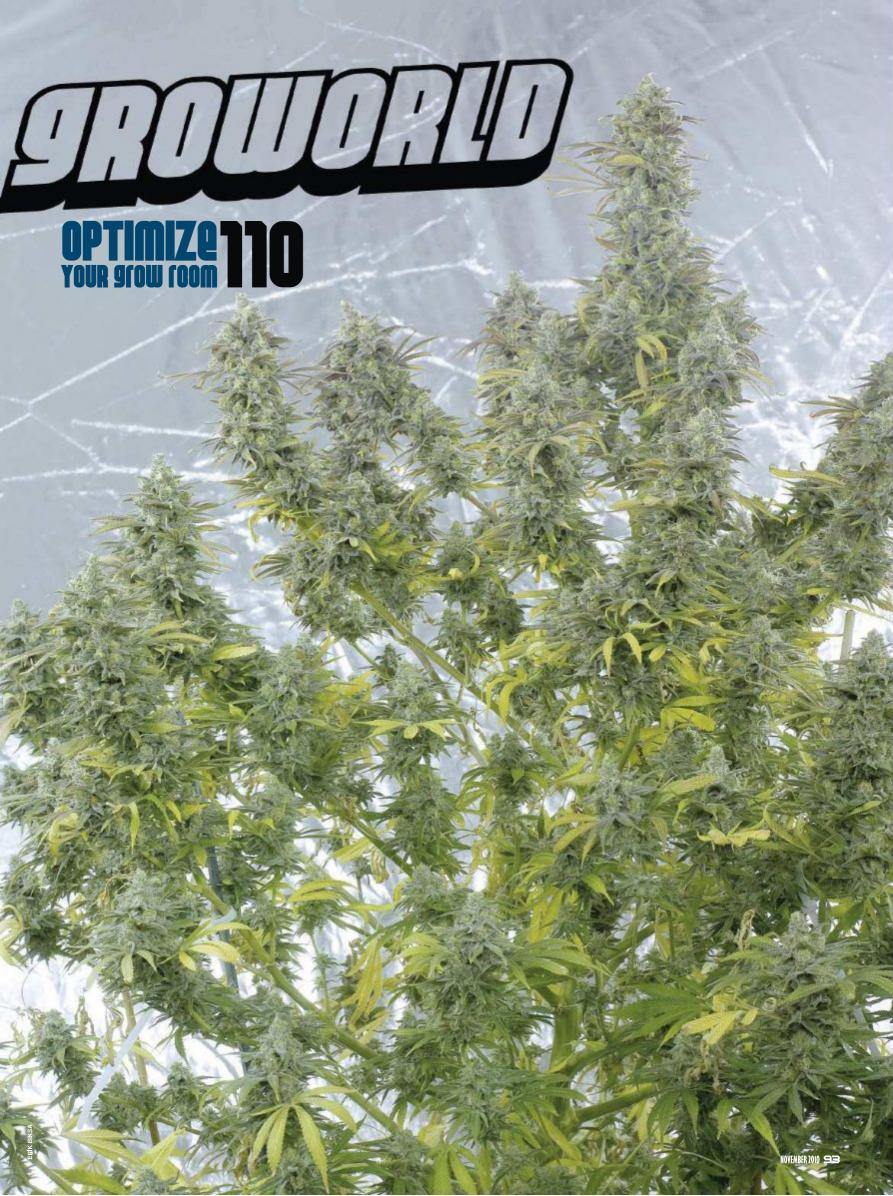
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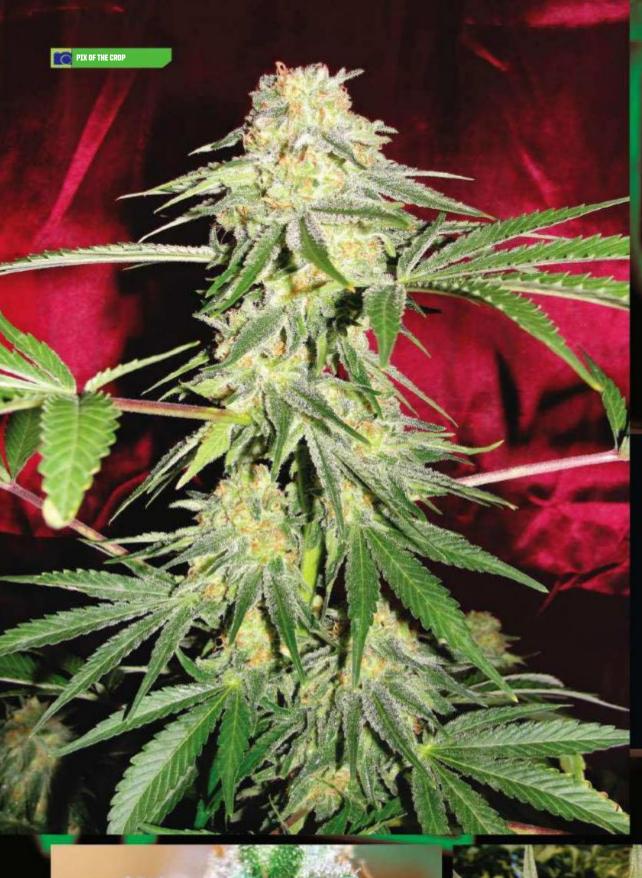












GLISTENING GANJA (left)

This is my Hindu Skunk swelling, just days away from harvest. Hope!!!!
—Boner, Le Grand, CA



FLYING HIGH (above)

This Jack the Ripper plant was grown in El Dorado County, in a paddock that was once used for horses. The elevation is about 2,000 feet. This strain is one of the latest finishers, but well worth it.

—Tropicaldrifter



KUSHY JEWEL (above)

Here's a taste of some Purple Kush.—Saskatoon, SK

CLEAR HEADED (below left)

Check out this mixed system: LED lights and fluorescents. Things turned out well!—The Turtle

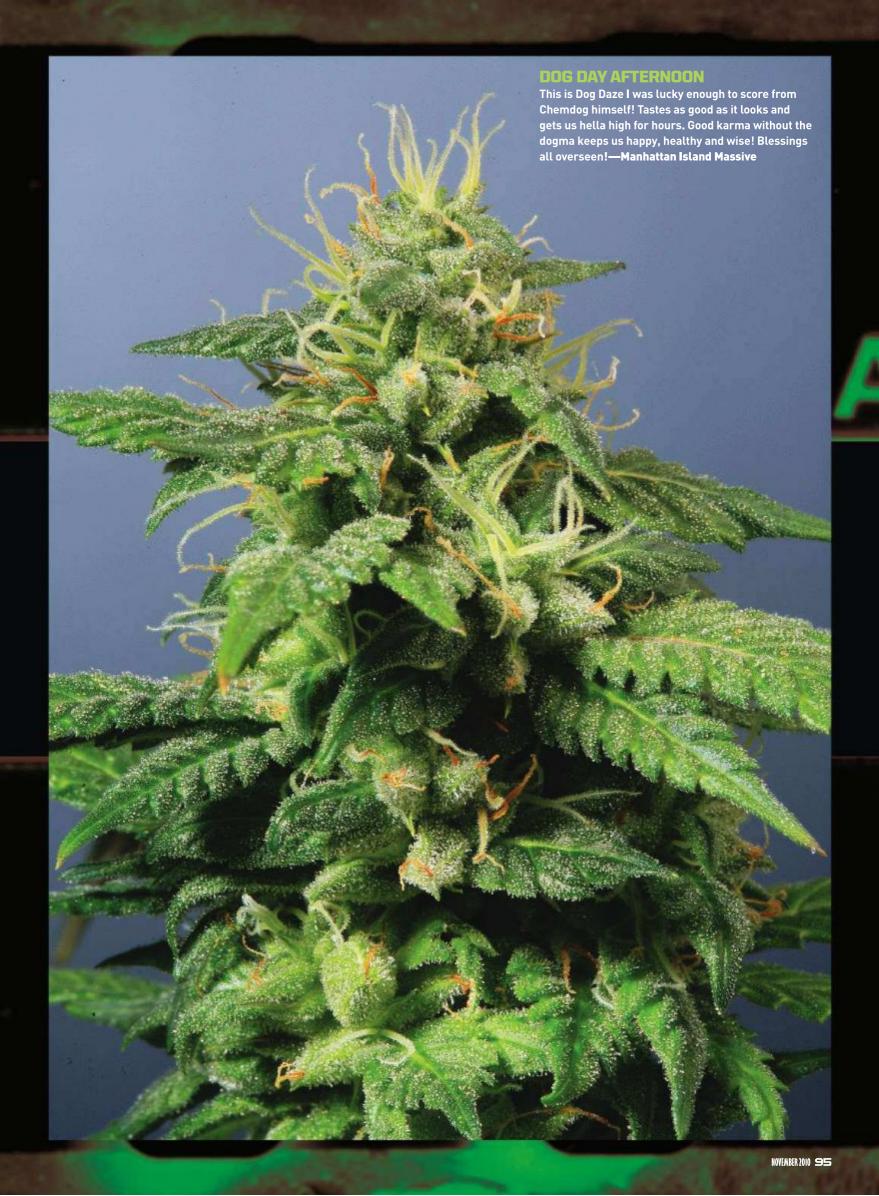
STINKY PINKY (below)

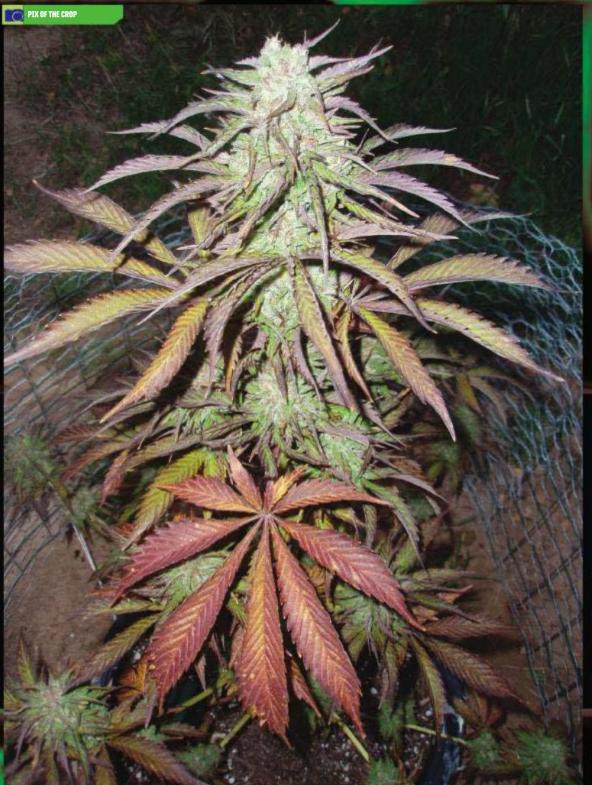
Here's a tasty shot from my legal, all-organic outdoor garden.

—Peace









TECHNICOLOR DREAM BUD (left)
Some more shots from SoCal.
Getting the early harvests in while the big babes are just starting to be put out in the big holes!—McDank805

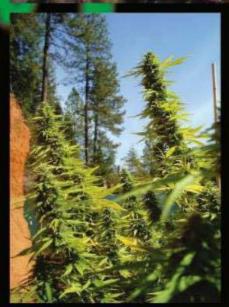


BLACKOUT EXPRESS (above) Here's some love from the Pineapple Express.—Maine



FORGET ROSES (above)

A colorful bouquet of Colorado Grape Medicine (Godzilla Grape). —AC in Colorado

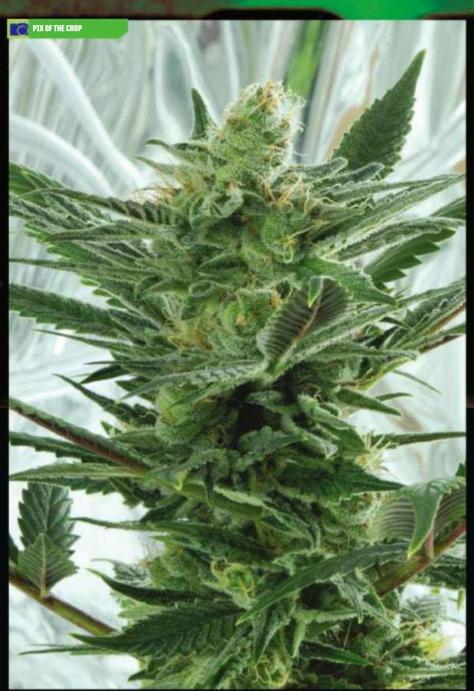




WIDOW'S PEAKS (left)

Longtime HT readers sharing our pix from last season's outdoor organic crop. Enjoy! —Funny Farm, Shasta County, CA



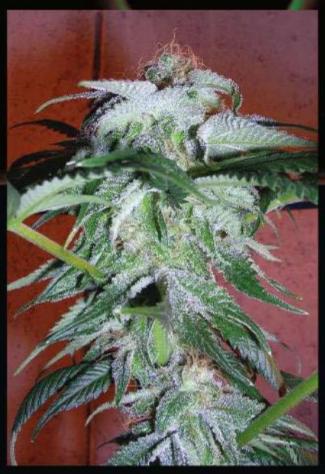


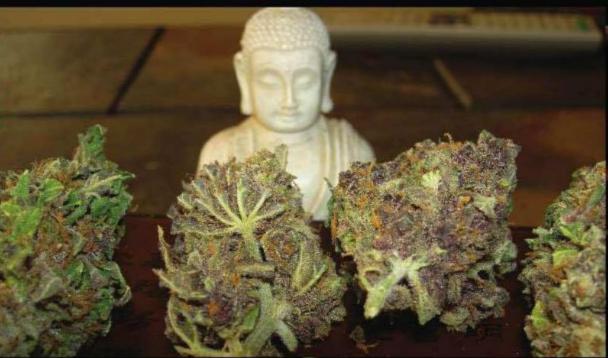
BUD BLOWOUT (left)

This God Bud is grown in my own custom soils and it's 100% legal.—Technologikill, Seattle, WA

BUDS THAT CARE (below)

We're a medical-marijuana dispensary and careprovider service in Fort Collins, CO. Here are a few pictures from our garden that we wanted to share.—BBC





HERBAL OFFERINGS (Lieft)

This is some Purple Urkel from a buddy of mine. Isn't she beautiful? Peace and love from NorCal!—GanjaSamurai

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

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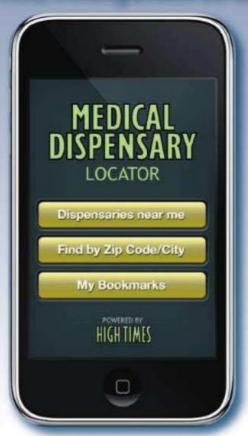
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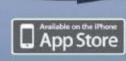


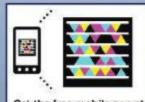
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BY NICO ESCONDIDO

EVERYTHING WIEDICKI. & WORE

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

In Cali, Time to Be Responsible

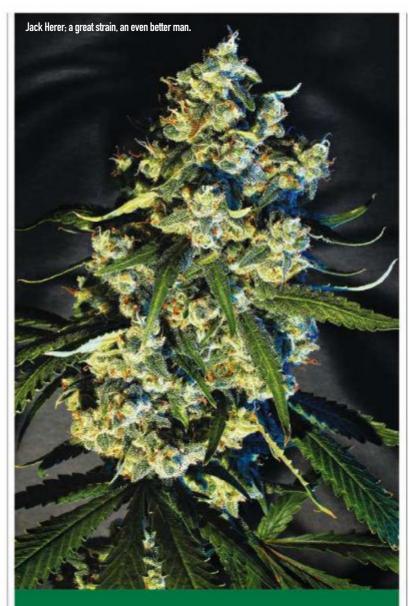
This is a tough topic to broach, but Rich Lee's Proposition 19, which will be on the ballot in California's November 2 elections, has stirred the pot (both literally and figuratively) to the point where the frenzy has reached a fever pitch—and perhaps caused some to lose their minds.

Californians have become divided—inexplicably, to the rest of the country—on whether or not to tax and regulate (i.e., legalize) marijuana for adults 21 years of age and older. Divided? Yes, divided.

Well, sorry, California—but this is one instance where you can't have your cake and eat it, too. You lucky bastards already have a New Amsterdam—esque state and have proudly led the way for 14 more states to pass medical legislation—and we, the rest of the county, thank you immensely for that. But now it's time for you guys to step up and finish the job!

Many have argued—more accurately, fretted—about the cons of legalization, worrying that bud prices will drop, the market will fall out, and growers will suddenly go bankrupt. Crazy thinking to the rest of the world, for sure, but perhaps this paranoia and propaganda has a slight tinge of truth to it—within the state's borders. However, it's still largely overstated, almost to the point of incurring accusations of sheer greed by the rest of America. Food for thought, at the very least.

But we leave you with these last words, oh beautiful people of California: Please think about the greater good, your brothers and sisters around North America who have been counting on you ever since Prop. 215 passed almost 15 years ago. What will our adversaries say if Prop. 19 fails? They will point



MEDICINAL STRAIN OF THE MONTH

Jack Herer

Our medicinal strain of the month is not only a testament to a great man, but also to a great plant. Just as the man embodied the passion and right-mindedness of our movement, so does this exceptional herb, which provides excellent yields, sweet taste and high medical value to patients across the globe.

Jack Herer, an offshoot of the original Super Silver Haze, is a more balanced hybrid consisting of pure Haze and Northern Lights #5, with the male plant coming from the Haze side. The difference between Jack and the SSH is that the latter also has some Skunk in her and may have the parentage in reverse. The SSH took home back-to-back HIGH TIMES Cannabis Cups in '98 and '99, which tells you that Jack isn't far from championship status itself.

Balanced hybrids (around 50/50 on the satival indica scale) often have uplifting highs, which make them suitable for medicinal use by people with insomnia and certain mood and attention-deficit disorders. Jack Herer is also a big yielder—perfect for patients who need to grow their own medicine. Very popular for indoor grows in Canada, Jack Herer seeds can also be found in Amsterdam via Sensi Seeds.

at you and use it against all of us. Also, what will happen to the 12 states with medical legislation pending—and all of their patients? We need you, California, to stand up now and take responsibility and finish what you started. And we, the

rest of the country, promise to continue buying your pot!

Arizona Rising

This November, Arizona voters will decide whether to legalize medical marijuana and allow doctors to pre-

scribe it to patients with severe ailments. If the bill passes, the state hopes to regulate the drug itself.

"The bill is for a select, limited group of patients that have a certain class of illnesses that can be effectively treated by marijuana, and we want to make sure they have access to the medication that they need without being afraid of being arrested," said a spokesman for the Arizona Marijuana Policy Project.

Proposition 203 lists people with cancer, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C, ALS, Crohn's disease and Alzheimer's as prime candidates for medical marijuana—but it leaves the door open to a number of additional symptoms, from nausea to severe pain, as well. Also, patients who don't live within 25 miles of a dispensary will be able to grow their own medicine—a smart addition to the plan.

Said an advocate campaigning against Prop. 203: "It's really not about medical marijuana—it's about decriminalization and tying up the hands of the police, the prosecutors and the courts." Um, yeah ... that is what it's about. It's a plant, it's medical, and it should be legal!

'Nice Try' Award for Michigan

While retroactivity in applying new laws is often left to the discretion of judges, it usually doesn't work out in favor of defendants. This is something to keep in mind for those living (and thinking about growing) in states that have pending medical-marijuana legislation: Don't get started just yet.

The Michigan Appeals Court recently ruled that the state's medical-marijuana law can't be used retroactively to spare people from conviction on drug charges. This was a reversal of an earlier decision by a Tuscola County judge, who had dismissed charges against a man caught with nine plants and drug paraphernalia. Keith Campbell says he was using marijuana for medicinal purposes. Unfortunately, the bust occurred in 2007, a year before the medical-marijuana law took effect.

The Appeals Court noted that there are affirmative defenses for pot possession if the drug is used to ease an illness. But the court also ruled that there's nothing in the Michigan law that allows it to be applied retroactively. *

Got medical questions? Pass 'em over to Nico at nico@hightimes.com.

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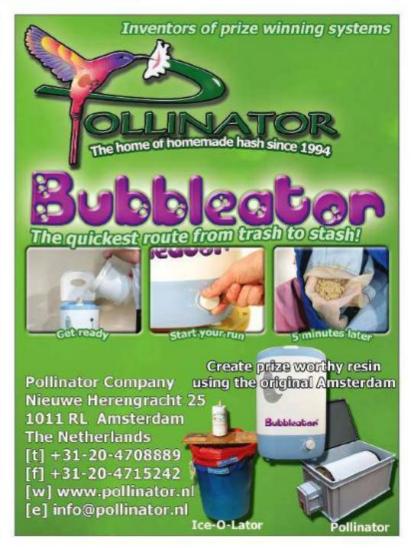


CANNATONIC









COUNTDOWN TO LEGALIZATION

California is on the verge of a history-defining moment.

California citizens are poised to make history this November 2 by voting to legalize marijuana, and I'm so excited that I've been given the opportunity to be involved in this tremendously important campaign. Whether or not Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010, ultimately passes in November, I'm so proud of all the hard work this campaign has done and the great things we've accomplished in terms of educating people about the pros and cons of marijuana as well as the laws that prohibit it. And none of this would have been possible without the massive dedication of SSDP chapters and affiliated college groups around the state.

No matter the outcome in California, we've already made legalization a mainstream political issue across the country. Both the national and international media have followed this campaign closely, which in turn has helped give marijuana legalization the legitimacy that its advocates have been championing for decades. The public has finally realized how many people are seriously impacted by prohibition and has also taken note of the passion that we students have for ending these misguided policies.

Throughout the state, SSDP chapters and other student organizations have been working tirelessly knocking on doors, organizing public-education events and registering people to vote. Throughout the country, SSDPers have shown support for the California initiative by reaching out to huge numbers of the state's voters. In fact, these efforts have been significant enough to have a decisive impact on the

outcome of this election. We have been able to demonstrate that this is, among other things, a *student* issue, and that students are leading the way in overturning these unjust and harmful

turning these unjust and harmful laws.

We have shown the world what we are capable of as students and have proven ourselves once again as the agents of progressive change. But this work is not yet over: The campaign is still gearing up for our last major push to get out the vote and make sure that our voices

are heard at the ballot box. We have already surpassed our largest accomplishments, but November 2 is our chance to earn a place in the history books.

It is crucial for our movement that we continue this forward momentum in the direction of more sensible, fair and just marijuana laws. This is the closest we've come to re-legalizing cannabis, which means we may very well be on the verge of a turning point in American history regarding our drug laws. If we continue to escalate our efforts—no matter how hard it's been or how tired we're getting—marijuana could be legal in America's most populous state next month, and it will have been students who played a pivotal role in getting it done.

To learn more about how to get involved in the student movement to end the War on Drugs, visit ssdp.org today.—Evan Nison

Evan Nison is the president of the Ithaca College SSDP chapter as well as the deputy field director and student outreach coordinator for the passage of Proposition 19, the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010.

Ask Dr. Mitch

Dr. Mitch,
A shrink wants to put a
magnet on my head to treat
the depression that he thinks
makes me turn to the plant. Would
a giant magnet fry my brain or give
me a seizure or something?

Hi W.,

Transcranial magnetic stimulation involves 45 minutes a day of sitting with a fancy electric coil on your head. The current is supposed to get neurotransmitters to squirt nicely and lift your mood. A few folks got seizures while scientists were figuring out the gizmo, but these are rare now. The magnet does give some people a wicked headache; it's really only approved for those who haven't responded to other treatments. If you're not depressed now and not running into problems with your current treatment, I'm not sure why you'd bother.

I think that vaporized herb is different from smoked because cannabinol doesn't get into the vapor. Does this make sense?

Tiberius

Hi Tiberius,

THC vaporizes at around 390° Fahrenheit. Cannabinol (CBN) vaporizes at around 415°F. A lot of vaporizers only heat up to about 410°F, so it's possible they're not cranking out the CBN. Nevertheless, CBN doesn't create subjective effects on its own and seems to enhance THC's effects only slightly, so it shouldn't make a huge difference. As good as the plant is, most folks won't miss the CBN.

I'm using hypnosis for creativity and wondered if marijuana might help me get into a trance.

Green Machine

Hi Green,

A study back in the 1970s showed that the plant can increase suggestibility, so the potential is there. But the research on hypnosis and creativity is mixed, with some studies supporting a connection and others not—which means it probably works for some folks, but not others. For example, author Andrew M. Greeley swears by it, though I doubt he uses cannabis.

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.

PREEDOM FIGHTER

ANNE OF GREEN JERSEY

The Garden State's Anne Davis takes on the governor. By Russ Bellville

If the end of Prohibition in the 1930s has any lesson for marijuana-law reformers, it's that women—particularly mothers—must play a vital role in moving public opinion whenever policy meets perceived morality.

This month's Freedom Fighter, Anne Davis of New Jersey, exemplifies the legacy of 20th-century female reformers like Pauline Sabin. Davis is also a single mom and a practicing family-law attorney, so she has seen firsthand the devastation that can happen in a courtroom due to a parent's use of marijuana.

"Marijuana use comes up in custody cases all the time, and it is inherently unfair," she says. "A positive test in New Jersey will definitely result in supervised parenting time with limited visits and no overnights, regardless of how wonderful a parent may be. It's a damn shame."

Davis was appalled that families no different than her own were terrorized, not by the use of marijuana, but by our legal system's reaction to it. In 2008, she made the leap from bystander to activist by attending the NORML Aspen Legal Seminar and the NORML Conference in Berkeley. "As a registered Republican, I wasn't sure that marijuana-law reform, with its connotations of 'anti-establishment' and liberalism, would be welcoming to me," she notes. "I found just the opposite—that marijuana-law reform is truly a conservative message of personal responsibility, limited government and states' rights."

Davis was instrumental in the formation of NORML New Jersey and was recently elected executive director. She also helped lobby for passage of New Jersey's med-pot law and is currently challenging the new administration of Governor Chris Christie—a fellow Republican—to stop delaying its implementation.

Russ Bellville hosts NORML's daily audio podcast at stash.norml.org.



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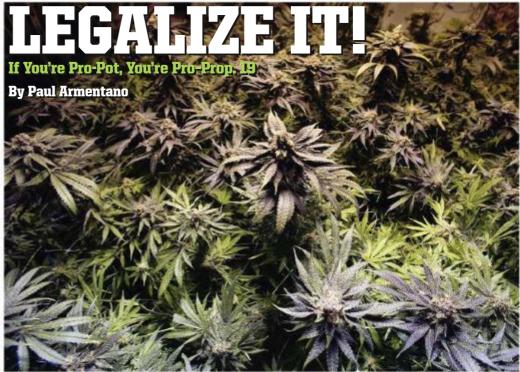








MORMLIZER



This November, voters in California—the world's eighth-largest economy, and the place where one in eight Americans resides—will have an opportunity to become the first state in the US to legalize the possession, cultivation and sale of cannabis for non-medical consumers by voting in the affirmative for Proposition 19, the ballot initiative formally known as the Regulate, Control and Tax Cannabis Act of 2010.

Some opponents have tried to claim that passage of this initiative will negatively affect employment law, workplace safety and DWI enforcement, as well as lead to "drug cartels" buying up land in California to set up huge domestic grow ops. But the truth is that Proposition 19 in no way undermines the federal drug-free workplace rules, just as the state's 14-year experience with legalized medical marijuana has never even threatened to do so.

Further, it in no way limits the ability of employers to sanction or fire employees who show up for work under the influence of pot. Just as a private or public employer today may dismiss workers for being under the influence of (legal) alcohol, employers in the future will continue to be able to fire employees who arrive at work impaired by marijuana.

Similarly, Prop. 19 explicitly states that it will not amend or undermine existing state law criminalizing motorists who operate a vehicle while impaired. Driving under the influence of marijuana is already illegal in California, and these offenses are vigorously prosecuted. This fact will not change under the initiative.

Finally, the notion that Prop. 19 would allow "drug cartels" to buy up thousands of acres of California farmland and launch large-scale grow operations is frankly absurd. The proposal limits adult cultivation to personal use only, within the confines of a five-by-five-foot area per land parcel. Larger grow ops would continue to be illegal under the law unless they were commercially licensed by local governments, in a manner similar to the way that the commercial production of

alcohol is already licensed and regulated.

Fear-mongering rhetoric aside, here's what Prop. 19 would do: In the short term, it would end the practice of arresting and prosecuting adults in California for the private use of a substance that is objectively less harmful—both to the user and to society—than alcohol. By doing so, this initiative will unburden the courts, save millions in taxpayer dollars, and allow law enforcement to reallocate their resources to focus on targeting more serious crimes.

The broader, longer-term effect of this initiative will be to allow communities to explore policies designed to take the commercial cultivation and distribution of marijuana out of the hands of criminal entrepreneurs and put it into the hands of licensed, regulated businesspeople—creating new jobs and new sources of revenue in the process.

Finally, as a society, we don't tax and regulate alcohol because it's innocuous: We do so because we recognize that the substance temporarily alters mood and behavior and thus should be regulated accordingly. There's no reason why this same principle ought not to apply to cannabis. California placed criminal prohibitions on the possession and use of marijuana in 1913. Nearly 100 years later, it's apparent that cannabis is here to stay. So let's begin to address this reality and regulate the plant's production, distribution and use accordingly.

Proposition 19 is a welcome first step in this direction.

HIGH TIMES readers can learn more about this politically important voter initiative, and how to support it, by visiting taxcannabis.org. **

Paul Armentano is the deputy director of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws and co-author of the book Marijuana Is Safer: So Why Are We Driving People to Drink? You can contact him at 888-67-NORML or norml.org.

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The Vegetative Stage

After the pre-veg phase, in which newly rooted clones or young seedlings are conditioned for more intensive growing conditions, the crop is ready to enter the vegetative-growth stage. Here, the goal is to develop a large root system and enough potential budding sites on each plant to fill the space allotted once the buds start flowering, while avoiding overfilling the space due to excessive plant heights and branching.

It takes research (and occasionally some trial and error) to accurately determine the best planting densities and times for vegetative

growth to produce optimal results in any particular strain. It's important to note that indica-dominant strains may grow very little once flowering is initiated, while sativa-dominant strains may triple or even quadruple in size before finishing. Thus, the length of time spent in the vegetative-growth stage needs to be adjusted accordingly for each plant.

In this particular garden, the plants experienced a five-week vegetativegrowth period before the flowering stage was induced. During this time, each of these NYC Sour Diesel plants received plenty of space for both branch and root development. Just to highlight how important a large, healthy root system is for big yields of high-quality buds later on, it should be noted that the plants were grown in approximately 72 liters of peatbased soilless mix apiece.

The soilless mix is maintained with high levels of microbial life and bioactivity to help further stimulate the root systems and fill the large volume of growing medium provided to each plant. Beneficial inoculants are added with the nutrients to populate the growth medium and the root zones with fungi and bacteria such as Trichoderma, Pseudomonas, Azotobacter and mycorrhizae. The root systems are kept elevated off the cold floors, and the containers are placed on wheels so that each of the trashcans filled with soilless mix can be maneuvered easily through the growroom to help maximize light coverage for each plant.

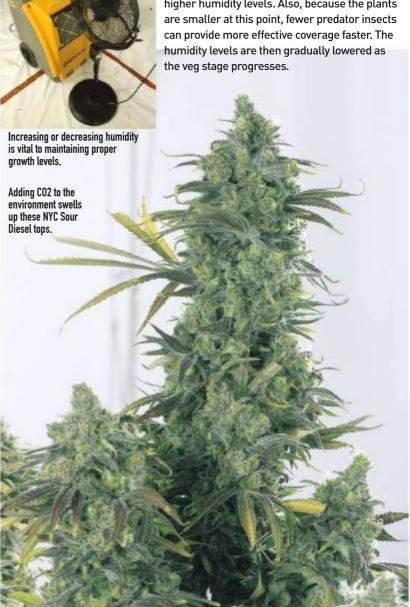
Warm It Up

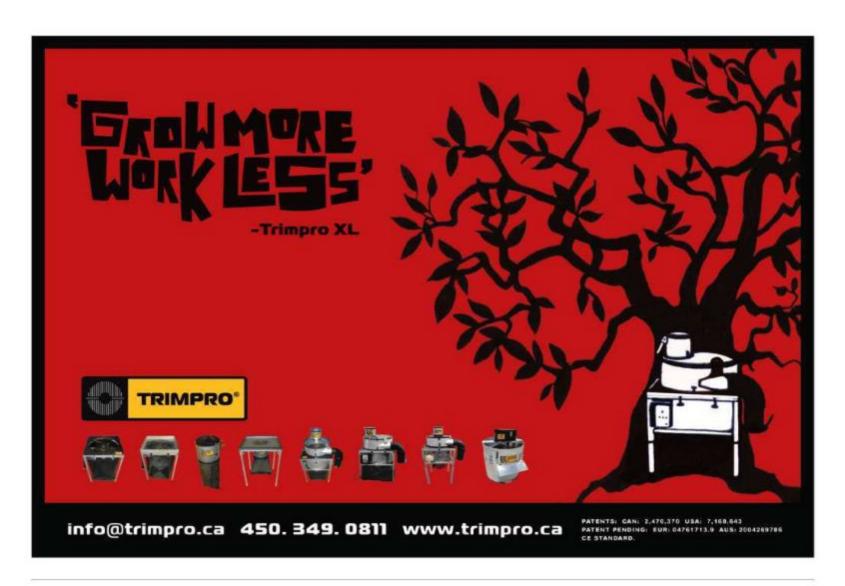
Slightly warmer temperatures help to increase the metabolic rate of activity in both the soil and plants. During vegetative growth, supplementing CO2 levels to approximately 1,000 ppm (parts per million) and maintaining even temperatures of 85°F during the daytime and 80°F at night proves to be optimal. The populations of beneficial microbes supplied via nutrient additives help to keep each plant's root system healthy while functioning at the higher metabolic rates stimulated by the warmer vegetative-stage temperatures. By keeping the DIF (i.e., the temperature differential between day and night or light and dark) closer at this stage, the plants tend to produce tighter branching patterns, building an efficient framework for supporting large yields of dense, sticky buds.

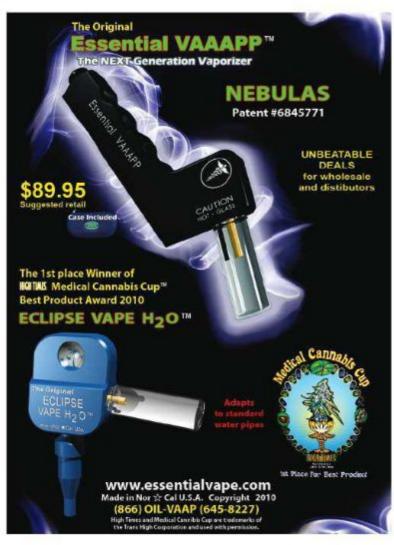
Humidity

In the early-veg stage, some growers prefer to keep their humidity levels slightly higher (for example, 65%) to give the plants an opportunity to set down some roots after transplanting. If the air is too dry, tender young plants will have to work hard to keep up with the water loss through their leaves, and this creates stresses that can reduce cropping potential and invite other prob-

> lems. This is a great time to introduce predator insects like Phytoseiulus persimilis (which eat spider mites), because they tend to do better at higher humidity levels. Also, because the plants can provide more effective coverage faster. The humidity levels are then gradually lowered as









Transition

The first one to two weeks of flowering are often referred to as the "transitional growth" phase. During this time, nitrogen levels are decreased slightly while the levels of phosphorous and potassium are increased. Temperatures should be reduced to $80^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$ when the lights are on and $75^{\circ}\mathrm{F}$ when they're off. Notice that the DIF is still narrow here; this helps to create tighter internodes at the onset of flowering, reducing the spaces between individual budding sites and producing more buds for harvest. CO_2 levels are typically maintained at 1,000 to 1,200 ppm during this time, with a straindependent relative humidity of 40% to 55%.

flowering, and carbohydrates help to supply both the plants and beneficial soil life with an abundant source of energy when growth and development are occurring at a higher rate due to the growing environment provided.

For the ripening period—which typically consists of the last two to four weeks before harvest—medicinal growers shift gears with their environment and crop feedings to promote maximum bud swell and resin production as well as a smooth, clean taste in the harvested buds. Environmental manipulation can even bring out the best colorations in certain types of genetics (for example, beautiful purples and reds).

bon dioxide inhibits the plant's production of ethylene, a naturally occurring hormone that assists in the ripening process.

Light intensity can also be reduced at this time, since growers are more concerned with dissipating their plants' chlorophyll content rather than building it up to achieve better-quality medicine.

Harvesting

Only after the grower is sure that the plants and growing medium have been adequately flushed of excess nutrients does the decision of when to harvest come into play. Well-flushed plants will usually show yellowing in the older fan leaves, signifying that excess nutrients have been transferred and used up by the ripening colas. With a magnifying glass or handheld microscope, the grower can inspect the swelling resin glands for signs of peak maturity.

A higher percentage of clear-looking glands indicates that the resins have not yet reached their full potency. This is desirable for some patients, since slightly less mature resin glands often have a more "heady" effect (as opposed to either a sedative effect or body stone) because the ratios of THC to CBD (cannabidiol) and CBN (cannabinol) are wider.

When the resin glands have gone from clear to milky white and opaque, the resin is at peak maturity. For most patients, this proves to be the ideal time to harvest, since there's now a good

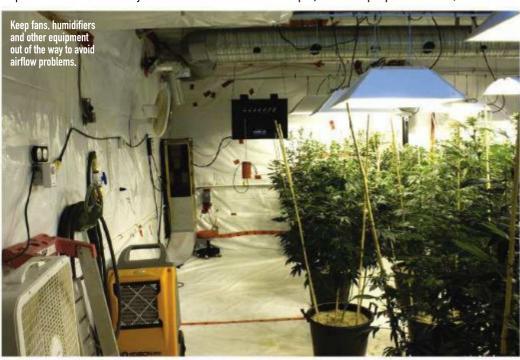


balance between the THC and CBD/CBN levels, providing a more equal head-tobody effect. On the other hand, those patients looking for a body stone may want to wait until some of the resin glands

have turned from milky white to amber: At this point, some of the THC is beginning to degrade and convert back into precursors like CBD and CBN. Growers who wait longer during the ripening phase may have slightly heavier harvests, but they are also much more likely to get a sleepier effect from their medicine.

Finally, some growers have noticed a higher rate of resin production when the plants are kept in total darkness for 24 to 48 hours prior to harvest. Some studies suggest that resin production in the cannabis plant peaks just before the sun comes up (or the lights are turned on), so the extra darkness may promote a final burst of resin secretion.

There are many different strains of cannabis that appear highly suited for treating various ailments, with each strain possessing its own unique resin profile. Growers can use carefully controlled environments and nutrient programs to bring out the best in a chosen strain and, in some instances, even enhance what it has to offer—resulting in cannabis that is potentially more effective for each patient's unique needs. **

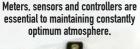


Flowering Time

At peak flowering (i.e., the middle of the flowering cycle), nutrient strengths and concentrations are at their highest, often averaging 1,500 ppm (approximately 2.0 EC) to stimulate and supply the intense structural development of the buds that occurs now. When using soil or soilless mixes, growers often follow a "feed, feed, water" regimen to help reduce the accumulation of nutrient residues that may occur in their medium. Growers who like to feed heavy will do a light flush of the containers or beds once every one to two weeks during flowering. A flush mix of humic acids and digestive enzymes proves to be ideal for this purpose, since it helps to reduce

excess nutrients in the growth medium that can create nutrient imbalances or lockouts.

Humidity and temperature levels are maintained at their set points, with no changes until the late budding/ripening phase of the reproductive cycle. CO₂ levels should be further elevated at peak





The Big Flush

For the final weeks before harvest, no base nutrients are applied. This helps to flush the plants and growing medium of any excess nutrients that may contribute to poor-tasting, hard-to-burn buds. A variety of rinsing agents can be used to help facilitate this process, although many growers (especially those reusing their medium, whether soil or soilless mix) prefer to flush with humic acids and digestive enzymes. In fact, growers who have doubled up on the rate of digestive enzymes mixed into the reservoir for flushing report marked improvements in both the quality of their crop and the suitability of their growing medium for reuse.

When significantly increasing the DIF between daytime and nighttime temperatures, growers should pay close attention to any rise in humidity levels during the dark cycle. Dehumidifiers help to keep the relative humidity (RH) from rising above 55% when the lights are off, which is necessary because excess humidity encourages bud rot and other plant diseases in the dense, heavy clusters of ripening cannabis.

COS

It's important that $\rm CO_2$ levels are lowered to ambient levels during the ripening phase (for example, 450 to 650 ppm). If $\rm CO_2$ levels remain higher at this stage, the buds may get bigger, but they'll lack the density and intense flavors and colors that growers typically desire. This is because car-



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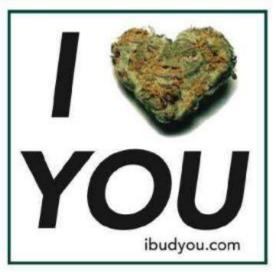
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MUNCHIE

GANJA FAGIOLI

Cannabis cannellini, a subconscious creation. By Ashley Boudreaux

Restrain me in the cursed thoughts that Nature gives way to in repose.—**Macbeth**

This recipe came to me in a dream. I was late for my deadline, as usual—discarding ideas as if they were last decade's tattered heels and just praying that the muse might plant a lede or at least a crappy sentence fragment in my subconscious with which I could spark a sudden conflagration of profundity. Calliope came through; I dreamed that my ex taught me a recipe for white beans.

I try not to think about the fucking guy—it's a dangerous pastime. Hell, I'm still flossing bits of my heart from between my teeth after that torrid saga, and I haven't seen him since I hooked up with my beautiful husband eight years ago. But the guy did inspire me to write prolifically way back when, and sometimes he still haunts me when I least expect it. He was, in effect, my muse incarnate.

He was a California boy—a commercial diver who came to New Orleans to work in the oil fields of the Gulf. He'd been raised on a sailboat and is still the only person that I've ever met who was deported from Australia. He had a scar on his palm from a knife fight in Western Samoa, and his eyes shone brighter than all the constellations in a peyote sky. I knew I loved him before we even brushed hands. He turned me onto Hunter S. Thompson, and I read him Baudelaire's poems in French, and we'd kick back smoking the dankest grass and drinking the best wine under flickering candlelight and jasmine-scented breezes.

For just one fleeting spring, things were perfect. Then came the drugs—hard drugs—and darkness descended. "Everything in moderation," my father used to say, but my muse opted for a complete derangement of the senses instead. We shattered, I shattered, and he was lost for too many painful years. The curtains closed and I exited down the aisle on the nuptial arm of another.



My muse finally emerged from his self-inflicted decade of fog not long ago, and eventually found me—not that I'm hard to find. For the sanctity of my happy marriage, I've kept him at a distance, but the dream nagged at me—primarily because the recipe sounded as if it could actually work. So against my better judgment, I messaged him.

"You wouldn't happen to have a white-bean recipe, would you?"

"As a matter of fact, I do," he replied.

Weird. I didn't bother getting the information from him; I just chalked the whole thing up to good old-fashioned quantum entanglement and rolled with it. Fresh sage, bacon and a hint of real maple syrup give this simple, hearty dish just enough complexity to lift it above the ordinary. It has its roots in Tuscan cuisine—the cannellini bean is so commonly consumed there that Tuscans are sometimes referred to as il mangia fagioli, or "the bean eaters."

For hundreds of years, a similar dish called cannellini al fiasco was made in empty wine bottles set into the dying embers of the family hearth—and to this day, Tuscans reportedly scorn the idea of cooking these beans in metal pots, swearing that it affects the taste.

So grab your crockpot and let's do this thing! *

GANJA FAGIOLI

¼ ounce ganja shake, finely cleaned
11b dry white beans
12 oz thick-cut bacon, cut into 2" squares.
7 fresh sage leaves, sliced chiffonade style (place
the leaves atop one another in a stack, then cut them
into thin strips perpendicular to the stem—it's easy,
looks great and gives maximum flavor)

2 ¾ cups water

2 tsp sea salt

2 tsp coarse black pepper

2 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

2 tbsp real maple syrup

1 tsp balsamic vinegar

Cover and soak the beans for three hours before cooking, changing the water once. Drain completely. Place in crockpot and cover with 2 % cups of water. Add sage, salt and pepper. Cover and turn on low.

In a heavy skillet, fry the bacon over low heat. When it's close to being done, add the olive oil and ganja and mix well. Add the maple syrup and balsamic vinegar. Continue to stir. When the consistency starts to look a little sticky, remove from heat and add the entire mixture into the crockpot. Cook for five to six hours or until the beans are soft with a touch of firmness. (Watch the beans carefully after the first three hours, as crockpots can vary in their heat output.)

Serve with a baguette or bruschetta. Stones seven.

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CLONING FOR DOLLARS?

A few years ago, I read a story in HIGH TIMES about a guy who sold clones for a living. Now that doing something like this legally is a reality in my state, I'd like to know how someone could root enough cuttings and keep enough mother plants alive to keep clones in stock at all times?

Replica

Dear Rep,

I'm not sure what state you're in where it's legal to sell clones. Even in California, I would avoid getting into something without knowing the full consequences, especially since most places I know consider distribution of live, rooted cannabis cuttings to be illegal.

I wrote the article you're referring to:
"Cloning for Dollars" (April '06 HT), about Mr.
Mom, a city dweller who couldn't afford to have
the odors of flowering plants wafting through his
apartment building. Instead, he kept a stable of
mother plants under a 250-watt metal-halide
(MH) lamp and used a simple rack system of fluorescent lighting over a couple of EZ Clone machines in order to produce hundreds of clones to
distribute to trusted grower friends in the area.

The key to successful cloning, no matter the medium, is the proper monitoring of moisture and temperature. Cuttings trying to root need

high humidity and warm temperatures in order to stay alive through the grueling rooting process.

Use a clean, sharp blade and cut at least a 2or 3-inch section of the plant diagonally right below an internode (the place where the leaf joins the stem of the plant). Cut off any leaves within a half-inch of the cut end and then dip it into your chosen rooting hormone.

Whether you're using rockwool, soilless mix or some other rooting system, immediately insert the cut end at least a half-inch into the pre-moist-ened medium and place it under a clear dome beneath your fluorescent lights. In cold areas, trays should be warmed from below with a heating mat.

Hydroponic growers, take note: If you're using an aeroponic-mist cloning system such as the EZ Clone, GroClone or Replicator, it can be very helpful to run your sprayers on a cycle timer at one minute on/three minutes off in order to avoid drowning your cut ends with too much water. If you seem to always have mushy stems that rot and disintegrate, try this solution and you'll see roots developing within five to nine days.

NO BUDS

I need some help, please! I planted seeds in my backyard in March (I'm in North Carolina), and it's

now early July and I haven't seen any buds at all yet. I've got big plants with plenty of leaves and branches, but no flowers of any sort. What am I doing wrong?

Paul Budman

Dear Paul,

Everything is fine! Plants in your region won't naturally begin flowering outdoors until late July to early August. They should start showing signs of flowering very soon and promptly begin the transition from vegetation to blooming. If they don't, then perhaps you have too much light shining on them during the nighttime; plants won't flower without a full, uninterrupted dark cycle.

Barring any light problems, within short order the buds will begin forming on your plants, so keep in mind that their nutritional needs will change as well. Shift from a nutrient regimen that's heavy in nitrogen (N) to one with more phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). Avoid foliar feeding once the buds are clearly forming and visible.

Depending on the strain you're growing, they should be done sometime between September and December (but always harvest prior to any frosts). Luckily for you, you planted early, so your plants have had plenty of time to form branches to hold their heavy colas.



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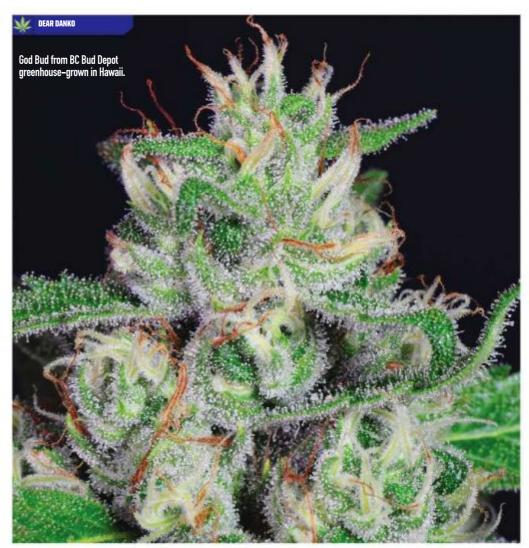
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SPIDER MITES DURING FLOWERING

I'm growing my first indoor crop, and I think I have spider mites. In fact, I know I do—first I found little white dots on the tops of the leaves, then the whole leaf started to turn yellow and die! I looked underneath one leaf and saw a bunch of little black dots running around. My flowers are starting to develop webs all over them! I'm at my wits' end. What can I do?

Bugging Out in Boise

Dear BOB,

Your problem has gotten worse than it ever should have due to your inaction early on. Mites must be dealt with immediately upon discovery with an aggressive program of pest control. They multiply so quickly that you'll find a many-pronged approach most effective in beating back these costly and annoying pests. With a lifespan as short as seven to 10 days, it's not long before you'll have generations of mites setting up shop and sucking the lifeblood out of your precious plants.

Always check the undersides of fan leaves as a daily precaution—and don't neglect that one plant in the back corner of the room that might be extra-tough to reach. Infestations usually begin in unnoticed places, so be sure to make the effort to check all your plants often as well as all of their surroundings—especially the surface of the growing medium.

During the vegetative stage or the beginning of flowering, if you see the early signs of spider mites—yellow or white dots on the leaf tops and tiny black moving dots underneath—immediately begin your war on these pesky pests. Use a

neem-oil-based spray and mist your plants liberally on the tops and bottoms of their leaves as well as the stalks and soil surface.

If your plants are still young and manageable enough, it's a great idea to give them a full dunking in a diluted neem-oil bath. Other useful homemade organic spray mixes include hot peppers, orange oil and crushed garlic bulbs. Type "organic pest control" into a search engine to find various recipes online. Check the labels on any store-bought sprays for ingredients and additives that can be harmful to edible plants.

If you're more than a couple of weeks into the flowering stage, you need to be more cautious about rampant spraying to avoid causing damage or molds to the forming buds. You can carefully spray the fan leaves to get rid of many of your new colonists, but you should probably employ some kind of beneficial insects such as ladybugs or predatory mites. Both can be ordered online or purchased at indoor grow-supply shops.

BOX OF GROW

I'm about to order a Super Locker Stealth Growbox from dealzer.com from an ad I saw in HIGH TIMES, and I was just wondering what you thought of this product.

Chronic Dope Smoke

Dear CDS,

The product you're referring to is a growbox designed to look like a storage locker. Two separate chambers allow you to grow clones and flowering plants within the same unit. It's a nice, affordable and stealthy growbox that will pro-

duce plenty of pot under the right circumstances.

Since tightly enclosed growing spaces heat up quickly, put an emphasis on ventilation from the box and cooling the area in which it's housed with an air conditioner. Also keep in mind that plants will continue to grow after flowering is induced and act accordingly, allowing plenty of space for them to fill out. Producing pot in a growbox can be fun and rewarding—as long as you adhere to the instructions and unique requirements of microfarming.

CLEAR, WHITE OR AMBER?

I've been growing for just over four months, and I just harvested my first crop. I think it turned out pretty good, but I'm not sure I chose the right time to harvest, because this weed makes me and all my amigos sleepy. I'm aware that I should be looking at the color of the trichomes in order to decide when to harvest, and I've seen beautiful pictures of clear, milky or amber-colored trichromes in HIGH TIMES' macro photographs.

My question is: With this next crop almost done, when I'm looking at plants through my 30x loupe, how obvious is this color change going to be to me? I'm near the end of the seventh week of flowering: I see pretty, mushroom-shaped trichomes, and I think they're all still clear. All the hairs have turned red, and my Kush plant has turned purple. I know these things are related, but the trichomes are my ultimate tell. Thanks!

Kind Kevin

Dear Kevin,

You're referring to the color within the glandular trichomes, the tiny "crystals" on the buds best visible under magnification. They resemble tiny glass mushrooms with a stalk and head on top. The proper time to harvest your cannabis is when the trichome heads have just turned from clear to cloudy or milky, but before too many have turned amber. The color change will be obvious as long as you're looking at the center of the gland head perched atop the stalk. Perhaps you could upgrade to a 100x scope in order to get a closer look.

Some people enjoy the more lethargic stone that comes from pot harvested a week or two late, but most cannabis connoisseurs prefer milky trichomes at full maturity and ripeness, before any degradation of the essential oils within. However, medicinal patients looking for a heavier effect may benefit from a later harvest in order to emphasize certain pain-relieving qualities.

STRAIN MIX-UP

I have a problem—I'm 55 years old, and my wife and I both have our medical cards. I've been growing weed for a long time, but I haven't done it indoors until our recent move to Oregon. A friend helped me set up and started me out with the best and strongest weed I've ever had—and trust me, it's good! He got the strain from some old man from around here who's been growing it for over 20 years. We don't know the original name, but we call it OCC for "Oregon Coast Cannabis."

Anyway, I got some really good *indica* seeds and grew six of them side by side next to six of the OCC plants. Then my buddy who gave me the OCC came over to see the plants, and he said that the OCC plants had changed in looks and odor somehow. I











told him he was full of shit, because you can plant an apple tree and a pear tree side by side and it won't turn them both into apple-pear trees, right? But then he brought some of his OCC over and, sure enough, it looked and smelled different than mine. Is this possible—and, if so, how can I prevent it from happening again?

Hot Rod

Dear HR,

The same strain grown by two different farmers can turn out very different indeed. Even though the plants are genetically identical, the environmental factors are of utmost importance to the final product. I suggest you look into the growing conditions for the OCC plants and whether they came from a healthy mother plant. Sometimes, clones from stressed-out moms produce plants that lack vigor. Often, cuttings that lag during the rooting period will have trouble keeping up with other plants throughout the growing cycle.

Rest assured that your plants can't take on the characteristics of nearby plants without your first crossing a male or hermaphrodite with a female and producing seeds. Also, this couldn't happen within the course of one harvest season—and only if the plants came up from the ground the next year could they possibly exhibit each other's traits.

Get yourself some fresh, healthy cuttings of the OCC and grow them out again. Chances are you just had a bad run. While you're at it, do some research on breeding and try to isolate and stabilize the traits that you like and pass them on to the next generation better than they were passed on to you.

CARRY THAT WEIGHT

I'm a newbie who's trying to grow two pounds of bud every month or so. What type of setup do I need for this, and what's the best one to buy?

Jay Tee

Dear Jay Tee,

Whoa there, buddy! As a self-described "newbie," you need to slow down and be realistic about the sacred project you are about to embark on. Instead of approaching it with weight and profit in mind as your goal and motivation, remind yourself that you are partaking in a noble and difficult pursuit akin to modern-day alchemy.

Cultivating cannabis isn't as easy as purchas-

ing the perfect system and firing up a grow light. You must start with a proper understanding of plant science, including germination, propagation, photosynthesis and nutrition. Get a grow book (Jorge Cervantes's are my favorites) and familiarize yourself with the various stages of growth.

Also, be prepared to fail. This is a tough one for some newbies to accept, but all farmers—even the so-called experts—have lost a garden or two (or more). Learning to grow is a process of trial and error, and you must allow for setbacks in your plans in order to learn from your mistakes and be able to properly deal with them.

Eventually, after getting a few harvests under your belt, you'll be able to create a perpetual-harvest system by which you'll yield your desired amount of cannabis. But always remember that there's no one perfect way to grow great pot, so keep your mind open to new techniques and possibilities.

'KIEFING' BUDS

I've been around some smelly stuff before, and the look and feel were good but the kick wasn't always there. Someone told me about people siphoning off the THC before they sell it to you. Is this real or an old wives' tale?

Will 777

Dear Will,

The shocking thing is that I've heard of the practice you're referring to—some call it "kiefing" the buds, although that's a bit of a misnomer. Needless to say, it's unethical and despicable to sift the resin from buds before passing them along to someone else. That may not be the case with your buds, as some strains simply smell and look great without delivering much of a high.

On a side note, it's truly sad that because of cannabis prohibition, I have to keep answering questions about adulterated pot and those who would take advantage of patients and consumers by extracting the trichomes first for their own selfish benefit. In the absence of a black market, all of these desecrations to our sacrament and medicine will disappear. It's all the more imperative to take the market out of the hands of thieves once and for all and to grow our own cannabis to share with those in need.

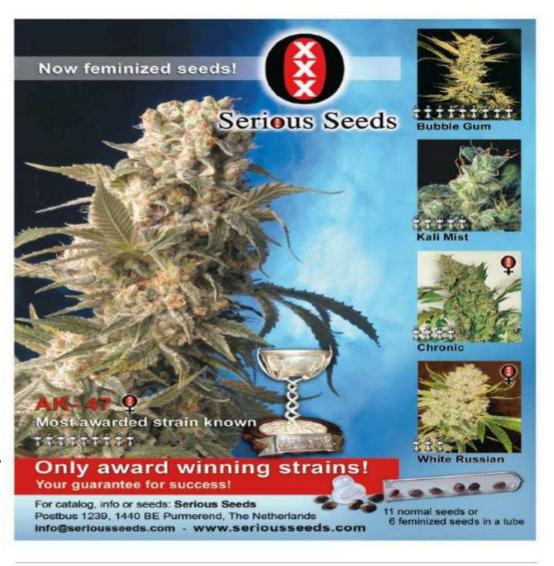
GROWING UPSIDE DOWN

I'm interested in trying one of those Topsy Turvy tomato planters I see on TV when the outdoor season starts up. Can marijuana grow upside down like that or do you think it would be a waste of time and a good plant?

SubHerban Farmer

Dear SHF

Here at HIGH TIMES, we've gotten photos over the past few years of people successfully growing pot upside down. The branches grow up toward their light source making for an interesting looking specimen. Keeping the plants off the ground also reduces damage from molds and insects. Unfortunately, there's little room for roots to grow, so plants shouldn't stay in their vegetative stage for long. Bottom line, it's a novelty item at best, yet for under \$20 a unit they can be a fun experiment for the inquisitive gardener. **









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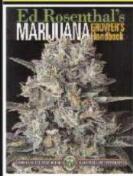
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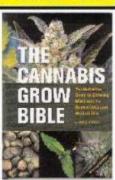
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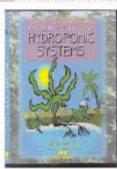
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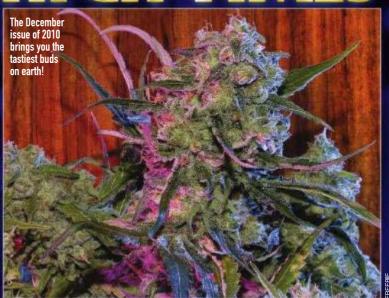
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NEXT MONTH IN HIGH TIMES



TOP 10 STRAINS OF 2010

Each year, HIGH TIMES chooses the best of the buds that rocked your world. So which superstar strains made the list in 2010? Senior Cultivation Editor Danny Danko selects the perfect 10. Take a comprehensive look at these potent and popular sensi strains—we're sure you're gonna have a tough time figuring out what to grow in your garden in 2011.

GLOBAL HARVEST REPORT

What's happening in cannabis grow scenes around the world? Every year, the HIGH TIMES Cultivation Department scours the planet to compile information and photos on the harvest season in different regions and climates. The result is a comprehensive report on popular cannabis varieties, varying weather and seasonal conditions, and how to get higher yields no matter where you live.

LIGHT OUR FIRE

Transcendent and timeless, psychedelic and poetic—the music and mystique of the Doors have forever transformed our culture and established them as one of the greatest rock'n'roll bands in history. Senior Editor Bobby Black "breaks on through" with the band's legendary guitarist, Robby Krieger, to talk about marijuana, Morrison and the band's new documentary film, When You're Strange.

BOOT CAMP: TENT GROWING!

Harry Resin, former partner at Delta-9 Labs, discusses indoor growing on a whole new level—tents. Perfect for smaller home growers, hobbyists and breeders, tent growing is an easy and secure way to set up (and break down) your grow op quickly. Tents also come in a variety of sizes that will accommodate any kind of space or setup. The latest models have even been designed with features that make lighting and atmosphere control convenient and efficient—while keeping growers safe!

RHODE ISLAND SUCCESS STORY

It may be the smallest state in the union, but its compassion is outsized: Rhode Island's acceptance of medical marijuana is instructive not just as an illustration of how a sense of community takes care of people, but how it can take care of business as well.

PLUS: Smoke out with psychedelic sensations MGMT; talk trash with Punk Rock potheads Trash Talks.

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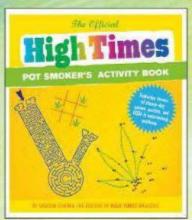




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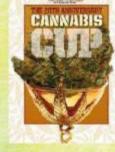
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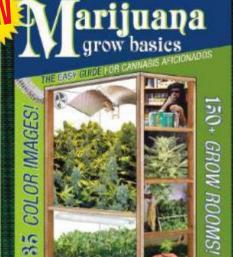
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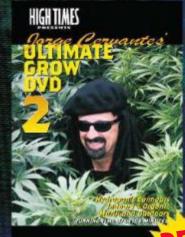
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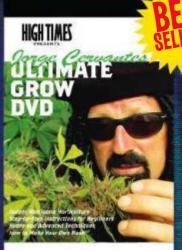
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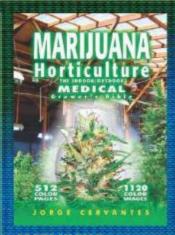




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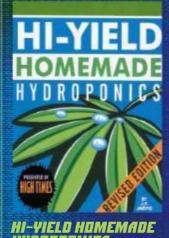
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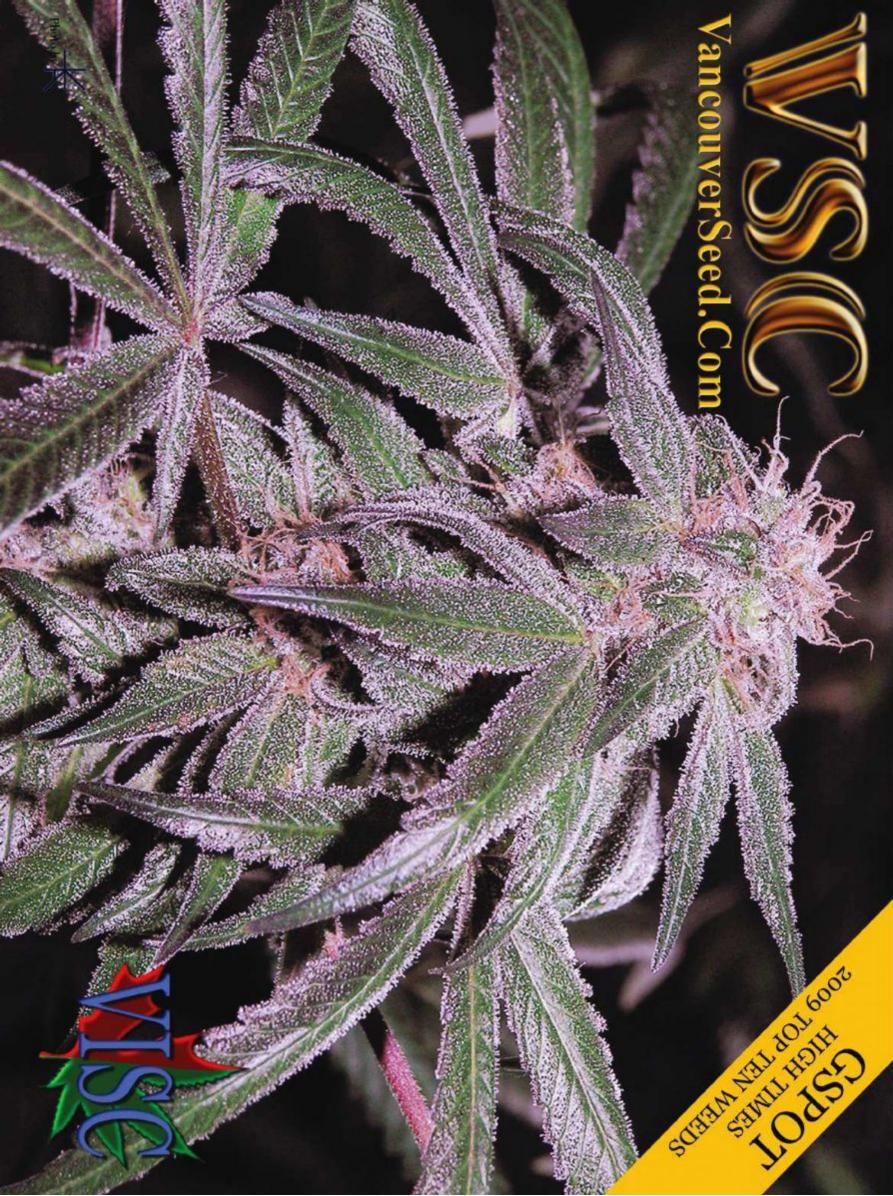
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