

Looking for Knowledge?







EDITORIAL

The results of the first British Crime Survey since the down-grading of cannabis from a class-B to class-C drug make pretty interesting reading. Contrary to the doom-sayers' predictions, the change did not clog our city streets with stumbling, giggling, newlyhooked druggies. In fact, the Home Office found it had made no difference to levels of

According to details of the survey (published in January), 10.8 per cent of adults report taking cannabis over the past year, compared with 10.9 per cent in the previous 12 months. It also discovered that the proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds using the drug had fallen from 28.2 per cent to 24.8 per cent over the past five years.

It also found that the number of people arrested for possessing cannabis has fallen by more than one third since the drugs laws were relaxed. There were an estimated 43,750 arrests over the past year, compared with 68,625 in the previous 12 months.

Being the Home Office, this was portrayed as a great result for the police: each arrest takes an average of eight hours to process, the fall had saved about 200,000 hours of police time, freeing them to tackle the use of class-A drugs such as heroin and crack. But of more interest to consumers is the fact that this fall represents nearly 25,000 people who did not have their jobs, their ability to travel, and their freedom jeopardized by old, stupid policies.

Bear in mind in this election year that the Tories, bless 'em, still pledge to reverse the reclassification. "Downgrading cannabis was a mistake, which has sent mixed messages to the young and the vulnerable about the dangers of drugs," said David Davis, the shadow Home Secretary.

I've been driven nuts these last few weeks with trailers for the new Johnny Vegas vehicle on BBC3. Ideal shows the hapless goof playing a cannabis dealer. Unfortunately, the bastards at the Amsterdam cable company have not seen fit to allow the new channels from the Beeb on their network, but going by those damned trailers, it looks innocuous and funny, with Vegas playing the hapless-but-sweet loser as only he can.

Then there's Top Buzzer, the first-ever drama to be shown on MTV. The "dope opera" premiered at the end of last year and is based on the life and times of two cannabis dealers, Sticky and Lee, and the ne'er-do-wells such as Bugsy, Daisy and Boring Dave who come to their flat to buy weed.

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Taken together, neither show could be accused of glamorizing dealers. Top Buzzer (co-written by comedian and failed chat show host Johnny Vaughan) aims to evoke the tedious nature of the small-time dope dealer's lifestyle, without becoming boring.

But both do show dealers being humanized, which is a big step up from the 'pusher' stereotype that held sway for so many years; you know, the seedy Mephistopheles seducing our young at the school gates.

An estimated five million regular users of narcotics in the country are served by around half a million people - figures I'm again indebted to the BBC again for – this time BBC2's excellent Drugland three-

With cameos from the likes of Shaun Ryder, Howard Marks and Bez and emphasis on the soundtrack, Top Buzzer seems destined to be a hit with the studenty, stoner demographic as the channel aims to go from being a music-video channel to more a lifestyle channel.

Up to a couple of years ago, this would have been a suicidal career move for the MTV exec who green lighted the show, even if it is "based on a culture that exists and it's a perfectly justifiable one on which to base a show."

Success with young British viewers may see it exported to other MTV channels around the world. So there is a such a thing as cultural progress after all. If 'dealing is the new black' in 2005, then let's hope that the re-evaluation of us heroic growers cannot be far awav.

Jules Marshall

Page 3 Girl White Russian

This lady is fantastic in both appearance and effect. A typical Indica strain, White Russian is a stable cross of AK-47 and the legendary White Widow. She's of medium height, consistent in flowering and has dense, very resinous buds (crystals appear after about 5 weeks of flowering). With such a strong Indica background, she smells quite strong during both her growth and flowering period. In an independent seed comparison in which over 150 different seedstrains were grown out in a greenhouse, the White Russian came out as the strongest plant (22% THC, likely to be one of the strongest plants known at present). White Russian yields very powerful buds, coated with resin. She's very strong, with a long lasting high, more cerebral than a knockout! Also much used for medicinal purposes.

mostly Indica **Genetics:** 5 - 10 days**Indoor clone grow time: Indoor flowering time:** 56-63 days **Indoor vield:**

350-500 grams/m2 Outside/Greenhouse harvest time: 15-31 october

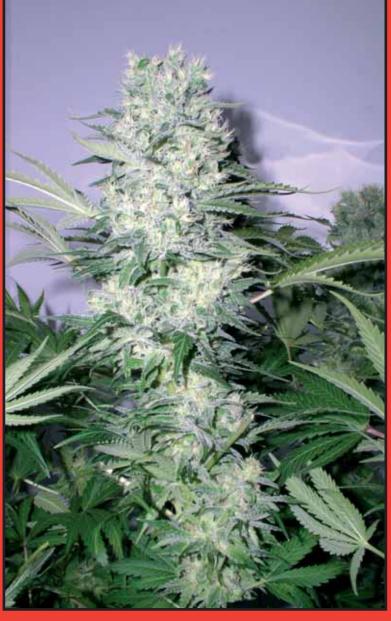
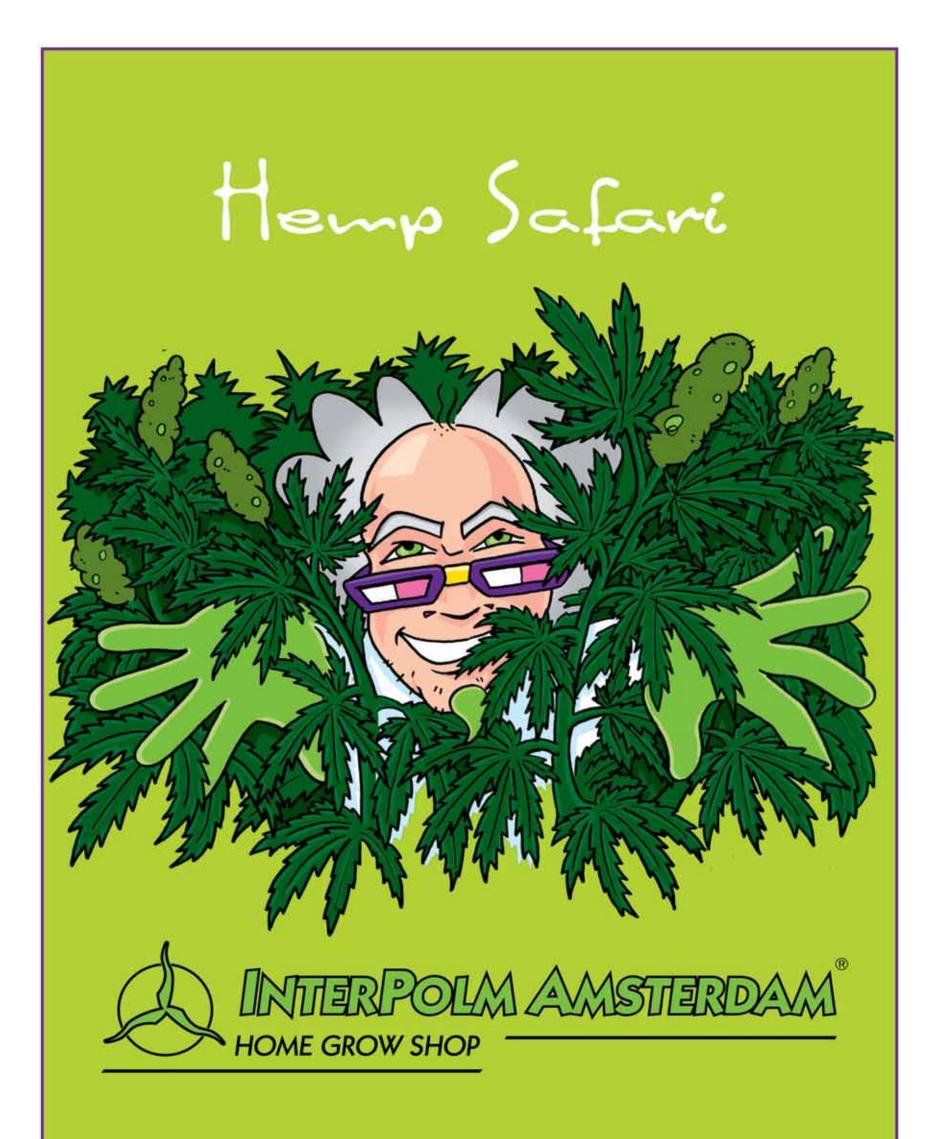


Photo courtesy of Darren, UK



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Dear Soft Secrets



Halla

Here are some Master Kush a few weeks from finishing **peace jf69.**

This Master Kush is looking as fine as the lovely babe between the buds. It reminds us of the Birth of Venus by Botocelli! The yellowing large leaves means you changed to a "super bloom" fertilizer formula with less nitrogen and more phosphorus and potassium. This is just what the ladies ordered! Well done, mate!

Dear Soft Secrets,

Please find attatched pics of my 1st crop. These were grown outside on various balconies (in Spain) for the veg stage, then hit with 12/12 600W for flowering. The big Xmas tree was veggin' for about 4 months and I had grown it from a bagseed. The other plants are Skunk (unknown but 1 indica & 1 sativa) and smell



fucking sweet as... Got most of my tips from SS and my UK grower mate. Stoned regards.

Spanish & Bradford Growers Connection

Moving plants around and back inside can take a toll on plants. Looks like your plants and pots got a bit hot. This causes them to suffer stress and produce less. Plants also grow very big outdoors and when moved indoors, the HID light is not able to penetrate the foliage down low. Next year move small 20 cm plants under lights and they will love you for it.



Dear Soft Secrets.

Just harvested these beauties, can't believe how big the heads were. Strain unknown, but hey, who cares? A good environment and Triple FFF sure did the trick! Yes, that's a 1 litre bottle next to them. Happy daze!

The Goat, Middlesex

Dude those are some good looking buds! Thanks for putting the one liter bottle in to show perspective. We sure hope the high matches their size. Try purchasing some seeds from a

reputable shop for your next crop and your next harvest could be even stonier.

Dear Soft Secrets,

This is the wife getting sticky tits in the garden, we got 1150 grams (cured) from this 9' 6" x 4' 6" room – not bad ey? Blueberry, PR1 and a few Jack Herers, under 2 x 600w and a 1 x 400 HPS, I used pots and coco and got pukka results, much better than past crops which were on NFT. Mind how you grow! Adam & Trish, Essex

NFT systems are fine, but they can be very tricky to fine tune. Good move to change to coco soilless medium. The growing medium acts to help buffer the variables – temperature, moisture, pH, etc. You do not have to watch the system as closely and it is a lot more forgiving.



Dear Soft Secrets,

Here are some of my KC-39 drying in my spare room, hope to see it in your mag which is the dogs bolliks.

Leon, Aberdeen

Leon, it's easier if you trim your plants immediately after harvest. The dried product will look a lot better. It's also a lot faster.



Dear Soft Secrets,

This is my baby, it was grown outdoors.

D, Peterborough

Nicely topped plant. By removing the headshoot, you make sure that the plant slows down growing upwards and spends more energy in the remaining branches.



Hi Soft Secrets,

My White Widow plants. I used 600w HPS and 501 NFT. This is my first crop so I'm quite impressed. And finally my lovely girlfriend with some high quality tits. Thanks for a good mag. **Cyrus, London**

Lovely tits, lovely buds.



Attention Guerilla Growers!

Fancy a FREE packet of High Quality Seeds? Feeling up to growing Master Kush, Holland's Hope, White Widow, Olé 47, BlueBerries, Sensi Star, Jack Herer or Neville's Haze? Yes? Then send us a picture of your garden, and we'll send you the seeds. And should your garden pic contain a visible copy of Soft Secrets, we'll send you 2 HQS packs of choice. Wait, there's more! If your garden should happen to feature your topless girlfriend or wife, you even get 3 packs, of prime Black Label stock! (They don't have to show their faces.) Don't have a wife or girlfriend? Your dog is fine too (no cats!), but that's 3 HQS packs, not Black Label. Send all entries to Soft Secrets, PO Box 17250, 1001 JG, Amsterdam, Holland, or e-mail them to SSUK@softsecrets.nl

NOTE: Naturally, all entries are handled with the utmost discretion. Names, letters and addresses will be destroyed as soon as seeds are sent. We don't publish out of focus pics, and we're not too fond of photos of plants in their vegetative stage, or even worse: young clones. It's fat buds we want to see!



Hello,

I think your paper is excellent! Here are some pics of my girls and Laura. Keep up the good work!

John, Dorset

John, the photo of your plant was total crap, but this one of Laura on the other hand... Your bird sure knows how to turn a Soft Secret into a Rockhard



Here's a pic of my Early Pearl grow... Unfortunately it ended a month ago when few police men rushed in to my appartment... Well, they didn't like the fact that I had 32 plants there... They took everything from seeds to bulbs with them. I am now starting a new grow...

Juha, Finland

That's the spirit Juha! We've sent you some seeds to start all over again.. Ain't life a bitch?



Hi Soft Secrets,

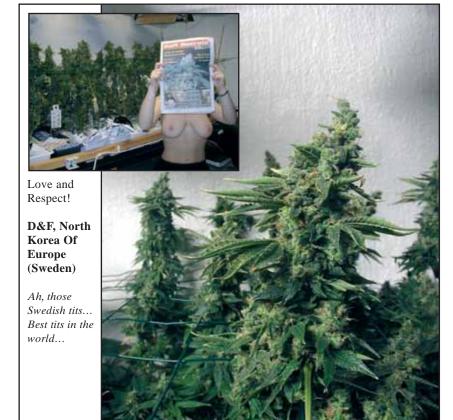
Like to start by saying I just love your contribution to the amateur growers out there, like myself. Thank you! Here is my girls, we have a Blue Pearl and a Jack Herer at the back (4 rear buds). Grown under 2 x 400 sodium in pebbles and soil mix, hand fed. The JH was a mother plant used for cuttings and given to me by a mate to flower, but it has a few good stems on it. They still have about 4 weeks to go before harvest. They were sleeping when pictures were taken.

Looks good out there, mate!



Attached my photo's of my ladies, looking well at 28 days into flower. **Holmes, Yorkshire**

Your plants love the airflow that ventilator is creating for them. The stems are fattening up and so will your buds





Here is a bud of an almost finished Afghani girl, with my girlfriend, and also your great magazine. Seasons greetings from Finland, the home of Santa Claus.

Mr X, Finland

Ah, those
Finnish tits...
Best tits in the
world...

Dear Soft Secrets,

I'd like to say that our first attempt at a home grow with California Orange Bud was a success but the only buds in this picture are not on the plant! We burnt to death every seedling but one by putting them into the NFT tray too soon (nutrient burn?) and then the final healthy one spent nearly six weeks deciding it is a male! I've just heard the trick of sticking a paper bag over one node of a plant to force the node into early flowering so maybe next time I'll spot the males much earlier on. But assuming a 50/50 male/female ratio in

your seedlings how do



you grow enough seedlings to the age where you can sex them in order to fill up all the holes in your NFT tray and maximise efficiency if you've no space for a second nursery tray? Cloning is the answer I guess, but not until we get some females to clone from. We've built our grow room taking into account the things you said in your Dummies article... We would never have known about the need for carbon filters and for so much ventilation otherwise. Anyhow, great paper, can't believe it's free. And so much wisdom. Keep up the good work.

M n T, UK

Looking fairly nice and promising over there, M & T, we think you read our articles well..



Tere! Soft Secrets,

Greetings from Estonia. This pic is of my favorite plant, featuring my favorite girlfriend Tiina. The plant is not very heavy due to crappy seeds, but as you can see – tits grow well in Estonia. Keep up the good work!

Priit, Estonia

Ah, those Estonian tits... Best tits in the world...



Dear Softies, Hola,

Hope you like my garden, autumn 2004 harvest: White Widow cross Ice, Skunk II, Jack Herer cross Ice, mutant (never stopped flowering after spring cropping) and far right chives! Like garlic and onions good companion crops to deter bugs.... Happy daze are here again! I couldn't persuade

her next door to get 'm out for the lads, maybe next harvest? You didn't miss much tho, two fried eggs about it, blink and you'd miss them.

Steve, Malaga (Spain)

Steve, that is one good looking garden. Keeping the plants out of the neighbors view virtually guarantees a harvest. If you are able to plant clones March or April, you can have a spring crop, too!

Hola Amigos Me and me novia hope to have a good titter after smoking this White Russian grown from seed, used as mothers for as few trays of clones and then flowered. Pics are

from 7



weeks, had to use string and yoyo's, I reckon I'd have been wise to use a bit of pea netting, next time.

Darren, Lancashire

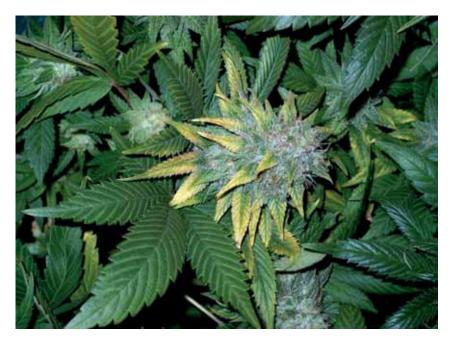
Darren, next time you could remove those lower branches that obviously don't yield much because of lack of light. Now may we lick your bird's tattoo please..?



Hi guys

What a great read. Only just discovered it. Best Free sheet around. Well done you lot. The pic shows my first attempt at indoor cultivation. Just learning. Chow. **Rod, UK**

Good use of space, Roddy boy! Your buds are growing into the rafters. Be careful next summer when weather warms. Attic grow operations are infamous for being very hot when the sun is shining. Make sure you have a big enough extractor fan to keep the upstairs cool.







Hi Fellas!

Must say I was thrilled of finally having a free cannazine in Oslo. This little bush in the sink was grown from a batch of Spice Of Life-Adventure Mix (2nds!). I believe she's a Sweet Tooth or Blockhead, but that really doesn't matter as she's potent, productive, and easy. The other ladies are Double Super Silver Neville Haze, NL5 x Mazar, Papaya, LUI, Grape Punch. Just one of each and they all live in that tiny box right behind them. I grow organically in that home made 400w HPS box, and use BioBizz additives as well as local compost, crap, and seaweed. She does -as you all can see- get some cool colours from week six-seven and on...

Hultertibulter, Oslo (Norway)

You really have the formula up north, Hitlerbultar. Those are great looking plants. The lady in the large pot is looking very strong and healthy. This is living proof that there are inexpensive seed deals that really kick ass! Well done to you people in Norway!



Hi Soft Secrets

This is my second attempt and I have been using an NFT 250w hydroponic kit. I'm quite pleased as I have MS and I am starting to feel the benefits of lots of weed.

Cheers Dan, Worcestershire

Dan, we like 'm allright... Great growing!



Shalom Soft Secrets

This is My Holy Sativa Garden from the Holy Land. This is my first indoor operation. I read a lot of your magazines and it helped me a lot.

Max, Tel Aviv (Israel)

Shalom Max. Are you using a ventilator in your cabinet at all? If not, start using one, so your plants will become stronger.

CENIT GROWSY



SUNMASTER

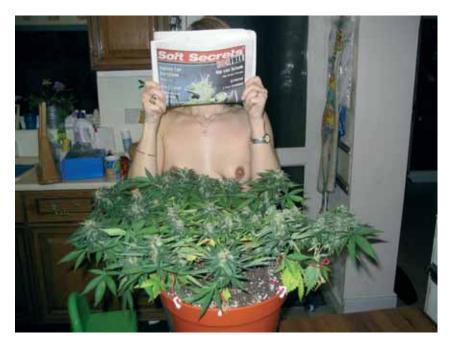




Century Growsystems

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Hello there.

Due to my shitty pack of Skunk #1 seeds, it's taken me 4 months to get this far, my last remaining plant now 45 days in flower. Out of 10 seeds, 2 didn't germ and 7 turned out male leaving one surviving girlie. My grow room is a kitchen cupboard with two envirolites squeezed inside.

Binary, Wiltshire

This low profile potted plant is proof that you have to start with good seeds! We'll send you some good seed that grow plants beyond those beautiful boobies. The good part about the low growth is the view behind. What else do you cook up in the kitchen?

Dear Soft Secrets,

Here's a pic of my wife tending to our first ever garden, with two weeks left till cropping! We ended up with a yield of 60oz from 5 plants, only achieved due to following simple guidelines in your magazine, we wouldn't have had half a chance without it. By the way, acting on "information received" the police raided our home just 6



hours after we'd been out and stashed the lot well away from where we live - was that a close shave or wot? Needless to say, they ended the search glaringly empty handed - apart from a few petty confiscations cos they think it pisses us off. Anyway, at the end of the day it was a result against em, which made it as good a buzz as the crop they didn't get! Thanks again!

S., UK

Now THAT'S a story with a happy ending! You must have had a stoned angel watching over you...



Dear Soft Secrets,

Fantastic read, has been very helpful. Here's a pic of my lower half of the garden, incl. my bird. These are Double Dutch, 8 in total in NFT tables, under 8 400W sodiums using Dutch Master nutrients. As you can see

they've gone without water for 2 days, even so averaging 10oz per plant and a wicked smoke!

Russ & Dani, Yorkshire

It doesn't get any better then this, guys. Fat, juicy buds as far as the eye can see, and all nutrients were drained from the leaves. You guys are Soft Secrets certified top-growers, congratulations!



Dear Soft Secrets

I grew 6 Serious Seeds' White Russian under 2 400 Watt Son-T fittings with PlantaStar bulbs. The photo's were taken with 7-10 days to go. They were grown using Canna Coco in 15 Litre buckets with Canna nutrients. I only water with rain water now and I can't believe the difference this has made, plants are much healthier and yield has increased. I feed with 10ml of each nutrient per 10 Litres of water for the first 4 weeks vegative growth and up this to 15/15ml for the first week of flowering. The plants get 20/20ml for the next three weeks. At week five I still feed 20/20ml of Canna nutrient but introduce a further 20ml of Canna PK 13/14 booster. I feed this 20/20/20ml for 3 weeks and flush for the final 7-14 days. I harvested 450 Grammes of dry bud from this crop. I have never tried trimming off the large leaves as "The Bible" says they are the main food producers but will try it next crop. Soft Secrets is a quality read, keep on publishing... Darren, UK

Darren, that is one beautiful set of resin squirting ladies! You are

using a lot of light for the harvest you reap. With just a little organization you can double the size. Grow more plants in the same space, induce flowering when plants are about 30 cm tall so light is able to penetrate foliage when flowering. But we still have a hard time understanding how hacking off leaves makes plants grow more... Anyone?

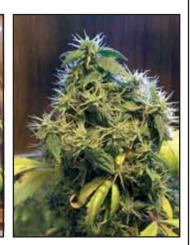
Hi Soft Secrets,

Here is a pic of my 7 ladies in waiting (BUBBLE GUM). Grown in Canna coco and 400watt HPS for 9wks. I was a bit disappointed with the resin content (don't know wha went wrong there) but it still smokes nice. Your magazine is banging, so many positives, keep up the splendid work. **Boo, UK**

Hey Boo, you keep up the splendid growing.







copy of Soft Secrets from Amsterdam. Now, thanks to reading the current issue, I know the right way to cure these babies.

FM, Detroit (USA)

Hey FM, good to hear from our US readers. Welcome to the world of Soft Secrets, and spread the word!



Dear Soft Secrets,

My mate Bobby, with my first Sirius crop. Great paper. **Dave, Newcastle**

What a masterfull plant! You're an example for every SSUK reader who wants to know what to expect from a good SCROG, or what the result will be if you TOP your plants.



Dear Soft Secrets,

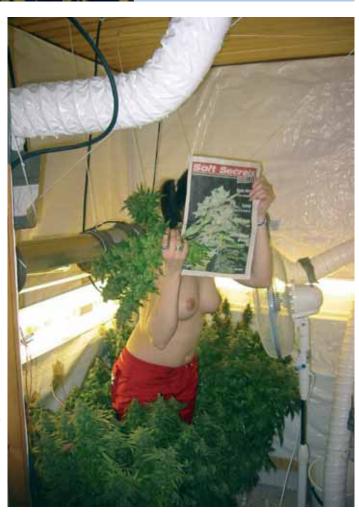
Here are some pictures of my White Russian ladies, 10 days before harvest. This is my 3d year of growing and the crops are getting better and better, partly due to your fantastic publication. I used BioBizz and a 400W HPS with 18oz yield from only 4 clones! The ensign in the photo is for the 'South East Guerilla Growers', bringing quality smoke to London! Big up to all your researchers and keep that info coming!

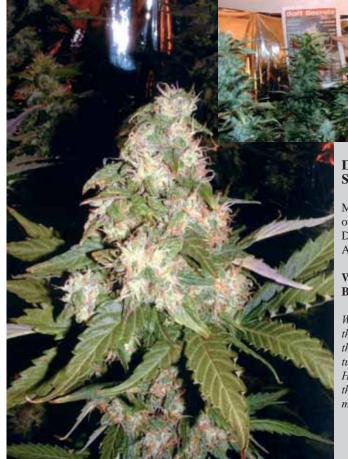
M.K., London

That's lovely MK, but nobody can actually see the ensign. Or is it in the other room?

Here is all that I L.O.V.E. The plants in the photo are Maple Leaf Indica, Sheherazade, AK-47 and Jack Flash. Jyri, Finland

What is this sudden invasion of the Fins in SSUK all about...? Anyway, great growing Jyri, you seem to have mastered the art of indoor growing fairly well.. But give it to us straight: is that actually your sauna you refurbished a bit? That's a great idea!





Dear Soft Secrets,

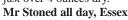
My first grow, on hydro, Durban Poison. All the best

Wurzel, Blackburn

Wurzel, more then 80% of the hairs have turned brown. High time to cut that lady down, mate!

Hi Soft Secrets,

Thanks for a great read, we could not have done what we have if it was not for your mag we found in a local grow shop. Keep up the good work. Here are two unknowns that we found in some weed a while ago . We started them off with a 250w MH and bloom was a 400w HPS. As you can see the result was OK and a great smoke. We got just over 4 ounces dry.





A well run tidy garden, mate, keep it that way. What a shame you don't know the strain, we would be more than happy to have these gals in our garden anytime.



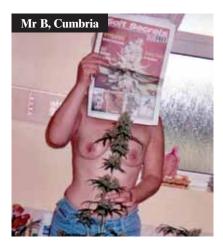
Hello everyone,

Our first attempt at the delightful art of growing and was stoked with the results. Always gaggin to get my hands on your next issue for all the top tips not to mention top tits!

Albert, Norfolk.

Albert, keep your patience with these ladies as Sativa's could need a couple of extra weeks for flowering.













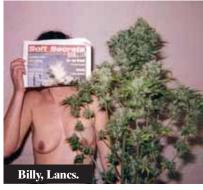




















By Chris Marchand

ssuk@softsecrets.nl

Infra-Red Thermometer from Esoteric Hydroponics

It should be fairly obvious to any grower that temperature plays a vital role in the grow



room and that maintaining the temperature within a specific range is paramount to growing healthy plants. For this, most growers use a maximum/minimum thermometer, which is effective at displaying the ambient air temperature of the environment surrounding the plants. This gives a general overview of the overall temperature in a room, but what if you want to go a step further? Then this Infra-Red Thermometer is the product for you. This cute little handheld bit of kit will read the surface temperature of anything you point it at. In other words it will allow you, the grower, to read the temperature of any part of your room. Even fairly small variations in temperature either in the ambient atmosphere of the room or at the root level can cause massive reductions in potential yield. The plants may be doing there best under the circumstances but high temperatures will cause loose bud formations and stretchy plants whereas cold will slow down the rate of growth and restrict the size of the buds. There are several areas in the grow room where the Infra-Red Thermometer can be an invaluable piece of technology. For example, in larger rooms with several plants temperature can vary dramatically depending on the arrangement of extractor fans and circulating fans and therefore the flow of air in the room. One area of the room may not have enough air circulating around it and as a result the plant(s) in that area are suffering from heat stress because they are being heated by the lights and not kept cool by the fans. The overall temperature in the room may be spot on but on closer inspection you find parts of the room where the environment is not right, and the plants in those areas are not performing as they should. Examining the temperature around the canopy of the plants will tell you if your lights are too close and therefore reduce heat-stress and curling on the leaves. At the same time the temperature lower down in the room around the pants root zone may be dramatically lower, due to the fact that heat rises. This can cause major upset to your plants. How would you like standing in a bucket of cold water with an HID light right above your head? The Infra-Red Thermometer will even read the surface temperature of water negating the need for a separate water thermometer. By reading the temperature of all areas of the room it gives the grower a degree of accuracy and control previously unavailable to the hobby grower. When you play God in your grow room, it helps to be informed.

Available from Esoteric Hydroponics: tel 0044 (0)1483 596484 www.1-hydroponics.co.uk

The Tumble Trimmer



Is it a flying saucer? Is it barbecue? No, it's the Tumble Trimmer! This new product, recently demonstrated at this year's HighLife Fair in Utrecht, is the latest herb trimmer to hit the market. Automated bud trimmers are growing in popularity with new innovations appearing all the time. Just a few years ago the only trimmers available to the UK were of the industrial variety and out of the price range of all but

the commercial growers. Many required additional equipment such as a vacuum cleaner and were noisy to use. The Tumble Trimmer provides a self-contained. safe and totally silent alternative. The buds are placed on the grill before the lid is placed on top. Once shut all you do is turn the crank. This makes the buds gently roll (or tumble) over the grill while at the same time the crank is also causing a fine cutting wire underneath the grill to spin rapidly removing leaf in the same way an electric garden strimmer cuts grass. You can vary the distance between the grill and the cutting wire to alter how closely the buds are trimmed. The manufacturers recommend that around 20g of dry weight in buds can be trimmed at a time, which makes it more suitable to the hobby grower than the commercial grower, although each batch of buds only requires about 10 to 20 seconds or 15 to 30 rotations of the crank. Pretty good when you consider how long the same amount takes to trim by hand. The real advantage of this trimmer over its competitors is its hand-driven operation. By removing the need for a motor the Tumble Trimmer is cheaper, safer, quieter and less likely to break down, and all in exchange for minimal effort by the operator. An electrical variant has been considered, but the cost would be considerable and since each batch is trimmed so quickly, the constant switching off to empty would almost amount to as much work as turning the crank a few times. As with all automated trimmers the leaf is cut at high speeds and so becomes largely mulched. This is not ideal for then sieving the leaf for hash (as the THC glands have been bust open) making the trim leaf better for making Honey Oil or Cannabutter. With its retrospace age design and practicality the Tumble Trimmer looks a very attractive device to any grower is tired of scissor blisters and those long nights trimming by hand.

For more info check out www.tumbletrimmer.com

Hand Screens and Natural Cellophane from Next Level



New from Next Level, these Hand Screens are far and away the cheapest, easiest way to make your own piece of high-grade hash. Next Level has established itself as the UK's leading light in the homemade hash market supplying pretty much everything the eager hash maker could want to make a whole host of different hashes; and all from otherwise wasted trim leaf.

After hand-rubbing, dry sieving cannabis flowers and leaf to extract glands is the oldest-known form of THC extraction. The Hand Screens updates this tradition by using tough nylon screen with a specially selected micron size for optimum resin gland collection. By using durable nylon the screen retains its shape even after hundreds of uses and is resistant to tearing. Not only that but every Hand Screen is individually handmade in the UK from ethically sourced renewable materials.

Using a Hand Screen couldn't be simpler. All you do is place the screen over a mirror, piece of glass or any smooth surface. Then take your dry trim leaf, making sure you are using leaf that has visible resin on it. It is also a good idea to freeze the leaf prior to sieving to make the glands brittle and easily detachable. Simply take the leaf and handful at a time and rub it over the screen. After a little while when you lift the screen up you will be able to see a layer of fine dust that is the detached resin glands. It is also recommended that when trimming your plants you do it over a screen and you'll be amazed at what you have been missing.

The trick to making hash with a Hand Screen is the amount of time and vigour with which you rub the leaf. A very quick once over with each handful will obviously yield lower but will be of a finer quality. Hash made like this can bubble and often comes out a pale sandy colour (although this can also depend on variety) and can sometimes rival bubblesac hash for potency and flavour. If you then re-sieve the leaf a second grade can be gathered that will be a lower grade but still very strong and pure. The longer the leaf is rubbed the more it breaks down and eventually tiny pieces of plant matter will fall through the screen. You know when this is happening from the green tinge in the gathered dust. By varying how long you sieve the leaf you can gather a whole range of slightly different hashes, including the very highest grade for you to enjoy at your leisure.

Resin extracted using a dry method like this often requires more heat to bond it into a proper piece of hash than bubblesac hash. Just heating the glands in the palms of your hands or in the shoe is not always sufficient to properly bond it; which is where Natural Cellophane comes in.

Unlike normal cling-film, Natural Cellophane allows moisture to pass through it and as such makes it ideal for bonding with heat and moisture. Another advantage is that even the stickiest high-grade hash and oil will not get stuck to Natural Cellophane making it about the only way to keep your pieces in tact; essential stuff for any hash maker.

The Hand Screen comes in two sizes: 30 cm² and 50 cm² and Natural Cellophane is available by the metre. Because the method is so simple it makes the Hand Screen perfect for those who only have a small amount of leaf, not enough to justify making bubblesac hash but enough to get a nice little lump of high-grade. If you don't already make your own hash give it a try, you're sure to be pleasantly surprised and there's no easier way than a hand screen.

Hand Screens and Natural Cellophane are available from Next Level at www.bubblesac.co.uk or Retail and Wholesale enquiries: 0044 (0)7780 916356 Also available at: Soylent Green , RootZone and www.everyonedoesit.com

FloraKleen from General Hydroponics



Any hydroponic grower worth his or her salt will know that flushing the plant before harvesting is an essential part of growing quality herb. If a plant is not properly flushed then the weed will be harsh to smoke and have an unpleasant chemical taste to it. This taste comes from the leftover chemical salts inside the bud and will completely ruin what could have been a nice smoke.

Traditionally growers have used plain water at the end of a flowering period to literally flush out the nutrient inside the plant. FloraKleen is a clearing solution designed to facilitate this process by dissolving excessive salts that have built up in the system; thereby making the flushing process more effective, which in turn makes the weed nicer to smoke. Flush solutions are added to the water so that the plant will absorb the mixture taking it inside its cell structure where the salt has accumulated. Here it can dissolve the salt into the water and carry it out as waste.

By using a conductivity meter when flushing you can read the progress of the activity by testing the solution before and after it is given to the plant. If the conductivity has risen during the process then more dissolved salt is present as a result of flushing; therefore it must have taken salt from inside the plant.

General Hydroponics recommends using FloraKleen monthly throughout the crop in both hydroponic and soil systems to make sure there are no build-ups of unwanted salts. By doing this the chances of having bad nutrient lock-out is greatly reduced, which can be particularly useful in hard-water areas where the levels of calcium and magnesium in the water supply are already in excess for the plant before any nutrient has been added. When a plant has too much of one mineral it's ability to absorb other mineral is "locked-out" leaving it stressed and unhealthy. Regular flushing will help prevent the levels of nutrient getting too high by dissolving the excess every month or so.

FloraKleen is highly concentrated and safe to use on growing plants in all systems and can be used to dissolve mineral and salt build-up at any time.

For more info visit www.generalhydroponics.com

FishPlus and FishPlus Bloom from Grotek



The benefits of fish for growing good ganja have been known for hundreds of years to when growers buried a single dead fish at the base of each cannabis plant. In scientific terms fish is a very rich source of nitrogen and so it would follow that it has become a favourite for soil growers everywhere, especially those with a natural or organic approach to growing. FishPlus and FishPlus Bloom are new fish derived additives for the conscientious grower who wants a natural alternative to salt-based nutrient.



FishPlus is a 100% Organic mix of Pacific fish and bloodmeal making it a rich source of nitrogen and iron as well as containing natural amino acids and enzymes that are perfect for growing plants.

For the flowing phase: FishPlus Bloom is made up of hydrolysed fish and potassium phosphate, and so is regarded as an organic-based nutrient. It provides nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous, calcium, micronutrients and a variety of amino acids. These ingredients initiate flowering and help bud formation giving denser, heavier buds.

FishPlus Bloom will also revitalise soil, which at the late flowering stage can be exhausted of nutrient, by adding natural minerals and improving the microbial activity in the pot.

Both products carry Groteks own Earth Safe seal that they use for all their organic and organic based products. It is a guarantee that they are safe for the environment, safe for the garden and safe for you. Don't forget that FishPlus and FishPlus Bloom are ideal to use on your houseplants too.

For more info: www.grotek.net

The New WaterFarm from G.H.E



The WaterFarm was originally designed in California nearly thirty years ago. Since then thousands of units have been sold all around the world establishing The WaterFarm and it's larger sister, the AquaFarm, as the industry leaders and a regular site in grow-rooms in any country.



The principle of this system is simple. The plant sits in clay pebbles in the planter, which in turn sits inside the larger tank. This tank acts as a reservoir for the nutrient solution, which is pumped up the delivery tube, through the drip ring and delivered to the plant. The nutrient drips down through the pebbles back into the reservoir ready to be recycled.

WaterFarms are the ideal system for growing single large plants. They have plenty of room for an extensive root system as well as being easy to manoeuvre and maintain. Each plant has it's own self-contained space which

allows you to grow different varieties side by side in the grow-room, as well as tailor the feed to each individual plants needs. This also means that any problems encountered at the root system will stay confined to the single plant without infecting all the other plants in the room. These systems are also very popular with new growers and people new to hydroponics. The design and principle are simple and the regular maintenance easy so they quickly become a firm favourite with less experienced growers and old pro's alike.

With the new WaterFarm the overall design and principle has remained untouched. Where the new version is different is in the new improve materials used for the drip-ring to reduce unwanted blockages from salt build-ups, particularly in hard water areas, and the redesigned pumping column, which is now sealed with a special attachment for the air-pipe. The new column tidies up the tubing and comes apart easily when it needs to be cleaned.

By using an air pump rather than a submersible pump this system kills two birds with one stone by oxygenating the nutrient solution around the root system at the same time as feeding the plant by forcing the water up the feeding tube. Having an air-pump rather than water pump means that even if the reservoir is dry the pump will not burn out or make a lot of noise.

WaterFarms are very durable and make from UV resistant recycled plastics; and they really do grow some very weighty plants, which is particularly useful when having fewer plants can make all the difference.

WaterFarms are available from all good grow-shops including Grow Systems tel. 0044 (0)1603 662655 For more info check www.eurohydro.com

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BIOCANNA from CANNA







The fact that nutrient manufacturer giants Canna have produced a range of fully organic nutrients is further evidence that organic growing now makes up a substantial part of the ganja industry. There have always been people who

have preferred to grow in soil rather than hydroponics. However, quicker growing times and larger yields seduced the majority of growers into growing hydroponically and this became the norm. As people have become more aware of the benefits of organic produce in mainstream society (supermarkets and the like) the demand has filtered through into the cannabis market.

Canna's response to this trend is BioCanna; their new range of fully organic nutrients for use on plants in soil. Not wanting to do things in half measures, every effort has been made to produce the most effective and environmentally friendly nutrient possible. All BioCanna products carry the EKO mark issued by the SKAL International Foundation that supervises organic production worldwide. Canna has the British Soil Association equivalent certification pending. The EKO mark guarantees that the product contained inside really is organic and as such contains no fertiliser, chemical pesticides, chemical or synthetic flavours, colours or preservatives. Neither can it contain any GMO's (Genetically Modified Organisms). The principles of organic cultivation encourage biodiversity. Put simply, this means the variety of living organisms from diverse origins; the more organism types the wider the biodiversity.

It is in this Biodiversity that the differences between hydroponic and organic cultivation become clear. A standard chemical mineral fertilizer contains little more than the correct ratio of nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). The system is sterile and bacteria are kept to a minimum. We know that this grows plants very effectively, bigger and fatter than nature herself but at what cost? We know that organic fruit and vegetables have at least twice the nutritional value of their

hydroponic equivalents but, sadly, not so much research has been carried out into cannabis flowers. Canna has shown through their own research that products grown with BioCanna have higher percentages of certain essential oils such as Limonene, Caryophyllene and _ – Humulene. These oils determine scent and flavour; the most common observation of organic cannabis being it's richer smell and flavour. Limonene is also known to have anti-inflammatory properties and improves blood circulation, while other research shows organic crops to contain more salicylic acid also good for cardiovascular conditions.

Organic fertiliser still needs to contain the right ratio of the essential NPK elements for the plant to use. The difference between organic and mineral fertiliser is the form in which these elements are found. Organic fertilisers are in part organically bound i.e. they are in a form that can also be found in nature. In this from they are difficult to measure (unlike mineral fertiliser that can be tested for its electro-conductivity). However the plant is still able to observe the same amount of minerals. In order to consistently produce the right mixtures for the different stages of the plants development BioCanna fertilisers have to go through a complex process. An important step in this process is fermentation (the breaking down of complex substances by means of micro-organisms, just like in beer). After long research into micro organisms and vegetable matter Canna developed a 100% controlled fermentation process that ensures a consistent product that is easily absorbable to the plant.

BioCanna comes in three different mixtures: BioVega for the growth phase is rich in betaine nitrogen that is release according to the plants requirements and is designed to stimulate the root development as well as the formation of strong growth shoots. BioFlores provides the correct compliment to the plants changing requirements for its blooming phase, using amongst other things hop extract. Hop extract contains cannabinoid-like substances such as lupulin, luparol, lupulon and humulon, which give the plant extra blooming vigour. BioBoost is a yield-increasing additive. Rather than a nutrient it is a natural fermented plant extracts from tropical rainforests with bloom stimulating and flavour enhancing characteristics. BioBoost can be used as a bloom stimulator in all systems and with any nutrients.

Canna recommends feeding manually (the thickness of the product can clog pipes etc) one to three times a week. Due to the presence of pH buffering fruit acids in BioVega and BioFlores there is no need to acidify. It may sound complicated, but in practice organic cultivation is simple and the quality of the product makes up for the extra wait and lower overall weight.

BIOCANNA is available from all CANNA stockists including Hydrogarden and all Grow Systems Stores $0044\ (0)1603\ 662655$

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Loveliest stand: Ons Stekje





The Ons Stekje wholesaler deservedly won the prize for the loveliest stand at the Highlife Hemp Fair. The round, artfully decorated stand

was fitted out according to all the trademarks that Jan from Ons Stekje finds important: "We want to give a neat, clean impression, and that what we are trying to express with our stand too," said Jan. "And I am naturally very happy that with this we have won a prize." On behalf of the Fair's organizers we would like to congratulate Ons Stekje here for having carried off their first prize.

Ons Stekje wholesalers (not for private sales)
Tel: + 31 (0) 10 420 2309 • Fax: +31 (0) 10-421 2443 • www.onsstekje.nl



Happy Garden in a ship container

The doors of the spectacular grow container from the Eindhoven grow shop Happy Garden were practically trampled flat for three days with curious visitors, and this popularity translated into a third prize in the Best



Product category. Owner William is totally chuffed with the award, and says it took him totally by surprise. "Supercool!" is - besides a broad grin - his first reaction. It was also quite a feat for a grow shop that has only been up and running for six months, to bring such an ambitious product to market and then top that by winning a prize. What is more, this mobile growing chamber inside a transformed ship container was only finished off a week before the Fair... "The interest has been enormous," laughs the Happy Gardener.

Which is not so strange, given that the grower with a little experience can get immediately down to work – now that's real plug & play - and within two months he'll be carting home a six kilo harvest. In other words, he will have royally recouped his outlay in one fell swoop. The sophisticated and very complete system is delivered fully-equipped by an independent transport company that knows nothing about its end use – which adds an extra dimension to discretion! The provocatively white-painted monster (other colours deliverable) can be viewed daily at Happy Garden on the Leenderweg (number 313) in Eindhoven.

Happy Garden:

Tel: +31 (0) 40 2122930 • www.thehappygarden.nl

Grow&Go, making room for one more container

The vibe on the IGS stand is festive. "For us it was a super fair," said John from IGS. "We

were awarded the first prize for Best Product, but the main prize of this fair is in my heart, and that is because I asked my girlfriend to marry me! But of course we are delighted with the prize for our grow Just as with our grow cupboards, the Grow & Go container has been fitted out with a TNO-certified (Dutch equivalent of a kite mark – Ed) Firepro fire extinguishing system, our own ebb and flood system all



possible technical gizmos and extra options, such as a CCTV system, for those who really want the Full Monty. And what I would also like to add is: people have to go out there and grow much more weed, because there's too little of it about!" A few days after the fair we phoned the IGS headquarters in Best. John was still very enthusiastic: "We had a busy time, but after the Fair we were still getting more customers; it has been raining compliments and orders via internet, by telephone. Loads and loads of orders, also from Spain, France – in fact, from all over Europe, actually..."

Info: I.G.S.: Tel: +31 (0) 499 496090 • Fax: +31 (0) 499 496091 • www.igrow.nl



Colossal small-scale growing with Coliseum

PK Trading was another company surprised by the honour heaped upon its product, in this case a second prize for Best Product with its Coliseum growing



system. "To be quite honest, I had barely even concerned myself with who had won the prizes," said Han from PK Trading soberly. "So you could certainly say it was a surprise." The Coliseum was chosen over PK's more spectacular-looking high-tech grow systems, such as the Eco- or Omega-grow system. But it is indeed a brilliant invention, this Canadian design that was originally developed to enable people in crowded Third World cities to grow themselves food basics with a maximum yield in a minimum surface area. You could easily lose 300

clones in this 'tower block for plants', which has its sunlight supplied by three 600 Watters that have been centrally mounted in cool tubes. Harvests of up to four kilos are apparently do-able for those with a modicum of green in their fingers. "In the beginning I didn't really see much in this sort of new grow system," says Han. "But now that I have seen for myself that it really does work I have become much more positive about them. It saves room and above all energy, which is all the more important now that the electricity companies are getting tougher with their checks."

Info: PK Trading:

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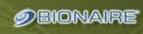
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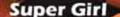
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By: Weckels, the grow specialist from Atami

Stone Wool and Polyurethane as Substrates

The recent fashion for growing on coco mats may well have changed the minds of many growers, but many seasoned professionals still tip the nod to stone wool and polyurethane (PU) mats. Before we actually take a look at the pros and cons of both substrates when compared with each other, I shall first tell you a little bit about how stone wool first became a popular growing medium.

The development of stone wool

Stone wool is produced from basalt and limestone when they are mixed with coke and smelted at a temperature of about 1600 degrees Celsius. The hot lava that results is spun on a rotating disk which throws it out, causing the lava to solidify into long, thin fibres. These fibres form the actual basis, and after the addition of various binding agents and other substances to aid the absorption of water, the substrate that is known as stone wool is arrived it. After soil, this is one of the most popular growing media among growers.

It's true that many consider stone wool to be a rather 'chemical' product, but humans only started making it after it had been found in nature. I should just mention at this point that you should not expect to find in it lying around in Holland, England - or anywhere else in the UK for that matter (before all you growers rush off and start combing the woods for free mats of stone wool). The first examples of what would later be called stone wool were found around volcanoes. During some volcanic eruptions, balls of lava are spat out that leave thread-like trails behind them as they fly through the air. These thin strands of what are essentially naturally spun glass, were captured by the wind and carried sometimes miles from their source, and in this way people would often encounter this strange woolly substance. Scenes like this were especially common around the volcanoes of Hawaii, and it was not long before the first American smarty-pants scientists went over to do some research on the stuff. They soon established that the airy, woolly substance held substantial amounts of air within its structure - and therefore it would hold warmth in too, making it an ideal insulating material.

We Dutch found it an interesting insulating material, but as natural born growers we were immediately struck by its potential for getting good growing results when it was used as a substrate. In 1969 the biggest manufacturer of stone wool in the Netherlands succeeded in making a stone wool suitable for using as a growing medium.

It was the beginning of a whole new era for Dutch growers. The original growers were now effectively split into two camps. On the one side the *Bioboeren* or bio-farmers (they grew in soil), and on the other side the *Hydroboeren* (they grew on stone wool). The *Bioboeren* were by far the largest group of growers, since growing on soil was considerably cheaper than growing on stone wool, and for most growers hydro growing was also just too complicated.

The properties of stone wool

Stone wool is incredibly light, can hold a lot of water (around 80%) and in its uppermost layer holds plenty of air (about 20%). Partly due to the fact that stone wool is so light in comparison with soil, it will soon save you much back pain when you hump stone wool mats about instead of heavy bags of soil.

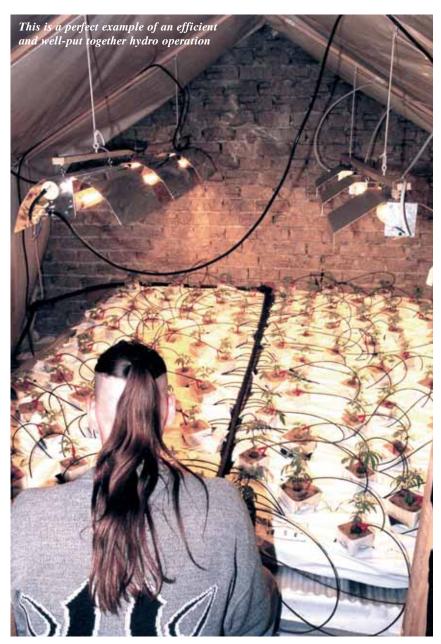
There are a number of drawbacks to using stone wool, one being that your hands can get really irritated, to say nothing of the effects on those who wear contact lenses. Especially when you are working in a grow space of limited size, small irritations can very quickly begin to play a large role in your growing experience, and before you know it you can end up sitting cursing the stuff with your hands and arms covered in a rash.

Also, the tiny fragments of stone wool matting that circulate in the air do not do your lungs much good when you breathe them in. It has not vet been proven whether stone wool can cause cancer, but that those small, dry fibres can cause strange things to happen to your body has long been known. Of course there are many growers who take the precaution of soaking their stone wool mats in water (whether with or without added nutrients) before working with them, but in spite of this there are still sufficient moments when they are still going to be unable to avoid contact with the tiny dust particles (think for example of the moment when you first open the bag to take out the stone wool mats).

For this reason I would advise you to always wear a dust mask when working with dry stone wool; such masks can save you a lot of unpleasantness. If you happen to have sensitive skin, I would also advise you to wear rubber gloves when working with the stuff. By following these precautions you will not be betrayed by your whole environment and made ill with stone wool irritation.

Another drawback is that stone wool mats often retain a lot of moisture in their lower-most layer, and this can be detrimental to the passage of oxygen in to this layer. Given that a good supply of oxygen is crucial to good root development, and so in turn is crucial for the well-being of the whole plant, then it goes without saying that you have to keep a good eye on this.

In contrast to stone wool mats, PU-mats do not degrade



One solution is actually to give your plants as little water as possible, so that the slabs of stone wool can once again take up sufficient oxygen. You could also for example be better off giving 12 small waterings of feed water (water with dissolved fertiliser and/or stimulators) rather than six bigger ones, so that the stone wool mats do not become too drenched with water. Giving more frequent waterings of smaller volumes is something I often advise when growing indoors. This is mainly because plants grown indoors are often grown on thin feed bases (substrates), whereby the plants can only use a fraction of the feed water they receive. So were you to give them a large quantity of water six times a day, then the total volume of water that is lost as drainage considerably larger. This is not only bad for your wallet (liquid fertiliser and / or stimulators are being washed down the drain), but it can also cost you a lot of extra work, as you will have to empty your collection vat of its excess water more frequently.

pН

Stone wool has in comparison with other substrates a relatively high pH-value, which hovers as it happens around the

8.0 mark. This is with good reason, as stone wool exposed to low pH or acidic conditions has a tendency to dissolve and thereby lose its structure. If this happens the quality of the mats is considerably reduced, and the best thing to do is chuck them out. With normal use however, you should be able to get a good two harvests from your stone wool mats, and so it would be a shame to toss them away after just the single grow. But if the water you have used has been too acidic or had too high a concentration of liquid fertiliser and / or stimulators mixed with the water. the stone wool structure will collapse. The air and so the oxygen supply will be considerably affected. One other the reasons why growers often throw out their stone wool mats after one harvest is that it can be a nightmare to remove the tangle of roots from the recently harvested plants from them. Remember what I said about the irritating effects of small fibres floating around the environment? Same

Polyurethane

One other substrate that receives little attention but that possesses a number of advantages when compared with stone wool is polyurethane, or PU. This is a



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Lets grow things better

foam made from crude oil and originally used in the furniture industry, where it serves as a stuffing (because the material is so soft, it is great in sofas, for example). The cuttings that are left over from its production process are chopped into flakes, when it is better known by the name Oxygrow. In order to render these flakes suitable for use by growers as a substrate, they are bound together with an organic binding agent and pressed together into a mould until they are a certain thickness. During this whole production process hot steam is forced through the flakes and their binding agent, which makes the flakes stick to each other, rendering the PU slabs suitable for growing on.

Properties of polyurethane

If we compare the PU-mats with stone wool, it is immediately obvious that PU-mats hold a relatively large amount

When growing on stone wool you are better off giving 12 small waterings rather than six bigger ones

of air (about 30%) and hold relatively little water (about 70%). This means for a start that it is much harder to create a waterlogged under-layer using PU-mats. On the other hand, they will have to be have more frequent dribbles of water, since the mats will hold considerably less feed water in them than stone wool mats. This can sometimes lead to problems, especially when you only have in your possession timers that cannot be programmed in very small time periods (for example, to the minute). The somewhat more expensive. accurate timers are good value at twice the price though, since they can control your (dropper) watering in more usable increments.

A big advantage of using PU-mats rather than stone wool is that the top surface of

the PU-mats pretty quickly feel dry to the touch, which means they are letting oxygen in more quickly - but far more importantly, makes them very inhospitable to algae. As a result you are unlikely to ever encounter problems with algal build up if you use PU-mats. What is more, PU-mats have a neutral pH (around a 7.0), which is an ideal base on which to grow. But for me, one of the biggest advantages of using PU-mats rather than stone wool is that they consign those damned floating fibres of irritation to the past. It should be mentioned that PU-mats have in the past not had the best of reputations, mainly because they were not fire-resistant and so they threatened to turn your whole grow space into a tinderbox. There also circulated rumours that the PU-mats were just a collection of harmful substances.

Happily, with the passage of time a lot has changed, and such (suspected) drawbacks and / or rumours are also a thing of the

In contrast to stone wool mats, PU-mats do not break down when exposed to acidic conditions or the action of microorganisms, and so they can last for years. If when using stone wool you have had the problems with collapsing structure mentioned earlier, as a result of which you had problems with your oxygen uptake, once you switch to PU-mats you will never have the problem again. There are even growers who swear they can easily (re-)use their PU-mats for a good 10 grows. You can make your PU-mats more easy to re-use by letting them dry out after each harvest. By doing so, the root remains die and shrivel up, making them easier to remover. Once you've done this, you can put them directly back to good use!

COLUMN

Murder, Mayhem and Cannabis

Joe Kane

Non-UK readers may not have heard anything of the sorry and sordid tale I'm about to recount, but I'd ask them to bear with me anyway, as there's stuff here of interest to stoners everywhere.

Basically, it was a nasty, everyday little drama of a kid murdering his girlfriend and cutting her up, getting caught and then rather than own up to the crime and do the time, decides to scrape every barrel he can think of to get his worthless skin off the hook.

I've been getting more and more pissed off about this as it's unfolded. We're getting two stupid moral panics for the price of one. First off, he listened to Marilyn Manson CD's, and fancied himself as a bit of a Goth. Second, he smoked dope.

So of course the idea was to link all these things together, do the twisty lawyer thing and blame the murder on music and dope. Utter fucking crap.

Anyhow, this piece of shit reckons he smokes between four and five ounces of dope a week (or 600 joints a week, depending which paper you read) and served this up as an excuse for his actions. I'm still not exactly 100% sure what it was his lawyer was trying to say here. Either he was smoking all this ganja and so would be too fucked to kill his girlfriend, or he smoked all this ganja and that's what made him kill his girlfriend. Whatever, I don't get it.

Now this skid mark of a human has been found guilty, which in my book makes him a liar: he said he didn't kill his girlfriend but the jury decided he did, therefore he's been telling pork pies under oath in the court. Another thing I don't get though is while all these fucking authorities are agreed that the kid is a total bullshitter in almost everything he says, they're prepared to accept that 1) he smoked four or five ounces of dope a week, and 2) this made him "psychotic".

So he's lied about everything else in his trial, but he's telling the truth about his dope consumption? Give me fucking strength! I never thought I'd agree with anything a drug squad copper said, but I got to tell you I agree with the one who said in court that the kid was talking bullshit. Totally. Either that or he was smoking, like, really fucking piss poor dope. Like the worst dope ever in the history of the world.

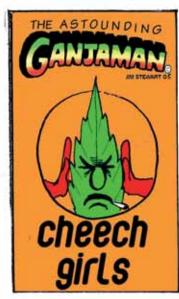
Now none of this washes with yours truly. I know millions of people who smoke dope and loads who listen to Marilyn Manson CD's. I actually know a lot of people who smoke dope while listening to MM CD's. The difference is that as far as I know not one of them rushed out afterwards and brutally and horribly stabbed someone to death and then mutilated their body. Sorry to rain on the parade, but – and all those fucking experts should listen really carefully to what I'm going to say here – cannabis does not make people murder other people. And listen up cos I'm going to be really bold now: music does not make people murder other people either. I mean, let's get fucking REAL for just one minute.

I say death to simplistic and stupid "answers" to really complicated behaviour, and a plague on the newspapers who *know* that these stories are total shit but who are happy to keep the tired old myths going so they can sell more of their lies to the terminally stupid.

Let's hear it for truth.

JK

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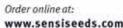
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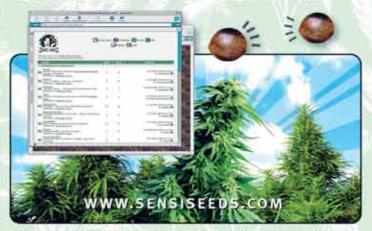




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New record: 14.983 visitors!

Industry and Visitors Show Maturity and Expertise of Dutch Growers

At the end of the day on Sunday 23 January the counter stood at 14.983 visitors. With this figure it was apparent that the latest edition of the Highlife Hemp Fair (Hennepbeurs) 2005 had built on the positive trend of the previous years; the fair continues to grow. Further testimony came from the enthusiastic reactions of stand holders as well as the visiting public; everyone is happy with the Fair's continued progress of the annual Highlife Hemp Fair.

Even before the fair had begun at 10.00 am on Friday there was drama, with the organisers kept on tenterhooks. The Utrecht City Council had imposed strict stipulations on the event. The threat was that the whole event would be shut down if just a single marihuana plant was found. For the whole duration of the Fair there were inspectors from the police and the council wandering around keeping a strict watch on everything. But the stand holders kept themselves strictly within the rules; not a single weed plant was found during the event. There's more on this later in the report.

'Business as usual'

Following the early consternation of Friday morning the events thereafter soon showed that it was going to at least be 'business as usual'. Traditionally, Friday is the day that the fair's public is mostly made up of people in the business, and for the 125 stand holders – this too was a new record – this day is therefore of extra importance. It is the first day on which their new products and services are going to be presented to the outside world. What's more, the fair is an excellent opportunity to do a bit of networking with old friends and new contacts.

Jan from main sponsors Ons Stekje acknowledges this. The man from the fast-growing Rotterdam giant noted that: "A trade fair is essentially networking, acquiring contacts and meeting customers. To this end we had some special flyers made up before the fair started, printed with information specific to entrepreneurs who have expressed interest in being associated with our products, because we are wholesalers after all. We also invested a lot of energy in our stand since that is our visiting card to the whole fair."



Ons Stekje: best stand

That this energy investment was not a waste became apparent later, when the stand of Ons Stekje was chosen as the most attractive at the Fair. "With our stand as well as with our products we wanted to set ourselves apart from other companies," said Jan. "We were aiming for a crisp, business-like image; that is very important for us. You can see that reflected in our logo too. It is deliberately a palm tree and not a weed leaf, for example. It is all a question of how we want to be perceived by the world."

Ons Stekje has been growing at an explosive rate for the last two years. The basis of this growth has, according to Jan, been the "price-quality relation". As Jan put it: "The price of a product must tally with the quality of the product. Another important reason for our fast growth has been our professionalism. The customer must always be happy with your products and your service. And we do our very best to make sure that this is always the case."

Jan declared himself happy with the way the Fair went. "In addition to a lot of domestic interest, we had a lot of traffic from abroad. We had people from Italy on the stand, also Brits, Spanish, French, Germans, Belgians, Greeks, Canadians – you name it, we had them. There is also growing interest from the Eastern European countries; we even spoke with a few Russians"

Many new contacts

Rense from Atami also declared himself happy with the Fair. "Business-wise, the fair went well," he said. "We made a lot of new contacts, also from abroad. And for our existing contacts, the Fair is a good opportunity to maintain and build











on the relationship." Atami's stand was a continuous magnet to the public for the whole duration of the Fair. The presence there of several exotic pole dancers will undoubtedly have contributed something to this popularity.

Organic fertilisers popular

Canna has traditionally been a big player at the Highlife Fair. This year the company's immense stand was visible from even the farthest reaches of the Fair floor, but as well as this central stand this research- and growing operation also had an extra stand specifically for its bio-line of products. As they came into the Fair the first thing the thousands of visitors saw was the cool design of the Bio-Canna stand. This extra attention spent on the organic fertilisers is a reflection of the increasing popularity of organic growing, said Joep from Canna: "It is noticeable that many growers want to be far more conscious with their nutrients. The organic way of growing is becoming increasingly important, and so we with Bio-Canna we are increasing our profile to fit this trend." It is an interesting question whether organically grown cannabis also tastes differently to commonly grown cannabis, said Joep. "Could it be that organic cannabis only tastes different because of our associations of 'organic'; in other words, is it all in the mind?" Joep also expressed his happiness with the Fair: "We are delighted, the Fair is just as it always is: very successful." What's more, he said, it's been a really happening year for the







research department at Canna. The guys from iGrow/IGS were also happy bunnies. John: "It was a great success! Not only have we found loads of new customers again, we were also in the prizes." The wizards hailing from the appropriatelynamed Dutch town of Best won the first prize for Best Product with their Grow & Go growing container.

Taking a breather in the Buddha Lounge

The organisers had clearly learned some lessons from the previous year's Hemp Fair. In 2004 there was an extra, separate hall reserved in which the entertainment took place. That did not work out totally for the best, which is why this year the entertainment area was more carefully integrated with and more accessible to the rest of the Fair. Not only did this ensure a much better atmosphere, but also for better circulation of the public between the stands. Despite the fact that this year there were many more visitors than in previous years, thanks to the greater space devoted to the Fair, the accessibility of the space around the stage as well as the Buddha Lounge situated behind it, and thanks too to the existence of more 'rest islands' such as the gaming and internet corner being actually on the floor of the Fair, there was more space in which to move around. This suited both the visitors and the stand holders much better. Where last year the most attention-grabbing stands had created traffic jams in the aisles, this year the stands that attracted the most interest













(such as the prize-winning grow containers from Grow & Go and Happy Garden, see sidebar), although they were a strong magnet for the public, it still remained possible to talk to all inquirers thoroughly. Many visitors also expressed their appreciation of the extra space given to the Fair. To the relaxed sounds of DJ Perez, many were drawn into the atmospheric Buddha Lounge and away from the bustle of the fair floor, there to flick through bags filled with folders at their leisure – and over a chilled out joint (some traditions were left intact by the authorities).

Highlife Cup: high quality entrants

The high point of the first day was of course the announcement of the winners of the Highlife Cup 2005. The jury again had a good number of samples to test from the participating companies, who had pulled out all the stops to present their very best weeds and hashes. Jury member DJ Cobus, who as he did last year presented the prize giving, said: "Most of the entrants, just as they were last year, were very strong contenders. The quality of the samples was really high, and there generally was not much to choose between them. Once again it has made a big impression on me."

Smoking Netherlands

Although the primary focus of the fair was mainly on the many growing products, there was much of interest for the consumer-end of the industry, or Dutch smokers. Various stands, such as Sfinx, had gorgeous water pipes on show. On other stands such as Funny Fish, the public had the chance to buy all kinds of smoking gadgets such as grinders, pipes, and ashtrays, as well as key rings, weed clocks and weed socks. There was a lot of business, also because the prices were so low. As one stand holder pointed out: "Part of the public has not that much cash to spend, so we have stuff for 1, 2 or 5 Euros," Also next to the stage there was a small part of the Fair where visitors could wander about and do some less businessoriented shopping. All sorts of colourful stalls were set up in a kind of bazaar, selling jewellery, clothes and other neat gadgets. There was even a piercing salon

Dutch growers: eager for knowledge

In addition to the many Dutch stands there were also a number of foreign companies















present at the Fair. They too had nothing to complain about regarding the attention they received. Byron Sheppard from Future Harvest Development said: "I'm very happy. The public is very enthusiastic. In spite of the wealth of growing knowledge most Dutch growers have under their belts, they are still very open to new ideas."

Han from PK Trading was also struck by that last point. Han: "Thanks partly to the arrival of various new growing systems on the market, ours being one of them of course, you see that the Dutch growers are not as conservative as they have been in the past. People are open to new growing systems, they are thirsty for new knowledge, and for getting one's hands on that knowledge the Fair is the perfect platform." The company is launching a number of new products this year too, and these were well-received. With then Coliseum they even won a prize . So it was smiles all round at PK Trading.

Positive interest

Ibo from Bio Ibo was also, in his own words "a contented man". It had been a good Fair, he said, "I reckon it was better than last year's. This year at least you can walk around fairly easily. The Fair also looks really great; you can see that all the companies have made a big effort to present themselves well, what with all these lovely stands all over the place. I don't really have any further remarks than that; we had a busy three days and a lot of good reactions, so again I'd say I'm a contented man."

Among other short reactions, Bert-Jan from House & Garden, who received a lot of enthusiastic reactions to their explosive bloom stimulator Shooting Powder said: "It has been a successful fair for us. We've done good business and are very happy."

It was also very busy on the Biobizz stand during the Fair. With their world famous organic growing products (all SKAL/EKO/OMRI certified), the company had a lot of traffic to its strategically well-placed stand, said Roy. "We have nothing to complain about regarding the interest we received; business was brisk. It is noticeable that organic products are getting more and more attention. This is something we are playing a leading role in, of course, what with all the global attention we have been winning."

Old School buzz

This long report is best brought to an end with some words from the fair's organiser, Boy Ramsahai, who looked back on the fair a couple of days afterwards and pronounced himself very happy. "It was a superb fair. And thanks to the fact that the companies had invested significantly in their stands - even a newcomer like Ons Stekje had made a real effort - the fair also looked sensational. At the same time there were more visitors than in previous years, and people tended to stick around longer once there, thanks to the fact that the entertainment part of the Fair, such as the Buddha Lounge, were better integrated than they were last year. Also the size of the Fair, as expressed in



Hemp fair without hemp plants

The recently held Highlife Hemp Fair had the organisers walking around on tenterhooks. A hemp fair in the Netherlands without a single marihuana plant to be seen? How is this possible, people will undoubtedly be asking themselves. Lawyer André Beckers explains: "During the annual hemp fair it was until quite recently not considered a problem for a stand holder to have a hemp plant on display. This all changed in 2004. Nothing would be allowed (from now on)! The Utrecht city council sharpened up its local guidelines on cannabis. With regards the growing of weed, they adopted a 'zero tolerance' approach. For the leaders of Utrecht it was obviously a thorn of contention that within their own city limits an annual hemp fair was being organised. Shortly before the fair this year the Mayor made public that his resolution was going to be matched by actions. Were there to be any infractions of the Opiumwet (Dutch narcotics laws) in the Fair building, then the organisers would be held responsible and the whole thing would be shut down for the public. Yes, you read that right. The mayor did not threaten to have the offending stand holder or visitor ejected, but to simply shut down the whole Fair. The first clause of Article 13b of the Opiumwet gives the mayor the jurisdiction with governmental authority to take action against any infraction of the Opiumwet if this takes place in a building that is accessible to the public. Fortunately the organisers had already taken steps themselves and warned the stand holders that the presence of hemp plants would not be allowed, and that even supplying or passing hemp (as had always been allowed) would not be tolerated. The police department and the council conducted rigorous checks for the three day duration of the Fair. Thanks to the co-operation of the stand holders and an understanding public, no infractions were reported.

total floor area, was much bigger. What's more, the atmosphere was very relaxed. It was a good old fashioned nice day out, and I've had a lot of positive feedback. So all things considered, I'm a happy guy."

They were indeed three crazy, fun days. See you there again next year!

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Stock Plant:

In order to successfully clone, it is essential that the stock/mother plant is in peak condition and free from any type of infection e.g. insect, bacterial etc. The most cost effective way of eliminating

effective way of eliminating unwanted living organisms, is to sterilise the growing environment with a watered down bleach solution.

It is advisable to use a growing method that does not have a re-circulation aspect to it, "Flow to Waste" and "Pot & Soil" for example. These methods both give more control over the actual EC & pH levels supplied to your plant. They also have the added advantage of continually being able to flush toxins and chemical build up from within the root zone.

Environment is also an important factor when maintaining a stock plant for cuttings. Humidity should be within 40-60% and the temperature kept between 80-85°F, for optimum growing conditions. Providing ventilation is adequate and the above temperature can be maintained CO2 is not necessary. Take cuttings once a week or every other week, while foliar feeding with H&G Magic Green after each period to add extra vitality. Insecticide should also be applied on a weekly basis to prevent any possibility of infection.

Soaking the Rockwool:

Before taking clones from the stock plant, the rock wool cubes must be prepared 24hours in advance. Mix up 10L of water with H&G Hydro A&B to an EC of 1.2mS/cm2 and pH 5.5, using H&G pH- Growth containing Saltpetre. Completely submerge the cubes and saturate for 24 hours, this is essential for capillary action. Remove the cube and place on an inclined surface for draining, once drained the cube is ready to be placed in the cube tray. DO NOT squeeze the cube at any stage.

Taking the cuttings

Once you have a mature stock plant it is best to remove large sections at a time comprising 10 to 15 cuttings. A sterile scalpel or blade must be used for each session of removing cuttings. Growth sites must be left on the mother plant for the development of future cuttings. Place the removed sections into a vase of tepid water at a pH of 6.3. Cuttings should be between 10-15cm in length. Use a dish containing 4-5mm of water to submerge the stem of the cutting in while cutting away from the branch section. Using a scalpel make a clean cut through the stem at an angle of 30-40°. Then strip a narrow section from the outer skin of the stem at the base of the cutting; this should be no longer than 6-7mm. This aids in the fast development of roots. Strip any foliage from the lower sections of the cutting leaving only the larger leaves and small growth shoots at the top. Each clone should be the same length and consist of the same amount of foliage; larger leaves have to be trimmed to 4-5cm.

Once this procedure is complete then rooting hormone can be applied. Do not apply too much and clean the stems cross-section before placing in the rockwool cube. Place the cutting into the hole at the centre of the cube. Once the stem base has reached the bottom of the hole carefully push it a further 7-10mm into

Advertorial

Back To Basics: 7 Days to success: Cloning with Rockwool:

Environmental conditions

For the first three days 90-95% humidity is required to prevent the clones from wilting. Temperatures between 24-27°C should be maintained at all times for rapid trouble free root production. Foliar feed once a day with a chemical nutrition at half strength to prevent deficiencies from developing. You may add Superthrive or similar products if you wish.

Superthrive or similar products if you wish.

After 3 days has passed open one or two of the vents and after four or five days open all of the vents. This slowly acclimatises the clone to the atmosphere outside the propagator and encourages the development of roots. Start to check for the first sign of roots after the day five, this may be indicated by a reduction in the weight of the cube. To replenish the cube with nutrient enriched water, levels as before, place it in a shallow container and let the cube take water from its base through capillary action.

Lighting Conditions

Metal Halide or high frequency fluorescents, PL860s, lamps should be used for the first week. A 400W metal Halide should be hung at a distance of 1.25m from the clones over a floor area of 2m2. High frequency fluorescent lighting should be hung at a distance of 30-40cm and can effectively cover an area of 0.5m2. Clones do not require strong light; high intensity light can be detrimental. However as soon as the cutting can cope with strong lighting conditions it should

Transplantation

Once roots are visible mix up 10L of water with H&G Hydro A&B and 1ml/L of Action Upstart Stimulator to an EC of 1.2mS/cm2 at pH 5.5. Submerge the cubes containing the root system until completely saturated. Immediately after this mix up enough water with H&G Hydro A&B and H&G Root Excelurator 0.3ml/L to soak the 7.5cm propagation blocks and saturate for 24 hours. After the saturation process is complete place the cube into the block as soon as you remove it from the soaking container. The clone is now ready for high intensity lighting conditions. Continue foliar feeding daily; now with H&G Root Excelurator and A&B. Slowly reduce the distance of the lamp to the clone over the next two to three days until you are 50-60cm above it. Roots will reach the bottom of the block with 24 to 48 hours.



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Great White Shark from Greenhouse Seed Company lands top prize

Highlife Cup: an abundance of quality



The undoubted high point of the first day of the Highlife Fair was the presentation of the much sought-after Highlife Cups - even if the traditional glittering silver trophies have been replaced by chic glass commemorative plaques. In 2002 this prestigious weed and hash competition was reinstated by popular demand after a few years of absence from the Fair. The fruits of this decision - literally - were enjoyed by the jury members even before the 2005 competition: nearly 90 samples of what were generally very high quality needed to be tried out in the week or three beforehand and judged according to appearance, taste and effect. That was a little fewer than last year, when more than 120 varieties had to have an expert eye, hand and lungs cast over them. Fortunately the jury deliberations were held over the Christmas period, so this really could be described as a happy holidays for some for these lucky sods.

Text: Jan Sennema / Photos: Peter Verver

A cup that will probably never be presented could be for the most heavily represented variety of weed. If there were such a cup, it would without doubt be to Santa Maria. The dominance of this increasingly popular variety expressed itself in no less than five honourable positions, among which were two first prizes. It is clear that those in the know are running away with this - originally Brazilian - variety that combines a high yield with a sweet taste and wonderful, active high.

The nice thing about this competition is that there are also varieties that are given attention that you hardly ever come across in the coffee shops; varieties for and grown by arbiters of taste and lovers of absolute top quality bud. As Arian Roskam from the Greenhouse Seed Company remarked: "Life is too short to spend a single day drinking bad wine. Life is also too short to waste a day smoking bad shit." Indeed, it would be great if the Cup created an impulse that led to an enrichment of the all too often rather shallow range offered in the coffee shops. As Gerrit from Magus Genetic put it: "Of course it is a shame that the choice is often limited, but this is also understandable. It is above all a question of demand; most people are just not prepared to pay more than five or six Euros a gram for a strong weed."

Outsiders

It was not only the big names that were back in the top positions. Small companies and total outsiders established or consolidated their good names. Companies like the Apeldoorn-based grow shop Het Hennep Huis, that have now established uncontestable in-house expertise in anything to do with Santa

Maria, with which they also won a third prize in the Hydro category. So too the unpretentious, quality seed company Magus Genetics, which was also (just as last vear) back with a top spot, this time with a first prize for its tasty Exile. Seedwizard Gerrit from Magus Genetics said: "That Exile has won is really a bit of a surprise. We had actually expected more from our Warlock, my personal favourite. Exile is a hybrid of 50% Warlock, 25% Northern Lights and 25% White Widow. The effect is more of a bodily stoned than a high such as you get from Warlock. It is absolutely not a weed you want to be smoking during the day if you still want to get anything done. In itself it has limited extent, it is a beautiful and simple, compact plant."

Out of the blue, third place went to the Dedemsvaart coffee shop Far Out, a top shop that enjoys a well-earned star status in its home region. Strongly represented too was the town of Gorinchem, that boasted two prize-winning shops. De Bovenstad managed to impress the iury with two out of its three entrants. and the same went for Cup-veterans De Vrolijke Gaper. There was an undisputable triumph for Cristal Garden from Geldermalsen, which won the first prize in the Outdoor Weed category by a wide margin with its spectacular Hy Haze, a performance that according to Cristal Garden was mainly down to the outstanding Hy-Pro nutrient.

Grams-per-Watt

Wholesaler and fertiliser maker Bio Ibo/Bio-G-Power continued its rising trajectory from 2004 with two first prizes and a second prize. The most honoured was a second place in the open category with Super Silver Haze, a difficult to











































grow variety that is not for every grower. All winning entrants from Bio Ibo were raised with the full hydro- or bio-nutrient lines from Bio-G-Power, together with its own-produced Powertop which created the lovely taste.

But a successful top harvest is of course not solely down to outstanding genetics and high-value nutrients. As Bio Ibo's Kees says: "Our strong point is that we advise our customers in a clear and thorough manner, through which there is high value placed upon continuity. We are obviously open to innovations, but we are not advocates of a particular way of growing that involves pumping huge quantities of nutrients into the plant, because we are also focussed on the people who will eventually smoke the product. Look, the Santa Maria is a good yielder, and once you have got its growing into your fingers a little then you can easily get a good gram-per-Watt off it. Many of our customers can easily achieve that with our advice."

"Well happy"

Sensi Seeds, Sensi Growshop and Sensi Smile were, as has become traditional, once again represented in the higher stratum, this time with a second prize for Black Domina, plus a second and a third place for Mothers Finest. The Apeldoorn coffee shop 't Bunkertje even managed to grab a first prize with its Jack Herrer (Sensi-genetics). "We came this year not as well prepared as last year," said Sensi-founder Ben Dronkers. "So we are well happy with the results, especially since we were so close at the Spanish and lesser-known French cups. I hope that all these weed competitions can contribute to the popularisation of weed varieties. And growers to be stimulated into trying something other than always growing the same commercial varieties. In the Netherlands we have something of a cloning culture, but eventually everything comes back down to seed; after a year or three of cloning you see the signs of degradation starting to rear their heads; you get the formation of gelatine in the plant and what we call 'flutjes', small, insipid buds.'

Head in the clouds

The pride of Limburg, grow shop Exodus (1st prize with Isolater-hash). and coffee shop Genesis (3rd prize for Snowbol) fared more than well under the direction of owner Leon. Be-hatted with an orange inflatable cowboy hat, this entrepreneur still had his head totally in the clouds after the sizzling hot lap dance he had just been experiencing. Grinning broadly but with a hoarse voice, he said: "All our entries were raised on Hy-Pro products, with which everything sits in one component. If you grow organically then you have everything you need in one can, and then you're sorted. With many other feed supplements you also need root stimulators and a whole hodgepodge of stuff." Of the just-crowned Isolater hash he said: "Our Isolater hash is so strong that we take care who we sell it to in the shop, because it is not suitable for everyone. It's not unusual to see someone walk into a door or something, and that is something you have to be alert for as a shop.'



Great White Shark: veni, vidi, vici

It is no mean feat to come from nowhere to win the number one spot. And that is exactly what the Greenhouse Seed Company did by an impressive margin to win the overall prize with its Great White Shark (600.3 points). The world famous seed company took part for the first time this year in the Highlife Cup. What was impressive was that other entrants also contained Greenhouse genetics. So the Super Silver Haze (594.5 points) sent in by Bio Ibo in fact occupied the second position in the overall-class. The same thing applied to the number 3 from this group, which was also a Super Silver Haze, sent in by the Twins coffee shop. A convincing performance by a seed company that has sometimes seen more recognition abroad than it enjoyed in its own country. "I am delighted that other people won prizes for us – it doesn't get any better than that, right?" said Greenhouse owner Arian Roskam with appropriate pride. "I had never expected a result like this. Personally, I find Great White Shark, an Indica, actually the least of the weeds we entered. I had previously been banking on our White Snow and Arjans Haze. It was not for nothing that I gave my own name to the last variety, I am convinced that there is simply no better weed to be found. Even though I am a real Haze-lover, the taste is much better, and actually you can not really compare a Haze with an Indica variety, there is so much difference between them. But we should not forget that such a new culture needs time. You could already see this nine years ago when we began to sell Dutch-grown weed and everyone said we were insane. Now look at things here...

Tips for growers who want to get to work with Great White Shark? "One of the biggest mistakes of Dutch growers is that they harvest their plants after seven or eight weeks, when actually 9.5 weeks – or a good week and a half more - is ideal."

"A real white weed"

Sheherazade from Paradise Seeds, for years now impossible to shift from the top positions, achieved a second place in the Bio category for seed companies. Luc from Paradise Seeds said: "Sheherazade is a real white weed, but she gives fatter buds than White Widow for example, and blooms at least as richly. It is a quick grower that is also easy to raise by an inexperienced grower. On top of that it is a real taste sensation with a long-lasting and uplifting high that is also a very good

relaxant. Sheherazade does very well outdoors, despite the fact that with a harvest time of around mid-October, so growing it in the Netherlands will always be a risky business. In Switzerland it is often grown outside with very good results, and she also displays a strong resistance to mould infection."

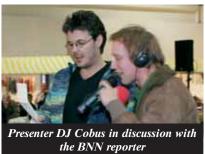
Advice for growers who fancy taking Sheherazade for a run around the block? "Use a good soil and make sure you have a well-developed root system, since without developed roots the plant will not perform well above ground."

Adventurous top genetics

Looking back on an exciting competition, the most striking conclusion is that Santa Maria is fast developing into the most popular variety being grown in the Netherlands. The combination of relative ease of

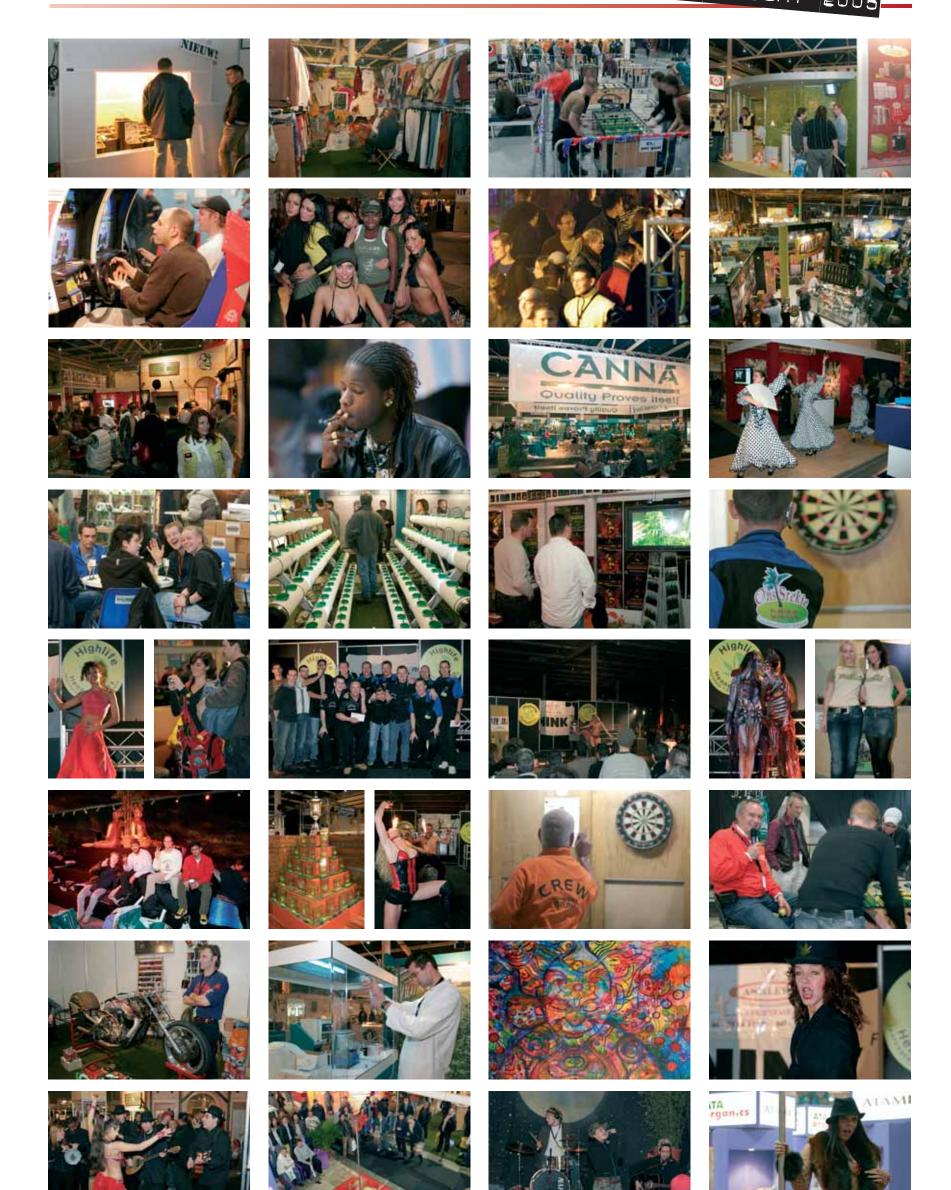


growing, top quality and reasonable price will certainly ensure its wider availability on the coffee shop menus. The discerning weed lover who is dependent on coffee shops will be happy with the entries from shops like Genesis, Sensi Smile and 't Bunkertje. All these top businesses came with adventurous top genetics with their origin in leading seed companies. A nice form of synergy between coffee shops and seed companies in which each does well, with the consumer a happy, smiling third party. To the great enjoyment of the jury members there were few commercial varieties among the winners; exotic varieties such as Mangolian Indica (Sagarmatha Seeds). Exile (Magus Genetics), Super Silver Haze (Greenhouse) or Mothers Finest (Sensi Seeds) and Sheharazade (Paradise Seeds) served the fan of cutting edge quality very well this year. Varieties we hope before too long we'll be able to get our hands on in many shops ..



			the BNN reporter	
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	<u>, </u>	Great Wille Shark	Green House Seed Company	
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2 3	563,5 562,5	Widow 2004 Santa Maria	Hydroland Het Hennep Huis	
Growshop Bio				
1	579	Jack F1	Grow Side Maastricht	
2 3	566,8 563,3	Mothers Finest Widow ' 96	Sensi Growshop Hydroland	
Growshop Nederhash				
1	581,8 573,5	Isolater Bio Ice Power	Exodus Bio-G-Power	
2 3	555,8	Kristal	Crystal Garden	
Coffeeshop Hydro				
- 1	581	Jack Herrer	t Bunkertje	
2 3	567,3 564,8	Black Domina White Widow	Sensi Smile Catweazle	
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Super Silver Haze Twins





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By Weckels, the grow specialist from Atami.

Photos: Weckels

Raising Giants Part 1

In this article I will be describing the preparations we need to make in order to raise really huge plants. These tree-like giants are just magnificent to behold, they also make a huge harvest per plant possible and can also provide a massive number of descendants. When growing marihuana plants of 3-4 meters in height, then naturally everyone and his uncle is going to want to come have a look. I will also be paying some attention to this aspect of giant-raising.



This spot is ideal for the growing of giant plants; there is plenty of room available. We just have to get rid of that tree and we can get straight down to work.

Before we can actually set to raising our giant plants it is of great importance that you have got access to a large garden or outdoor spot, that by preference will have sunlight all day long. As a grower you can only do your best with what you've got, of course, but if the spot where you plan to grow giants is not up to scratch, then you are better off saving yourself a whole load of work and disappointment. If this is the case, then I'd advise you to grow in small pots which you will be able to shift around during the daylight hours so that they can enjoy as much sunlight as possible. Of course, you could also choose to go for a hike in the woods to find a secret place that does enjoy full sunlight all day long, except that in densely-populated Holland, and many parts of the UK, this can often be even more difficult than the actual growing of the giant plants.

But for growers who do have access to a secluded yet sunny space, this article will offer you a helping hand in raising gi-normous green ladies.

The spot where we want to raise the giant plants has first and foremost to receive prodigious quantities of (sun) light. Only if this is present can the plant grow up to have giant dimensions. That is why it is a good idea to go and regularly stake out your selected spot (at different times of the day) to check if the spot you plan to plant them in really does get the required full-on sunlight all day. The sun crosses the sky during the day and so a spot that lies in glorious morning sunshine can be covered by shadow in the afternoon.

In addition, the spot has to be sheltered, so that your giant plants do not stand too much in plain view (with an eye to possible theft during harvest time). A



Removing a big tree (including its earthfilled root clod)) is a big job, but by doing so we do create a suitable spot in which our future giant plants can grow.

sheltered spot also means that the plant is not stood directly in strong wind. The old Dutch saying 'high trees get the strongest wind' is in this case literally applicable.



The Sativa varieties mostly have a 'Christmas tree' shape, whereby the undermost side branches are often the biggest in size.

We can divide the varieties of marihuana plant into two categories, namely the Indica and the Sativa sorts. In this distinction we are ignoring the hemp

The Sativa varieties mostly have a 'Christmas tree' shape, whereby the under-most side branches are often the biggest in size.

When we do gamble with placing our plants in an unsheltered spot, then during any possible storms there is the risk that there will be no protection and the eventual damage can be incalculable. In order to be able to respond quickly to any storm damage it is a good idea to visit your growing spot as near to every day as possible. A good location that happens to be miles away has the drawback that you cannot follow your plants' development as closely as you should. When a plant gets blown over and we are not in a position (thanks to a large distance) to help her back onto her feet within a couple of days at the latest, then the consequences can be disastrous and the chances of successfully raising a giant plant are usually over. In addition to this it is also handy if the location where we are planning to raise our giant plant(s) has easy access to a water tap, given that our green giants will be absorbing huge quantities of water by the summer. Carting buckets of water around by hand will not be an option by then. In short, getting hold of a good spot is half the work involved if you want to raise giant

Before we can get down to work, we have our the first - and again, maybe the most important - decision to make: the choosing of a suitable outdoor variety, one that can also develop into a huge-proportioned adult.

fibre variety (Ruderalis), since this is only ever grown for its fibres (used to make clothing and suchlike), and so is not used for marihuana.

If we take a look at the Indica varieties, then these are usually the plants that remain small in dimension and have less bushy branching. In short, Indica varieties are frequently ideal balcony varieties or good plants for the grower with only a small garden at his disposal. Sometimes growers choose to grow an Indica since, thanks to their small size, they are not so easily noticed. being the right size to be hidden behind a hedge or fence. What is more, the Indica varieties, because they are so compact in comparison to the Sativas, have the further advantage that they are not so water-thirsty. An Indica plant will generally end up between one and (maximum) two meters in height, and for that reason they are less suitable for attempting to grow giant plants with. The well-known Indica varieties include the Afghan strains. These plants often have eye-catchingly dark green leaves and always maintain a real compactness. Another Indica is the Early Girl. Although this variety can still easily reach two meters in height, it is still a popular plant for growing on a balcony.

Since we have decided that we are going to grow some giant plants, I would

recommend the Sativa-ish varieties, given that these often shoot up rapidly in height, while also developing well in width. The Sativa varieties mostly have a 'Christmas tree' shape, whereby the under-most side branches are often the biggest in size. Also, the leaves can be appreciably larger than those on the Indica varieties, which is all to the good of their light uptake capabilities. The growing shoots on the side branches also have a tendency to shoot up into the air like rockets, which leads to the buds that develop on them later having access to plenty of light too. In short, the Sativa varieties are ideal for our purpose.

The variety that I used for this experiment is Early Pearl, an earlyblooming variety that can grow up to become a plant with gigantic proportions. It is a strain that positively explodes with foliage even during the rainiest of summers, when many other varieties under such poor outdoor conditions can have their size and yield visibly diminished. Another excellent variety for raising giant specimens with is Durban or a direct descendant of it. Of these you have the South African Durban x Skunk cross that can deliver a perfect quality weed in the open air. The plant produces gorgeous buds and is with a little good luck ready for harvesting in mid-October. Thanks to these attributes, this is a cross that stands very high in my estimation - in fact, I'd have to say it is one of my alltime favourite strains!

Purple is another good bet for raising a humungo-plant from, except that the variety has a tendency to be much more sensitive to moulds, and what's more the weed does have a purple colour and thanks to that its own characteristic taste. The purple colour especially can be a bit of a turn off for some smokers, and for that reason the Purple-varieties have not always been popular among growers. But each to his own; one man's weird-looking weed is another man's primo smoke. I mention the point because the popularity of the intended harvest, I reckon, is an important factor for many growers when choosing what to plant in the first place. After all, what is the point of growing a giant crop when the end result is not exactly to your taste? You might as well choose a lesser-yielding strain that does give you the quality weed you like. A couple of final points in the Purple-or-not? Debate: Purple is a great variety for harvesting as it often has very few leaves, which cuts down considerably on the (trimming) work. What's more, the buds of most Purple varieties contain high quantities of THC crystals (certainly when the flower heads have developed well) and this makes them very well suited for making hash from.

I choose when aiming to raise giant plants to start from seeds. This is because I can then be certain which variety I really am dealing with. In addition to this, plants raised from seeds



here you can clearly see the difference between the mega-tub and a cement tub of a normal size. The mega-tub preferably has a



Once the tub is firmly in the ground, we can fill it will earth mixes and fertilisers. A giant plant is going to need a great deal of building blocks in its soil.

are often many times bigger than plants of the same strain raised from clones (and generally from the indoor growing scene). When plants are grown indoors under artificial light they are usually deliberately kept small. This is because space is limited and because the growing period is costly, given its high use of energy. Bearing all this in mind, it is not surprising that I choose to use genuinely outdoor varieties, in the form of seeds, and whose ancestors have been used to being given a decent period in which to grow. It is these varieties that usually ensure the best results, when you want to 'go large' outside.

Since we want to get the seeds growing outside as soon as we can, taking in to account the longer growing period they can enjoy as a result, we cannot begin them outdoors soon enough, really. Mid-February / late-March does sound a tad early to the ears of most growers. But it is in these months of the year that we can bank the extra time we need.

Once the seeds have been germinated between moist tissues and / or in a special plastic germinating tray, we can let them have a little pre-growth in a good-sized flower pot. When doing this is very important to make sure the pots to begin with are nice and deep, so that the tap root can reach a good depth when it starts to grow. The width of the pot is also important given that the young plant will be developing his or her (we do not at this stage know whether we're dealing with a male or female plant) roots horizontally too.

Once the seedling has been planted in the (preferably large) pot, we place the pot in a not-too-warm spot. In this way we can start the young seedling immediately getting used to the cold conditions outside. There are growers who plant their seedling directly into the ground outside or in large cement tubs, so that only the strongest survive. If you try this, you had better hope that the weather conditions will not be too adverse. In the event of a late frost, then vou can bank on having to start again



We drill a good number of holes in the base of the mega-tub. By doing so we improve the drainage of excess feed water.



This compost is made from the remains of hemp plants that had been raised for the production of hemp fibre. The compost is very enriching and contains a large amount $of \ or ganic \ soil \ life \ (in \ the \ form \ of \ bacteria).$

from scratch. Other growers choose to let their seedlings complete their pregrowth indoors, preferably under a grow lamp, and in this way hope to gain the time savings they want. For don't forget that the earlier you can begin to grow your giant plants, the greater the chances of them turning out to be the size you

The growth period in any case is prolonged. When attempting this, do make sure that you do not accidentally put your plants into an 18-hour light cycle. If you do do this, it can be pretty difficult to get your plants reasonably well acclimatised to life outdoors. The number of hours' light in spring is markedly lower than the 18 hours mentioned above, and so we would be placing the young plants immediately under considerable stress were we to switch them from 18 hours to barely 13 hours (and from grow lamp to natural sunlight). There are even varieties that react to such a switch over so dramatically that they begin to spontaneously bloom. My experience is that when you have let the marihuana



A big supply of fertilisers is ready to be used. In the cement tubs already is fertiliser I had prepared a few months earlier (to ensure a good organic life in it).

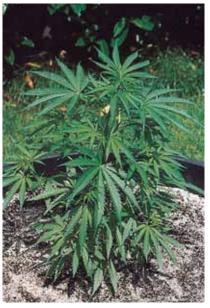
plants grow from seed, and let them begin to acclimatise right from day one to the amount of daylight being supplied outside (for example, starting with just 11 hours), they just grow like normal plants. As the year progresses the plants will begin to grow more quickly, because the number of light hours and the (outside) temperature (and often the quantity of sunlight) also rise.

Fort growing my giant plants in I generally choose to use special tubs with a content of at least 400 litres! These mega-tubs have not been easy to find for some time now. I must have travelled around the whole of Holland just to get hold of enough of them. Nor are such mega-tubs especially cheap, but they are absolutely ideal for growing a mega-plant in. On the plus side, these huge tubs will last a lifetime, so in the long term their cost does even out.

When you decide to set off in search of tubs of such a size, I would advise you to look for tubs that are especially large in girth. A really deep but quite narrow tub is next to useless, since the marihuana plants will struggle to develop to a giant size, when compared with shallower but broader tubs. The mega-tubs I use for growing giant plants in have a diameter of at least 115 cm and a height of about 65 cm. All in all then, they are considerably larger than your common or garden cement tub.

If you have managed to get your hands on such tubs, then it is very important that that you bore through the base several times, so that you have a criss-cross of small holes in it. The perforated base improves the drainage considerably. Furthermore, it enables a decent flow of vital oxygen from underneath the plant. A good drainage is really very important, as the young seedlings will be making use of a huge quantity of water. Should the plant not be able to get rid of the excess water, then you have a total disaster in the making. The result will be a huge tub of mud and all your plants roots asphyxiated.

Once the base of your tub has been transformed into a sort of sieve, then we



Before this little plant can grow into a giant bugger she's going to need a lot more effort expended on her.

are almost ready to start filling it with earth mixtures and added fertilisers. But before we do this we dig a large pit in the ground where the tub will sit. Burying the tub has the advantage that it is not so noticeable. What is more the plant has much better stability since the giant tub is well anchored in the ground. I always let the tub stick about 30 cm above the soil level, so that the undermost side branches are not trailing on the ground. This is simply looking ahead to the blooming period to come later in the year.

After we have finished digging the whopping great hole, and everyone who comes around has finished asking whether you are planning to install a swimming pool or a trout pond or something, we place the tub in the hole to check that it fits well. The tub must not be left to stand on bare earth when it placed in the hole, since the water drainage may become a problem at a later stage if it cannot run out unrestricted. The tub has to be 'suspended', as it were, in the hole. To support the tub when doing this, I place a number of large bricks in the hole, standing vertically upright and then for strength bury them a little. Usually I use bricks or breeze blocks, so that there is sufficient space left over for air to circulate between the bottom of the tub and the soil.

Once the plant has begun to develop nicely and has increased in size considerably, the roots will grow through the bored holes in the tub's base and into the soil beneath. That is another reason why I chose to place bricks in the space under the tub. If I'd used, for example, large wooden blocks to line the hole, by now these blocks would have encouraged a whole plague of creeping, nibbling insects to take up residence. What's more, wood has a tendency to act as a breeding ground for moulds, certainly if it is left underground covered by a tub. This space is also the place where the excess feed water runs off into. All in all, the situation is not one designed to create the best welcome for the sensitive roots that will emerge into a mould-ridden bug paradise. Just use bricks or breeze blocks, not slabs of wood, okay?



The Sativa variety now begins to rapidly increase in girth. With a little luck and a 100% effort from the grower, the plant may well grow up to become a giantess.

As well as creating an escape route for excess water, suspending our giant tub on brick struts will also ensure that the underneath of the tub gets a good supply of fresh oxygen. Especially given the size of the tub and its consequent huge volume of earth mixes and added supplements, a decent circulation of oxygenated air is very important in the development of the roots and thereby to the health of the entire plant. The oxygen can only permeate the thick layer of soil from above with great difficulty to reach the lowest roots, and that is why ensuring there is a layer of air between the bottom of the tub and the bare earth in its hole must be your aim.

Once you've got the bricks standing on end in the hole you dug, place the tub carefully on top of them. Next check if the tub is level, and if it is, you can begin to carefully close off all the chinks between the outside of the tub and the soil. There must be absolutely no light seeping into the space under the base of the tub, since that is where later the roots will be showing (and these will die if exposed to light). Filling in all the chinks around the tub is a job that needs to be done very carefully, since you have to make sure that you leave the space under the tub intact and not filled in. So you have to avoid any soil slipping down there. I often stuff plastic bags (such as those that the fertilisers came in) into the gaps around the tub first, so that the filled in soil lies on top of them.

Once you have filled in all the chinks where light might have got through, and trampled the soil down a little, then use a long, thin stick to poke a good number of air holes down to the air space under the tub. This will allow sufficient oxygen to penetrate to the underside of the tub.

Once the tub is firmly in the ground and all the chinks around it have been filled in we can start to fill the tub with earth mix and added fertilisers. If we are planning to grow more than one giant plant, it is important to have all the tubs in the ground before starting. We also have to make sure that the tubs have plenty of room between each other, so that when the plants are in an advanced stage they are not competing with one another for sunlight.



This is the same plant as in the previous photo, but quite a bit bigger. A "giant race' such as Early Pearl can attain huge sizes.

Because there will be large volumes of soil mixes and additives going into our mega-tub, it is important to also make sure you add large quantities of perlite. By doing so we will ensure that the eventual soil-fertiliser mix remains wellaerated. In a 400 litre I can easily use a good 100 litres of perlite. Maybe this sounds a lot, but when you're growing giant plants the maxim 'the more the better' is true. We are better off making the soil too aerated than leave it too sticky, and what's more the roots will be able to spread through the earth mix much more rapidly. The bottom layer of the tub especially should be good and airy, because this layer is usually the one that retains water for the longest. The water that we will be giving the plants throughout their growth and bloom periods will always stream downwards. In addition, the soil in the lowest layer of the tub will tend to remain damp because it will not be getting any direct sunlight, and so (excess) water cannot be evaporated.

As a good base for a fertile underground we use a lightly-fertilised earth mix (I usually use about 150 litres, or three bags full), lime (based on seaweed extract), worm castings, blood meal, wood ash and hempflax. That last additive is made from compost that comes from the remains of hemp plants that have been grown for the production of hemp fibre. I have mentioned in previous columns the great gains in soil fertility you can book by using, among other bits, the large leaves removed from hemp and/or marihuana plants. This 'new' form of compost that has been available for about for about a year and a half now not only increases fertility, but it also holds sufficient water in it and contains a whole army organic life (in the form of bacteria). In a 400 litre tub I use about two bags of the stuff (each with a 30 litre content).

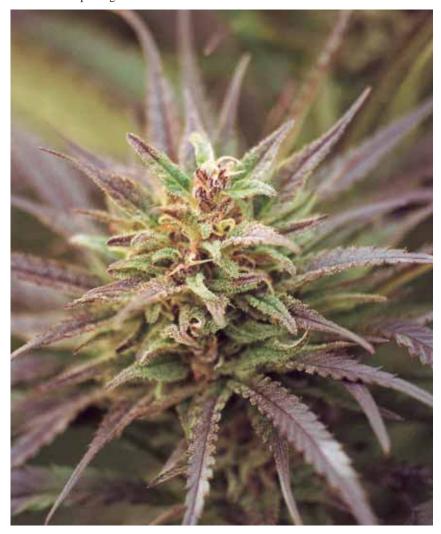
As for the worm castings, I usually use a bag and a half of this (making a total of about 60 litres) to one mega-tub. It is very potent stuff and often works perfectly to produce a sturdy growth spurt.

The lime is well mixed throughout the soil mixture, and ensures that the mix has a neutral pH-value as well as helping the organic soil life to flourish. We also add wood ash (from an open fire or stove) to the soil base.

If you fancy giving your soil mix a little bit more special attention, you could make it up a few months prior to your actually using it (or even earlier), with all its ingredients, bag it up and store it in the garage, a shed or somewhere like that. Conditions here tend to be a bit warmer than outside and so the organic life can start to wake up and get to work earlier.

Then the plant will be able to profit immediately from the easier availability and uptake of the fertiliser products and start using them for growing. It is often the little (extra) things you do that make all the difference when you are raising really giant plants.

Since giant plants thanks to their very size can get through hundreds of litres of water (especially during the hot summer months), it is recommended that you supply the plants with (feed) water via an automatic watering system. Such professional water systems are very well suited to outdoor growing and can save us as (outdoor) growers a huge amount of effort schlepping buckets around. The possibilities offered by such automatic watering systems and how we use them will be the subject of my next column. To be continued...



The Early Pearl is loved by many (outdoor) growers thanks to her extremely sweet taste.









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Do your buds fail to grow or lack stubstance and solidity?
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Part 12

An Interview with Joseph R. Pietri

The King of Nepal

Born 1947, in the Sixties Joseph R. Pietri was living as a pot and hash dealing hippie in New York. Eventually he decided in 1970 to go directly to the sources of the best hashish in the world and become a smuggler himself. He arrived in Nepal, where in those days cannabisproducts were totally legal. He made friends with the highest Buddhist Lama, the Chine Lama, and with his contacts got into the hash-smugglingbusiness as a major player. Finally in 1991, after many years of prosecution by the DEA, he took the chance to settle down in the then opening up communist-ruled Laos. Successfully he set up the first american-style bar in Vientiane, the provincial capital of one of the poorest countries in South-East Asia. At this time ganja was legally available at the local markets and used as a spice in a very popular "happy" chicken soup. No extradition-treaty was signed with the US-government. Nevertheless under US-pressure, Pietri was put in extradition-arrest. It was there, where he wrote down without unnecessary regret his recollection of many years as a high-profile cannabis-smuggler and -connoisseur. He published it nine years later in a book entitled "The King of Nepal". This highly exciting book is a true delicacy and not a bit less thrilling than the adventurous autobiography of "Mister Nice" Howard Marks, definitely a stoners must-read. Today Pietri is living in Colorado. Because of nerve damage from his kidney and hepatitis C he fought for his right to use marijuana as a medicine and won. As a medical-marijuana-patient he at least got what he deserved one way or another, the right to use the sacred herb. Soft Secrets interviewed Pietri for this very special edition of Underworld.

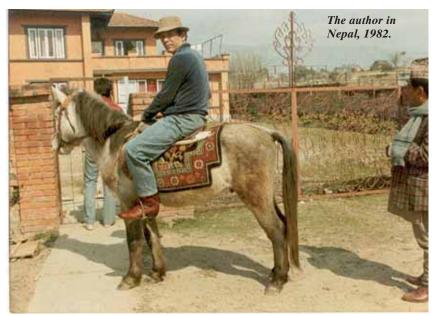
by Achim Zubke

Soft Secrets: Joseph, who is "The King of Nepal"?

Pietri: I lived the life of a Hippie King in Nepal. It also represents the Royal Family of Nepal. But the true King of Nepal is the fabulous hashish that is made there. An old friend of mine, Rod Fry in the mid 1970's taught the Nepalis how to make hash the Afghan method, which is a vast improvement over hand rubbed hash. Because of my connection to His Holiness The Chine Lama and his connections to King Mahendra I was basically untouchable in Nepal. At times the Police and the Army worked for me

In your life as a dealer and smuggler you have tasted all kinds of pot and hashes. A popular myth claims that the homegrown sensemillas of today are stronger than the import-varieties of the old hippie-days. What do you retort?

The homegrown sensemilla of today is no stronger than the homegrown sensemilla of the 1960's. Those super sativa strains that came in from Mexico such as the Acapulco Gold and Michoacan strains were fabulous. I had one buddy who grew sensemilla on his Finca in Mexico and then flew it up packed in Styrofoam and each bud the size of your pinky. One was black frog's lip and another was burnt orange. But really, in those days hashish ruled the roost just like it did in Europe during the 60's and 70's. It's only in the last 20 years that the scene in Europe has switched to pot and it was the same in the States. In those days I would sometimes have two dozen different types of hashish. It's a joke that anyone could think that the dope of today is stronger than yester year. But the government propaganda marches on. By the way, those super sativa strains from Mexico were destroyed by Nixon when he sprayed the marijuana plantations



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Nobody can forget the first time they smoked Columbian Gold and Red super sativas. Lest we not forget all the super Thai strains that came in all thru the 1970's and 1980's. Some of which were so strong that a phat joint could get 30 people high. One hit was all you needed

with paraquat in 1973. For about ten years you could not give Mexican pot away because of the spraying. But Columbian weed started to take over the market at the same time. Nobody can forget the first time they smoked Columbian Gold and Red super sativas. Lest we not forget all the super Thai strains that came in all thru the 1970's and 1980's. Some of which were so strong that a phat joint could get 30 people high. One hit was all you needed. Does anyone out there remember the vacuum sealed nitrogen packed Thai weed that had double eagles stamped on the 1000 gram packages?

No experienced longtime-smoker forgets the best dope he has smoked. Can you name your favorites?

I really liked the red Lebanese that came in six ounce sacks. They had cherry stamps or a picture of King Kong, or the Camels in the desert. That really nice gummy red that came in small sacks. I really liked the red and gold weed from Laos, super sativas still there to this day and available next to the tobacco stalls in Vientiane. But my all time favorite is Nepalese or Kashmiri hash made Afghan style. I'm still a hash man give me a piece of afghan hash anytime. But alas I have to make my own nowadays!

Another myth is that especially strong or sleep-inducing hashish is mixed with opium. What about this?

It's a myth that the white you see on hand pressed hashish is a sign that it is opiated. Actually its mold from the moisture of the plant when you are hand-rubbing the plant. Normally hash is not adulterated with opium. The only true opiated hash I have ever seen was once when I had 40 kilos that had been around awhile. I mixed it with ten kilos of opium. It went over big in Cincinnati. Sometimes in Bombay they mix opium into the hash and god knows whatever else. They call them gullies, little black balls, 20 to a pack. You can special order your hashish to be mixed with

opium but it's rare. Opium being more costly than hashish is a reason.

Why did you decide in 1970 to travel to Nepal and become a hashish-smuggler yourself?

I was on the run and Nepal seemed like a good place to go underground. Really, by chance I ended up there. I went there on a deal and stayed. It was hippie nirvana, Kathmandu, no violence, no crime. Anything you called your medicine was legal. It was always my pipe dream to visit the hash dens of Asia. The fact is that I had a very lucrative scam going on and I played it out till the end.

How where the conditions you found in Nepal?

Nepal was Hippie Nirvana. I lived in Boudha in one of the Chine Lamas houses. In those days the Danish smugglers lived in Boudha as well. In fact most of my pals then were European. I became an industry in Boudha and a lot of people depended on me to generate money. I supported so many people there that after a while I felt I worked for them. I had privilege that I never experienced before. I sat at the feet of the Grand Lama of Boudha and thru him I met the King of Mustang, all the Highest Lamas who were escaping from Tibet. Irish Patrick who turned out to be a great friend thru the years I met in Boudha as well as Afghan Ted sometimes called Ted the Hun. Detlef Schmidt was a great friend. Who could ever forget Ted the Hun roaring into Boudha in his Mercedes ambulance with his Afghan fighting dogs and his harem and the best Afghan hand pressed hash you have ever seen. Once I had a barbecue party where the Danes roasted a wild boar and I roasted my Interpol file that I had bought from the immigration department. What a party!

And how did it come to an end in Nepal?

In the mid 1980's a sort of inquisition went on. When I returned to Nepal in

It's a myth that the white you see on hand pressed hashish is a sign that it is opiated. Actually its mold from the moisture of the plant when you are hand-rubbing the plant

1981, I used my real identity which really confused the Nepalese. I was still Will, if you asked for Joe nobody knew who you were talking about. I think it was 1986 when Henry Kissinger came to Nepal. They bought two kilos of pure heroin on the street and confronted the Inspector General of police. They threatened to cut off all foreign aid if they did not stop the heroin traffic out of Nepal. To appease Kissinger the IGP had every foreigner who was a long time resident of Kathmandu arrested. Swat teams with drug sniffing dogs searched homes. Overnight there were 200 Westerners in jail and many Nepalese. The Nepalese were tortured and when asked who the big American dealer was they gave me up and they finally figured out that Joe was Will. Also the DEA made a concerted effort to get me out of Nepal. I was number one on their list to put out of business in Nepal. Some people escaped the inquisition and made it out to Bangkok. Which is what I did. I went back in 1988 and I had to live underground because there were warrants for my arrest. I stayed two weeks and made it back to Bangkok and have not been back since.

What are the greatest risks you have encountered on your smugglingoperations?

I tried my best not to take any risks. I was always in the background. The biggest danger was being ratted out. I guess the time I was in the Inspector General of Police's office in Srinagar in Indian Kashmir. He was questioning my friend and I about our business. We had this huge Mercedes bus which was filled with hashish in secret compartments. We explained that we were using the bus to bring tourists from Bombay. With that he pulls some kilos of hashish from his draw and tells us we are in the wrong business, that we should work for him and bring his hash to his cohorts in Bombay. We told him that it was too dangerous and that we would be scared. That night the police guarded an already loaded van. That was pretty hairy.

Is it the ultimate thrill of smuggling or is it just the money or the missing alternatives that kept you in the business for so many years? What is the mystery of the smugglingexperience?

I got addicted to the money and lifestyle. The thrill of pulling off a scam successfully is one of the biggest thrills. Getting away with it. I was flying in and out of Asia sometimes twice a month. The dope business was one of the most honest business I have ever been in. There was honor and pride in your dope and bringing it to market. In the states the marijuana business ran on trust and a handshake. I was fronted tons and tons of marijuana and never lost a joint. It was a fabulous business while it lasted but by 1990 the DEA had shut down the Good Old Boy marijuana network that had operated since the 1960s. Today it's a whole different scene. We were counter culture heroes who ran the blockade and created the cannabis culture you have

You enjoyed your life thoroughly. You have been living an adventure for your probably highly fascinated readers. What kind of advice do you give someone who would like to follow in your footsteps to become a hashishsmuggler now?

I wouldn't advise anyone to get into the hashish smuggling business today, it's too risky. My advice is to grow your own weed and make your hash at home. That's what I do. I have one of Mila's Pollinators, so I make my own hash. I let my pals use my Pollinator and they always kick me down half so it paid for itself. I made some great hash using Burmese/ Fucking Incredible and a Jack Herer. I prefer the Pollinator over the Bubblebags, it's more true to the Afghan tradition and it's no fuss. That whole water and ice cube method is too messy. How better to control the quality than growing your own!





Today you are active in fighting the crazy "War against Drugs" on a different level than in the old days. What have been your latest projects? Where can we find more of your insights and opinions?

Last week I was filmed by Kevin Booth of Sacred Arts productions out of Austin Texas. He is doing a Drug War documentary that will be released on TV as well as DVD in 2004. It's a very ambitious project. I was interviewed on Blackopradio.com recently. I also have done a show on Pot-tv.net called "Joe Pietri vs The not so free world". You can visit my website (www.kingofnepal.net). There you can order my book. It's \$27 USD via Paypal and I will send you a signed first edition. You can reach me via e-mail (jpietri@msn.com) as well if you want to order a book.

But before I sign off I would like to give you a clear picture of what the War on Drugs really is. The Drug War is a racist war. After the Civil Rights movement in 1965 and the Voters registration act when black people were allowed to vote for the first time, the ruling class of this country had to come up with something to continue to disenfranchise certain segments of our society, voila the Drug War. Nixon still haunts the cannabis culture from his grave. Say you are

busted, first you lose all your assests, go to prison where you work at slave labour, when you're released you are felonized where it's hard to get a job, in some cases you lose your right to vote, own a gun, etc., etc.. It's a win win situation for the government. You must remember that every hard drug producing area was created by the CIA, the most successfull drug cartel of all time. They created the Golden Triangle, the Golden Crescent, the Medellin cartel. Even today they protect the opium fields in Afghanistan who produce all the heroin making its way to Europe. The main reason for drug legalization is to finally get the CIA out of the dope business. The reality being that the CIA is responsible for every person in this world that is addicted to heroin or cocaine. The reality is that the US Government imprisons it's own people for drugs they supply. They have used drug traffic to further there political agendas long enough. Here in Colorado marijuana has been illegal since 1917. At that time the Ku Klux Klan ran the state. They flat out came out and said we don't want any brown skin, spics and big lipped niggers owning squat in Colorado. They noticed the people of color used marijuana as an intoxicant so they felonized marijuana use to deport Mexicans and disenfranchise blacks. It's the same thing that goes on today. The drug war in the states is a huge money making machine and the prize of it all is that 20% of the population of the USA is felonized. Over fifty million people since 1971 have lost their rights. Every time they felonize a stoner it's one less dope smoking lazy commie they don't have to worry about. That's the mentality. Peace and Pot.



Joseph R. Pietri -"The King of Nepal. High adventure hashish smuggling through the kingdom of Nepal.' **Publication Services by Indiana Creative Arts**

5814 Beechwood Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46219 USA ISBN 0-615-11928-X

Homepage: www.kingofnepal.net

COLUMN

By Dr. John Dee

Something Else To Worry About?

In a recent column, I talked about parental attitudes to the nascent cannabis use of their offspring. In essence, the point of that was that a lot of parents who were once tokers themselves appear to have suffered from a loss of memory together with a concurrent loss of humour when it comes to the subject of dope. What was good enough for them is not, it seems, good enough for their kids. Maybe it's the smoking thing they're worried about? I don't know, but I do know some parents who in their own youth could be described as the epitome of the phrase "party monster".

But I digress. Since that particular column appeared, I've had a number of e-mails from parents drawing my attention to the other side of the coin: they (the parents) used to and still do enjoy getting stoned to a lesser or greater extent on a regular basis: the problem is that they've somehow managed to spawn straight kids.

At best, the older kids are basically bored seeing the olds lying about stoned and talking (as they see it) hippie bullshit. Or, they're too mortified to have their friends round to the house in case mum and dad embarrass them (although I always thought that what parents are for). At worst, though, it can get pretty sinister, as I've had communiqués relating how some of the younger kids have totally bought into the government anti-drug propaganda, to the extent that the parents are seriously considering giving the weed up, as:

1) The offspring have a checklist of tell-tale signs ("how to tell if your parents are drug users", anyone?) 2) The parents are finding the stress is killing them; sneaking around after the kids have gone out or gone to bed, smoking a quick joint then getting paranoid about whether any evidence has been left lying about. Does the house stink of skunk? Did you flush that roach down the toilet?

3) What the parents used to think of as a fun thing to do has now become a guilty pleasure in a very real

It seems that the parents don't really know what the kids would do if they ever did find out, and there's

the question of whether one's own offspring might (intentionally or otherwise) drop them in it with the authorities. All of this is the result of a peculiar social engineering program that's been taking place here over the past 10 or 15 years. Basically, what the kids say goes, and it's getting silly. It started with rules regarding "appropriate" punishment for errant children, and in a lot of respects, that's fair enough, as I personally don't hold with beating of anyone (children or otherwise). But at the same time I don't hold with parents being made to feel guilty for doing something they've done for years, by choice, with no adverse effects (compare and contrast with alcohol). Now, to be honest, I don't really know much about parenting or raising children, but it always seems to me that honesty is the best policy. And it further seems to me that this rule particularly applies when it come to the thornier subjects such as drugs (and sex). My old man smoked two packs of cigarettes a day and drank alcohol like it was going out of fashion. He used to tell me that while this was okay for him the same rules certainly didn't apply to me. And I have to say that this argument didn't wash then any more than it presumably does now. Give me a stoner parent any day.

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Urban Hydroponics, Bolton



Urban Hydroponics opened for business in August 2003 in a secluded (or hard to find, depending on your view) premises just 10 minutes walk from Bolton's town centre. "A lot of people have said they like this aspect," says co-founder David. "We're off St George's Road, behind some terraced houses, with plenty of parking, in a building all on our own." Ideal for the most publicity-shy or paranoid grower. David had previously been unemployed and keen to turn an interest in

hydroponics into a business venture. His partner Craig was formerly a structural steel

engineer who shared David's passion for hydro growing. Besides a comprehensive range of hydro equipment from small NFT systems like the Icon 18, to aeroponics, the 1600 square-feet of shop stocks seeds, a full range of nutrients, including organic products, and anything else you might want for successful outdoor and indoor growing. Their big seller at the moment is the all-in-one Ecosystem, which according to Craig, the locals of Bolton are going mad for. Urban have just this year started to be able to offer deliveries, and the web site www.urbanhydroponics.co.uk should be up and running by publication date, following a New year's setback when the designers split up, leaving it unfinished.

Urban Hydroponics, Unit 1, Back Lane, off St Georges Road, Bolton BL1 2LD Tel: +44 (0) 1204 522217 www.urbanhydroponics.co.uk Open: 10am - 5pm Mon-Wed; 10am - 6.30pm Thur; 10am - 4pm Fri; 11am - 3.30pm Sat.

Hydro Dragon, Cardiff



The green, green hills of home are a little green, greener since the late summer of 2002 and the arrival in Cardiff of Hydro Dragon. Dave, formerly an engineer and software programmer, and Paul (business studies student) set the place up mainly "Because there was nowhere decent to get our hydro gear from in South Wales and we were sick of 35-mile journeys to the nearest shop," says Dave. Situated in a quiet residential road

just off a busy shopping street in Cardiff's Roath student district (free roadside parking), surprisingly perhaps, most customers tend to be local boys from all over region rather than youngsters investing their grant money. Hydro Dragon, as its name suggests, started

out a purely hydro grow shop. But thanks to the soaring popularity of organic growing, most of their customers are using soil and coco substrates these days, and the shop's stock has adapted accordingly. The large shop — Dave reckons they're the biggest in Wales — has a number of complete systems set up in the basement. It also gives them the room to keep at least 90% of their catalogue actually in stock. "Many shops in the region are so small, you have to go and place an order, come back to pick it up, go back and re-order what you missed, come back...We aim to be a real one-stop shop and cut out all that hassle," says Dave. There is a full-colour brochure available on request, or a website should be up and running by press time. Credit cards accepted, and most deliveries cost about a fiver.

Hydro Dragon

113-115 Alfred Street, Roath, Cardiff CF24 4UA. Tel: +44 (0) 292 0490333 • www.hydrodragon.com

Medway Hydroponics, Rochester



Just over a year ago Steve was a carpenter, a bored carpenter at that. "I'd had enough, so I looked around for something else to do and this seemed a good, expanding business to be in." And so it has proved. Steve opened Medway Hydroponics in February 2004 in a small shop just off Rochester High Street, catering mostly to walk-in trade. This year he's looking for bigger

premises. Medway currently stocks a full range of growing tech, from nutrient tanks,

to aeroponic systems to aqua farms, as well as the leading nutrients and additives from the likes of Canna, B-cuzz, Atami, etc, along with a full range of organic products. He has recently started stocking a few head shop basics, and the store's web site went live in the new year. Medway (still run by Steve on his own) has a number of grow tents set up and once he moves to larger premises, hopes to have more grow systems set up. In its current location, there is parking round the back of the shop.

Medway Hydroponics

7A Cuxton Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent, ME2 2BT Tel: +44 (0) 1634 735444 • www.medwayhydroponics.co.uk

Open: 10 am – 5 pm Mon-Sat

The Hydroponic Centre/Hydroponic Wholesale, Derby



David, an engineer, and partner Paul (a qualified acupuncturist) set up a shop devoted to all things hydroponic nearly four years ago on Derby trading estate, adding wholesale

operations a year later. The Hydroponic Centre retail outlet caters for everyone from the first time dabbler to the seasoned pro, with its comprehensive hydroponic range from single pot-on-a-saucer systems to ones on a warehouse-filling industrial agribusiness scale, along with terraponic, NFT, deep water, flood and drain. From seeds (regular and feminised) and propagators to growth, flowering, harvest and after, again the keyword at the Hydroponic Centre is 'comprehensive'. Ventilators are in stock from four-inch 'cupboard fresheners' to 450 mill acoustically-isolated giants; there's (custom built) ducting, ballast and filters, all the leading nutrients (regular and organic) and trimmers (Bonsai Scissor, Canna Cutter and they are the UK distributors for the Aardvark). Bubble kits, pollen tumblers, you name

it, it's all here in 4000 square feet of warehouse, a quarter of which is devoted to the retail. David and Paul were prompted to enter the wholesale business when they saw an unmet demand for energy saving lamps and began importing the Envirolite range. They are also UK distributor of the EcoLight, their own brand lamp, which they also export to a number of European countries. The guys will deliver and install large (turn key) systems – "It's the only way to make sure everything is working, frankly," says David. "if you're looking at a 60-70 lamp set-up, making sure the reflectors give a good distribution of light and the ventilation is up to scratch, all the wiring and so on: it's a complex, on-site job."

The Hydroponic Centre / Hydroponic Wholesale Unit 16, Derby Trading Estate, Stores Road, Derby DE21 4BE Tel: +44 (0) 1332 208090 • www.hydro-wholesale.com Open: 10.30 am – 5.30 pm Mon-Sat

Growmaster Hydroponics, Ross-on-Wye

This small shop just off the centre of the charming border town of Ross-on-Wye has been doing a roaring trade since it opened a year ago, and has attracted support from some most unlikely pillars of the community. The local MP spoke at the shop publicly shortly after getting her MBE from the Queen for services to politics, for example. "Our customers tend to be relatively older – 25+, up to 80," says former chef and co-founder Brian. "Honest, we have had several people come in here on Zimmer frames asking for seeds – and they did not mean flower seeds." With several large medical centres located in the area, the shop is frequently shopped at by customers looking for discounts on gear to grow their own medical marihuana. And they get it – "If they have a valid medical card, we give them discount," says Brian. All soils stocked are organic, Soil-based nutrients, lighting and irrigation, pH testers, fans, carbon filters, CO2 regulators, as well as seeds, trimmers (Aardvark, Kermit). They have just started their own range of shades, with their own brand of ballast planned for the near future. But it is probably something more

than the excellent stock that has attracted a positive reaction to their presence in the town. "We've got a good reputation in the community, and we intend to keep it," Brian says, thanks to some astute social commitment from the shop owners. Growmaster is the sponsor of the hanging baskets that adorn the town during the annual Ross-in-Bloom festival. They also donate to the local police dog retirement fund and other local charities. It all helps the nod-and-wink relationship with the authorities' ability to buy into the 'future of agriculture...blahblah...great for tomatoes' routine, which is not to suggest the lads' motives are so calculating. "We just like putting something back," says Brian. The grow masters will deliver for free in the area, and outside the area if orders are above 50 quid, and they offer free consultancy services.

Growmaster Hydroponics,

Bus Stop Street, Cantelupe Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 7AN

Tel: +44 (0) 1989 762839 • www.growmaster.co.uk

Branching Out



Unit E, The Old Brewery, Durnford Street, Ashton Gate, Bristol, BS3 2AW Tel: 0117 966 6996 Web: www.hydroponics-online.co.uk



Branching Out opened it's doors in November 2004 with the aim of giving the customers a friendly environment to go and discuss all matters related to the growing world, to which they will receive good, knowledgeable, sound advice from their very experienced staff.

The founder of **Branching Out**, Mike Moore, has always been passionate about growing. He is nursery trained with plenty of knowledge and qualifications to suit. It has always been his ambition to own his very own retail outlet to supply a huge range of growing methods readily available to the end consumer, he has pulled this off well with the big premises where he is based.

Branching Out caters for the hobbyist through professional growers, whether it be organic or non-organic, pots to hydroponics, the variety is here. Everything you could ever want can be found on the shelves in store, or in the rare event that the items are not in stock, they are dispatched on a 24 hour delivery for the customer to have the following day.

Branching Out offers a massive range of products from some of the world's finest companies targeted for indoor growing, this is needless to say that Branching Out does not cater for the outdoor grower. They are always open to suggestions on how they can provide a better service to their customers, be it more/different products or the lay out of the shop, they are happy for the feedback. Being a relatively new company Branching Out is willing to learn from their customers, as we all know each new season brings a different set of problems, a problem shared is a problem solved.

Branching Out has also just recently launched their user friendly website, it is easy to use with security being the up most importance. Any products that cannot be found on the site can be dealt with via a simple email where they will respond as soon as they can. Orders placed on the website will be dispatched immediately and will reach the customer within 72 hours (normally next day).

Above all everybody at Branching Out wishes you all luck for the many harvests to come.





We are a long established business, one of a few market leaders in "Hydroponic Excellence", just a few lines. From myself to all the crew at soft secrets, a big up for making this up and coming paper possible over here. Its an excellent read for all experienced and novice growers alike! Great pics too! A special big up to "Boy" "Nice one fellow,keep up the good work" .Ps more volumes of soft secrets are needed as there is never enough too go round! As the canna boys strive to say! Quality proves for its self!

Back to myself, a shot editorial on behalf of Mr Beam, now in our eighth year of trading. And yes we are still here! Although as malicious rumours has it Mr Beam has emigrated to Spain, no longer around anymore. The certain competition only wish! No names, they know who they are out there, and so do we! Yes still here and still possibly the most discreet location anywhere in the UK! And won't change that. No big fancy shop, no big fancy overheads either. Just straight talking, no bullshit, genuine biggest best deals on this planet, on like for like products. Telephone or alternately pop in to find out what Mr Beam can do for you!

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Resin glands

By Steve Davis

The sweet glands are on the tips of your leaves, dense in your flowers like sugar crystal.

The psychoactive ingredients of cannabis, otherwise known as 'cannabinoids," are woven into the fabric of a marijuana plant, in stems and stalks and leaves, but by far the richest concentration of cannabinoids is found in resin glands, sometimes referred to as "glandular trichomes." Other important components of cannabis, called terpenoids, are also contained in or around glandular trichomes. Terpenoids are thought to possess their own medical properties, and many researchers believe terpenoids modulate the effects of cannabinoids.

Thus, we realize resin glands are the glandular epicenter of a concentrated storehouse of unique compounds created by the cannabis plant. The importance of these tiny structures cannot be overstated. Cannabis that lacks cannabinoid-rich resin glands is cannabis that won't get you high.

Experienced growers and pot photographers are most fond of "stalked" resin glands that resemble a golf ball on a tee, but unstalked resin glands that grow flush to the plant surface also contain cannabinoids. The most important cannabinoid for most growers is Tetrahydrocannabinol. This cannabinoid is responsible for mood elevation, perceptual changes, and other effects commonly referred to as the marijuana "high." Another cannabinoid, known as CBD (cannabidiol), is a precursor to THC and a moderator of its effects that also has unique medical effects of its own. The ratio of these key cannabinoids

differs crop to crop in most gardens, and can create a dazzling array of differing effects, ranging from full relaxation to a hyperaware state of high energy.

The new science of nutritiveinfluenced glandular manipulation is being pioneered by people like Dr. Paul Hornby, a researcher who does product testing and development for Advanced Nutrients, a Canadian plant products company.

Like GW Pharmaceuticals, Cannasat, and a plethora of other corporations and individuals who see plant-derived cannabinoids as the holy grail, Advanced Nutrients and Hornby are testing nutrient products, measuring their effect on plant growth rate, yield, potency, and yes, even cannabinoid development. They want to find how to control the ratio and percentage of THC and other cannabinoids, using nutrients instead of just genetics and environmental factors.

Hornby toils away analyzing data fed to him by workers using specialized equipment that measures cannabinoid percentages in plants grown with different Advanced products. Relying on the accuracy of the experiments and his careful record-keeping, he looks at how to use plant nutrient products to fine tune cannabinoid development.

In the world that the Advanced-Hornby product line has created, an indoor hydro or aero grower can simulate a natural healthy soil root environment. Growers can feed sugars to plants at a time when the application of added sugars feeds the plants' ability to make huge buds; they can pump plants full of natural enzymes, amino acids, ferments



Blueberry flower glands, 3 weeks from harvest, in research grow room.

and catalysts that act in plants the way steroidal performance supplements act in professional, thoroughbred athletes. Some products use special ingredients to trigger early flowering and cause peak flowering to last longer than usual.

One grower who uses several Advanced formulas says the rich combination of Big Bud, Voodoo Juice, Tarantula, Emerald Shaman, Colossal Bud Blast, and SensiZyme in his rockwool system produced "octopus root mass" and "hard, resinlayered buds the size of coke bottles with glands far fatter than normal. There were glands with new stalks actually growing off the gland's stalks below them."

Hornby agreed that research is revealing new ways to use nutrient products to influence development of THC relative to CBD and other cannabinoids. He says the trend at Advanced Nutrients is to rely on products made with organic or mostly-organic components, and that the goal of increasing resin production and manipulating cannabinoid ratios via

nutrients is within the reach of modern fertilizer developers such as Advanced.

To enjoy resin glands such as you see in the photograph accompanying this article, buy a glass photographer's loupe and join the thousands of budgazers who love these mysterious resinous structures. The loupe will serve another purpose along with visual aid; it's a tool for determining when to harvest for maximum potency. Study your glands with the loupe beginning during the fourth week of flowering. When more than 15% of stalked resin glands are turning from clear to colored, are shrinking, or the stalk is missing its gland, that is the time to harvest for peak cannabinoid ratio, especially weighted towards THC.

Your garden's glistening resin glands are your greatest concentrated storehouse for marijuana's mindaltering cannabinoids. Learn to grow your glands. Learn to be a cannabinoid-stimulating nutritionist!

www.advancednutrients.com

COLUMN

Growing Trends within the U.K

By Lazystrain

In recent years, the subject of recreational cannabis consumption within the United Kingdom has become, to a lesser extent, a topic of fashion. Although cannabis possession and cultivation remain outlawed within the British Isles, an estimated 3 million people regularly smoke cannabis. Thousands home-grow. If current trends continue, it is expected that the number of people cultivating cannabis within the U.K. will steadily increase over the coming years. In areas where levels of consumption already out-stretch commercial levels of production, many turn to home growing as a means of maintaining personal levels of subsistence. In other areas where production levels are high, cottage industries flourish.

In these defining times of 'Terrorism', the wholesale cultivation of cannabis has become less practical. The risks associated with transporting large quantities of cannabis into the U.K. often outweigh the profit margins involved. Wholesalers have quickly adapted to this climate of terrorism by relying upon intensive, as opposed to extensive, methods of cannabis cultivation in order to facilitate trade. During the early 1990's, wholesalers were quite literally 'cashing-in' on a pre-existing cannabis industry within the Netherlands, (by shipping second-grade clippings into the U.K). The net result has witnessed a growing interest in cannabis horticulture, as well as a growing trend of intensive cultivation within the U.K. itself. This is not to say that Dutch dope isn't still available. It is! It just that nowadays there is a good chance that the dope you are smoking descends from a grow-room closer to home.

As wholesalers concentrate their efforts on local, as opposed to international markets, the climate surrounding cannabis cultivation and consumption within the U.K. is slowly changing. Whether or not this will have a knock-on effect upon the cannabis industry within Holland is unknown. What is certain, is that whilst cannabis and its cultivation receive increasing media attention within the U.K. perspectives regarding its prohibition are gradually shifting in favour of decriminalisation. Gradually, we shall come to except the role of cannabis cultivators within society, much as we respect local food producers today.

In the coming years we expect that home growing will become increasingly popular amidst people that already smoke cannabis on a habitual basis within the UK. Ever-growing consumer demands will ensure that cultivation will become a national pastime practised by thousands of indoor and outdoor horticulturists alike. Fresh generations of tokers will look to the pre-existing home-grow culture within the British Isles, as an answer to the social dilemmas they face. New 'Somas' will appear. New seed banks will develop; new genetics that can be isolated and crossed into existing seed stocks, to create new strains.

In short, growing trends will continue across our green and pleasant lands.



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Letters to Jorge

1. Space Veg and Flower

I am building a $12 \times 10 \times 8$ -foot shed where I plan to grow 20 seeds into plants. I will keep one male for pollen to make seeds. I would like to take clones. I have 1000 to 1250 Euros to spend on lighting but I need to know which ones are the best. If I start growing all my plants and take clones, I will need to grow the clones in a separate area while the other plants are flowering. I could make a mini one-plant greenhouse so that I could grow the male (until it drops pollen) with the females. What lights do I need to grow a crop and clones at the same time? If I buy four 40w fluorescents for cloning, would they be able to support clones until the grow cycle started over? Would I be better off buying a Hortilux or Son Argo light? What strains are easy to grow but provide a high yield? **Shed Man**

Jorge: You have plenty of space to section off two rooms, one for flowering and one for vegetative plants and mothers and clones. Divide the room in half along the 12-foot side. This will give you a 6×10 -foot flowering room. Divide the other half in into two 5×6 -foot rooms. One of the rooms will be used for vegetative growth under an 18-hour photoperiod. The remaining 5×6 -foot space can be used for tools and supplies and an

2. Medical Lowryder

I am a legal medical user I really need to grow my own cannabis. I am starting a little grow area in my closet. I want to grow the auto-flowering strain Lowryder. My garden is 2 x 2-feet so I figured a 250w lamp would work perfectly. This is the part I do not understand, since Lowryder is in the vegetative growth stage for about 14 days, I do not know what kind of light I should get, metal halide or HP sodium? Do I need a metal halide for vegetative growth and HP sodium for flowering? Any chance I can use compact fluorescents with the same success? Thanks for your help, Soft Secrets kicks ass! Jason

Jorge: *Jason, you can use any one of the above lamps for growing the crop beginning to end. A HP sodium will cause plants to stretch between internodes a bit more than a*

3. Roots of M39

Do you know anything about the origin of a strain called M39? A friend from Quebec has been growing it for 20 years. He has kept the original genetics alive by cloning. He claims that it is a mix of 25% Acapulco Gold, a sativa, and 75 percent of an indica variety which he didn't specify. I came across information claiming that M-39 is made of Northern Lights, Skunk #1, and other varieties, but I think they are cheap imitations and I can't find a solid answer. Could anyone at SOFT SECRETS shed some light on the truth about what M-39 really is? Any help would be greatly appreciated. **Jordan, Laval (Canada)**

Jorge: Jordan, I believe you are talking about the strain M39 that was developed by Super Sativa Seed Club (SSSC) from Holland some time between 1988 and 1990. M39 is a cross between Skunk #1 and Basic 5. The cross was made from Skunk #1 developed in California and smuggled to Holland in the late 1970s. According to Robert Connell Clarke (Marijuana Botany) this Skunk #1 was originally a three-way

4. Hot Nugs!

Thanks for all your help, Jorge. I have been drying buds to the level of about 60 percent dry then I put them in a sealed jar for two days. Then dry them in and out of the jar until they are dry but supple. This takes any where from 7 to 14 days. One thing I have noticed is the first time they are put in the jar until I open to check them is that the buds have become moist again and they are generating heat! The aroma is very sweet and pleasant. At the end the buds are sweet and smooth with a super high. I guess is this method OK. Thanks once again, **Greenthumb**

Jorge: Dear Greenthumb, you might want to let your buds dry a bit more before enclosing them in a jar. The reason they are generating heat is because they are decomposing. This decomposition is the same sort that occurs in compost piles. Decomposition is aerobic (uses air) as long as it is available in the sealed jar. A byproduct of decomposition is heat. Once

5. Roots of M39

I got some buds the other day and they have little worms! Was breaking up a bud and found a little worm or caterpillar about a half-inch-long. It was as big around as the lead in a pencil. It had made a little tunnel in the bud. So far I have found only one. What the heck is it? **D. C.**

Jorge: We had major problems with corn earworms last year in Spain. You may have seen a corn earworm, or something similar. Regardless, you have to get rid of them while the plant is growing. As soon as the plant dries out at harvest, the little critters look for live plants. Caterpillars usually burrow into the main bud an inch or two below the



entrance that will not leak light. Purchase one 600w HP sodium lamp for flowering. The Hortilux lamp is a good choice. The Son Agro lamp is available in 430 watts and not 600w. Hang the 600w fixture in the 5 x 10-foot flowering room. Purchase a 400w metal halide and hang it in the 5 x 6-foot vegetative room. Purchase a fluorescent fixture and two 40w fluorescent bulbs. Construct a small cloning chamber

that accommodates the fluorescents and two 1020 (10 x 20 inches) nursery flats in the vegetative room. The flats fit perfectly under the pair of fluorescent tubes. Cover the cloning chamber with plastic so that you can control humidity and temperature more easily. Now you have everything you need and according to my rough calculations, you will spend 700-750 Euros on lighting. The balance of your budget can be spent on building materials, grow supplies, air circulation and ventilation fans and accessories. Take clones from females as soon as you know their sex. Once well-rooted grow them under the 400w metal halide until they are 6-12 inches tall. Place them in the flowering room under the 600w HPS. If you do not need the 400w lamp to for vegetative growth, place it in the flowering room. You can keep your mother(s) in the vegetative growth stage by putting her in the flowering room for 12 hours and under the fluorescent lamps to retain the 18/6-hour photoperiod. Growing a male in such cramped conditions, even if isolated, will undoubtedly result in unwanted pollination. Stay with clones and toss the males in the hash bin! Some of my favorite high-yielding strains include Northern Lights #5, Chronic, AK47, Power Plant, the HOG and S.A.G.E.

metal halide lamp. Your best bet would be a 250w HP sodium lamp if growing the variety Lowryder. But, do not forget that you will also have to begin with seeds every time you start a garden. Ten seeds cost around 75 Euros or 7.50 each. If half of them are female and half male, you should toss out the male plants when spotted. This means you will have only five plants remaining. In turn, each female seed will cost



14 Euros. According to the Joint Doctor, creator of Lowryder, it is derivative of Williams Wonder (the old SSSC seed company), Northern Lights #2 and a cannabis ruderalis hybrid. The yield per plant is from 0.25oz. (7 grams) and 2oz. (56 grams). Lowryder is a good strain for the great outdoors because its low profile makes it difficult to spot and you can plant it on the first of May and harvest buds in mid July.



hybrid – Colombian/Afghan hybrid and a Mexican Acapulco Gold plant. The hybrid was inbred in California until it became stable, and was called Skunk #1. This stable high-yielding THC-potent strain completely revolutionized Dutch dope. Even today, 50 percent or more of all Dutch varieties contain some Skunk #1 genetics. The Basic 5 hybrid is a little more difficult to pinpoint. Basic 5, is a high-

yielding squat indica plant with heavy very resinous buds that produce an extremely heavy buzz, was developed in Holland during the 1980s. Back then it was grown a lot indoors in Holland. The plant was only available as a clone and passed from breeder to growers in this form. If we add it all up, M39 is a hybrid that consists of a Skunk #1 male (Colombian 0.25 percent, Afghan .025 percent, Acapulco Gold 0.50 percent) and Basic 5 female (100 percent indica). Growing a male in such cramped conditions, even if isolated, will undoubtedly result in unwanted pollination. Stay with clones and toss the males in the hash bin! Some of my favorite high-yielding strains include Northern Lights #5, Chronic, AK47, Power Plant, the HOG and S.A.G.E.

the air is used, decomposition becomes anaerobic, or without air. This form of decay occurs at a much slower rate than aerobic decomposition. The decomposition influences the green part of the plant first, dissipating the green chlorophyll within the plant. This is why the plants taste sweet and pleasant, because the green chlorophyll does not affect taste. Heat, especially when prolonged, degrades resin glands. Your buds are in the jar long enough under hot conditions to affect them in a negative way. You can achieve the same results and retain virtually all of the resin glands without decomposition by letting the buds dry a bit more before sealing them up. Try letting your buds dry out until they are dry to the touch before putting them in the sealed container.



The stems and denser portions of buds will still contain moisture, but not enough to hasten decomposition when sealed in the container. The moisture will migrate to dry portions of the bud until moisture levels are consistent throughout.



tip of the plant. They dig through dense buds and sever the main stem. They consume plant sap and some of the foliage. This damage is actually minimal however they fill their little cave with caterpillar poop. This poop decays in the bud, attracting moisture in the process. Soon bud mold (botrytis) sets in, invading the wound. Within a few days the mold spreads within the bud, making it unsmokable. Check for caterpillars by spraying a plant with pyrethrum

aerosol spray then shake the plant. The spray has a quick knockout effect and most caterpillars will fall from the plant. You can also use a homemade spray (repellent, hot pepper and garlic), Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) and rotenone to control the pests.

6. Higher Yield!

I've been growing for two years and usually grow between 50 to 80 plants per crop. My room is 7×10 -feet. I use inline fans, inlet and outlet, good ventilation, have Mylar on the walls. I use three 600w HP sodium lights. Is that enough on 50 plants? I ask because I produce only an ounce or a little more per plant. I believe I should harvest at least twice that.

Carl

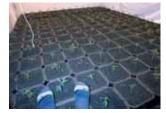
Jorge:

You are running 1,800w of light and harvesting 1,400-2,200 grams of dried manicured buds. If you harvest this amount every 60 days, you are much more successful than most. Doubling the harvest will be difficult however you can increase it by simply changing your timing to a perpetual harvest. You are growing one crop at a time. This means that

7. Alaska!

Has everyone forgotten about the last great state? I know that strains like our renowned Matanuska Thunder Fuck have showed up on the radar of grow gurus. I've been waiting for years for you guys to spotlight our great state. In my extensive travels I have never encountered the quality of the weed that is found in Alaska, not to mention the fact that it is still legal to possess a quarter pound for personal use. Due to our climate, 100 percent of our growing is indoors, which was booming up here as early as the mid 70s. The strains which were originally imported in the 70s are still around and are untainted by modern genetics. Come check it out! Show us some love!

Professor Greedy, Palmer, AK (USA)



you put small plants under the lamps. When plants are small, much of the light that shines down does not illuminate foliage it strikes the ground. This light is wasted. You can make sure all the light is used if small plants are packed together. Here is a basic scenario to follow to get the most from your light. Grow a total of 80 plants in the flowering room. Start with 20 plants under one HPS. Add 10 small plants

to the garden every week until you reach a total of 80 plants. Harvest the first 20 plants and continue to add 10 plants to the garden every week. By the end of the ninth week you will be harvesting 10 plants a week and moving 10 new plants into the garden every seven days. This practice will ensure that you always have a totally green blanket of foliage under lights. It will increase your overall harvest yield by 20-30 percent and cost the exact same!

Jorge: Dear Professor, Alaska is an amazing place! From my friend's home on the Cook Inlet, we could see three separate mountain ranges, including the active volcano Mt. Readout. The part that really fascinated me was the flora and the permafrost. Since most bacteria cannot grow in the harsh climate, fungus is essential to decompose fallen foliage and wood. More species of mushrooms grow in Alaska than any other state. When I was in Alaska 12 years ago, we smoked Thunder Fuck all the time. It was very good indeed! Today the best version of the strain can be found at Sagarmatha Seeds. They call it Matanuska Tundra (AKA Matanuska Thunder). I also met quite a few growers and visited a couple of grow shows. Damn, it is cold and wet up there! But judging from the buds in the grow rooms the growers were second to none.

Soft Secrets®

Garden Calendar

May 2005

Outdoors

May brings warm planting weather in many European climates. Scandinavians will have to wait another month for the kind weather. Most climates have seen the last average day of frost, but nighttime weather could still dip below 10 degrees C. which arrests the development of cannabis. Move plants indoors after dark if temperatures dip below 12 degrees C. Plants can go outdoors by the end of the month in all but the coldest alpine climates.

Cover tender seedlings if temperatures dip at night. Place them under a protective "hot cap" or cloche (mini greenhouse) that will protect them on cool nights. Remove protection or have well vented to avoid heat buildup during the day.

Order seeds if you have not yet ordered. Check **www.soft-secrets.nl** for all winners of the Highlife Cup 2005.

Plant now so that you can harvest a crop by the end of summer. One variety, Lowryder, is an auto-flowering plant. Although a good harvest is two ounces, it is ready within three months of planting.

Direct seed outdoors except in the harshest climates. Check seed company germination and planting recommendations. Use a phone card to make the call for added security, or check their web site for exact instructions.

Germinate seeds and take clones indoors. Move tender seedlings outdoors a few hours every day to "harden-off" so they adapt to the more severe outdoor climate. After a week or two of hardening-off tender seedlings toughen up and love the great outdoors 24/7.

Dig big planting holes and amend soil before transplanting. Holes 3 feet deep and 3 feet wide grow big plants.

Plant seedlings deep; remove one or two sets of leaves from the bottom of the plant. The subterranean stem soon sprouts roots. Make sure to leave two or three sets of leaves aboveground. Planting seedlings deeply allows plants to develop a larger root system which lowers irrigation requirements and maintenance.

Bait for slugs and snails. Lay a circle of the product Deadline slug and snail bait around small plants. Mollusks claim countless seedlings every year! If you use pellet or granular baits, cover them so moisture does not wash them away and birds do not eat. Such poisons are toxic to birds.

Protect small tender plants from birds, deer, rabbits, etc. by covering with

a small dome of chicken wire or frame a small wire shelter. Once little plants have toughened up, they are much less appealing to marauding mammals.

Check for sales local nurseries. Read the garden section in local newspapers. Talk to local gardeners and ask questions. I guarantee your plants will benefit from your knowledge.

Indoors

Go to www.soft-secrets.nl for the Highlife Cup winners. Procure your favorite seed. Make special note of the (Dutch) winners in the Seed Company categories.

Warm weather outdoors is here. Outdoor weather also affects the indoor climate. When temperatures climb cannabis uses more water and proportionately less fertilizer. Top off the nutrient solution in hydroponic reservoirs with water every day without fail. Add nutrient solution and correct pH only if necessary. Check PPM and EC first. Nutrient solutions become too concentrated quickly if you do not keep an eye on them.

Keep humidity below 60 percent in flowering rooms and below 80 percent in the vegetative rooms both day and night to avoid problems. Hot humid air can cause slow growth, slow nutrient uptake and sluggish growth. Growth slows progressively after temperatures climb beyond 23 degrees C. and essentially stops when temperatures hit 29 degrees C.

Inspect foliage meticulously for disease, insect and spider mite damage. Scrutinize each plant and pay special attention to leaf undersides. Some plants are more prone to problems than others. When pests and diseases get established on a sickly plant, they launch an assault on the rest of the garden. Spot spray problem areas. Remove sick plants from the garden, quarantine and treat with appropriate measures or smoke the problem!

Check carbon filters for efficiency and clean ozone generators. Cannabis odors become more pungent as temperatures warm. Walk around the outside of the grow show to check for odors and light leaks.

Flush containers and hydroponic gardens every two to four weeks to circumvent problems. Leach with 2-3 times the volume of mild nutrient solution as the quantity of growing medium.

Take clones for next crop. Grow clones for 2-3 weeks, at least until they have a strong healthy root system.

 $Harvest\ ripe\ resin\ dripping\ buds\ and\ plants$ and prepare for the next crop.

Harden-off clones, seedlings and old mother plants to plant outdoors.

Clean up grow room and keep it clean. Fewer problems occur in clean rooms.



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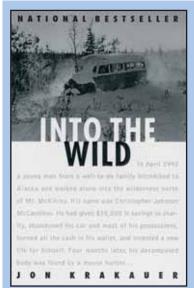
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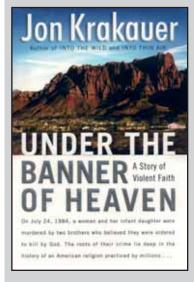


Into the Wild by Jon Krakauer

In April 1992 a young man from a well-todo family hitchhiked to Alaska and walked alone into the wilderness north of Mt. McKinley. His name was Christopher Johnson McCandless. He had given \$25,000 in savings to charity, abandoned his car and most of his possessions, burned all the cash in his wallet, and invented a new life for himself. Four months later, his decomposed body was found by a moose hunter. How McCandless came to die is the unforgettable story of Into the Wild. Immediately after graduating from college in 1991. McCandless had roamed through the West and Southwest on a vision quest like those made by his heroes Jack London and John Muir. In the Mojave Desert he abandoned his car, stripped it of its license plates, and burned all of his cash. He would

give himself a new name, Alexander Supertramp, and , unencumbered by money and belongings, he would be free to wallow in the raw, unfiltered experiences that nature presented. Craving a blank spot on the map, McCandless simply threw the maps away. Leaving behind his desperate parents and sister, he vanished into the wild. Jon Krakauer constructs a clarifying prism through which he reassembles the disquieting facts of McCandless's short life. Admitting an interest that borders on obsession, he searches for the clues to the dries and desires that propelled McCandless. Digging deeply, he takes an inherently compelling mystery and unravels the larger riddles it holds: the profound pull of the American wilderness on our imagination; the allure of high-risk activities to young men of a certain cast of mind; the complex, charged bond between fathers and sons.

When McCandless's innocent mistakes turn out to be irreversible and fatal, he becomes the stuff of tabloid headlines and is dismissed for his naiveté, pretensions, and hubris. He is said to have had a death wish but wanting to die is a very different thing from being compelled to look over the edge. Krakauer brings McCandless's uncompromising pilgrimage out of the shadows, and the peril, adversity, and renunciation sought by this enigmatic young man are illuminated with a rare understanding - and not an ounce of sentimentality. Mesmerizing, heartbreaking, *Into the Wild* is a *tour de force*. The power and luminosity of Jon Krakauer's storytelling blaze through every page.



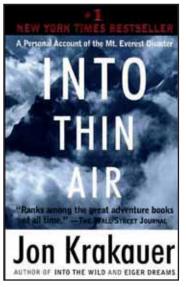
Under the Banner of Heaven: A Story of Violent Faith

by Jon Krakauer

At the core of his book is an appalling double murder committed by two Mormon Fundamentalist brothers, Ron and Dan Lafferty, who insist they received a revelation from God commanding them to kill their blameless victims. Beginning with a meticulously researched account of this "divinely inspired" crime, Krakauer constructs a multilayered, bone-chilling narrative of messianic delusion, savage violence, polygamy, and unyielding faith. Along the way, he uncovers a shadowy offshoot of America's fastest-growing religion, and raises provocative questions about the nature of religious belief.

Krakauer takes readers inside isolated communities in the American West, Canada, and Mexico, where some forty-thousand Mormon Fundamentalists believe the mainstream Mormon Church went unforgivably astray when it renounced polygamy. Defying both civil authorities and the Mormon establishment in Salt Lake City, the leaders of these outlaw sects are zealots who answer only to God. Marrying prodigiously and with virtual impunity (the leader of the largest fundamentalist church took seventy-five "plural wives," several of whom were wed to him when they were fourteen or fifteen and he was in his eighties), fundamentalist prophets exercise absolute control over the lives of their followers, and preach that any day now the world will be swept clean in a hurricane of fire, sparing only their most obedient adherents.

Weaving the story of the Lafferty brothers and their fanatical brethren with a clear-eyed look at Mormonism's violent past, Krakauer examines the underbelly of the most successful homegrown faith in the United States, and finds a distinctly American brand of religious extremism. The result is vintage Krakauer, an utterly compelling work of nonfiction that illuminates an otherwise confounding realm of human behavior.



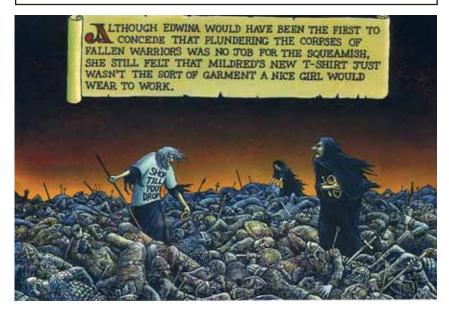
Into Thin Air: A Personal Account of the Mt. Everest Disaster

by Jon Krakauer

A bank of clouds was assembling on the notso-distant horizon, but journalist-mountaineer Jon Krakauer, standing on the summit of Mt. Everest, saw nothing that "suggested that a murderous storm was bearing down." He was wrong. The storm, which claimed five lives and left countless more -including Krakauer's- in guilt-ridden disarray, would also provide the impetus for Into Thin Air, Krakauer's epic account of the May 1996 disaster.

By writing Into Thin Air, Krakauer may have hoped to exorcise some of his own

demons and lay to rest some of the painful questions that still surround the event. He takes great pains to provide a balanced picture of the people and events he witnessed and gives due credit to the tireless and dedicated Sherpas. He also avoids blasting easy targets such as Sandy Pittman, the wealthy socialite who brought an espresso maker along on the expedition. Krakauer's highly personal inquiry into the catastrophe provides a great deal of insight into what went wrong. But for Krakauer himself, further interviews and investigations only lead him to the conclusion that his perceived failures were directly responsible for a fellow climber's death. Clearly, Krakauer remains haunted by the disaster, and although he relates a number of incidents in which he acted selflessly and even heroically, he seems unable to view those instances objectively. In the end, despite his evenhanded and even generous assessment of others' actions, he reserves a full measure of vitriol for himself. This updated trade paperback edition of Into Thin Air includes an extensive new postscript that sheds fascinating light on the acrimonious debate that flared between Krakauer and Everest guide Anatoli Boukreev in the wake of the tragedy. "I have no doubt that Boukreev's intentions were good on summit day," writes Krakauer in the postscript, dated August 1999. "What disturbs me, though, was Boukreev's refusal to acknowledge the possibility that he made even a single poor decision. Never did he indicate that perhaps it wasn't the best choice to climb without gas or go down ahead of his clients.' As usual, Krakauer supports his points with dogged research and a good dose of humility. But rather than continue the heated discourse that has raged since Into Thin Air's denouncement of guide Boukreev, Krakauer's tone is conciliatory; he points most of his criticism at G. Weston De Walt, who coauthored, The Climb, Boukreev's version of events. And in a touching conclusion, Krakauer recounts his last conversation with the late Boukreev, in which the two weathered climbers agreed to disagree about certain points. Krakauer had great hopes to patch things up with Boukreev, but the Russian later died in an avalanche on another Himalayan peak, Annapurna I. In 1999, Krakauer received an Academy Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters -a prestigious prize intended "to honor writers of exceptional accomplishment." According to the Academy's citation, "Krakauer combines the tenacity and courage of the finest tradition of investigative journalism with the stylish subtlety and profound insight of the born writer. His account of an ascent of Mount Everest has led to a general re-evaluation of climbing and of the commercialization of what was once a romantic, solitary sport; while his account of the life and death of Christopher McCandless, who died of starvation after challenging the Alaskan wilderness, delves even more deeply and disturbingly into the fascination of nature and the devastating effects of its lure on a young and curious mind."



Puff, Puff, Passed

Amsterdam dims as the world's only Cannabis Poet is extinguished

IN FACT

It seems that if you Don't smoke Don't drink Don't be unsympathetic To those whose plight is Far worse than yours Don't be prejudiced Don't be- whatever... ... folks're still going To talk about you when You're gone

-Lee Bridges "WWWHHHOOOooeee!" 1997



by Kristie Szalanski / Photo C.D. Coleman

February 2005 was a difficult month for the literary community. This year Arthur Miller, Hunter S. Thompson, and one of the most well loved philosopher poets in the heartland of pot smokers has sadly passed away. Lee Norris Bridges, 77-year-old author, father. husband, and friend, has left us behind in order to do the only thing he had previously not experienced- to die. "It's easy," he had said, embracing a unique opportunity to teach those he loved how to leave this world still wrapped in the style and grace that had enveloped him when he'd strolled the streets of Amsterdam. Lee succumbed peacefully to liver cancer on the 17th of February. A man who touched so many lives and taught so much through his words and music, grandfatherly advice, and snappy way of dressing, his absence is already palpable.

Not that any of us should dwell on the sadness of the moment, as Lee certainly took every opportunity for, well, anything that came his way, and probably would rather we all get together, smoke loads of black hash, and drink gallons of red wine in his honour. Born in Georgia, USA, he expatriated himself to Western Europe in 1963, after years of struggling and jamming in New York City during the post WWII period. Those who have never seen him wailing through a sax or clarinet (although it's easily imagined!) may know him better for his many volumes of poetry, or the reputation that preceded him. This reputation was one for being tolerant,

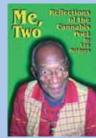
kind, and welcoming to anyone who might be construed as an outsider or even just a bit strange. After all, Lee Bridges bravely moved overseas at a time when many black Americans were still enduring the effects of segregation. Imagine having to use a separate water fountain from others due only to the colour of your skin! Perhaps it was partially curiosity that drew some of his early audiences and fans: a young, skinny, black American, beaming broadly and spouting poetry about the non-aggressive advantages of Cannabis over alcohol, and the dangerous effects of prohibitive drug laws and stigma.

Whatever the reason, he as person or poet was extolled and encouraged, and Lee eventually used his background in English and creative writing to lay down roots in Amsterdam, Paris, Frankfurt, London, and many other places. In fact, the post-Vietnam period saw the arrival of a group called "the Contacts," which was a project of Lee and his friends in Paris. The group became well known for their performances of original and classic poetry and music, staged creatively and always refreshing, or at least unusual.

When the money ran short, and poetry books and performances didn't generate the revenue to which Lee was getting accustomed, he decided that his days of sleeping in the street were over. He hooked up with some friends who taught him a bit about the smuggling game, and there began a short relationship with the soft drugs trade between Lee, Afghanistan and Lebanon, and Western Europe. The more shadowy parts of Lee's history were recently made public in his last volume and indeed his autobiography: "Me, Two - Reflections of the Cannabis Poet." Friends have long been entertained by his stories of triumph, as well as the time that the game went faster than Lee, and he served time in a French prison as a result of his "business enterprises." Just another example of the way Lee sauntered through life, surprising bits of his past bubbling out over a particularly nice spliff or killer jazz riff.

The good news is that Lee has left us a legacy of written and spoken words that will endure for generations to come, as he vacated a position that will be very difficult to fill. As it is impossible to replace Lee Bridges, Cannabis Poet and activist, it would be a travesty of the worst kind if the beauty, heartache, music, emotion, and fervour for life that are described in his works are lost. Let us read, remember, and celebrate him for a life well lived.

Lee Norris Bridges is survived by his son Jonathan Bridgelee Jeuken, Jonathan's mother Marianne Jeuken, and Lee's ex-wife Mariette Bodier Moss. Please leave comments on the guest book at www.CannabisPoet.com.



Me, Two – **Reflections of the Cannabis Poet**

"The Cannabis Poet Experiences Renaissance" Andrew

From behind one of many brightly coloured ties and whiff of freshly applied cologne, Lee Bridges emanated a wisdom and worldliness that those he frequently Jones, poet/musician encountered will dearly miss. Most of us knew him as the original Cannabis

Poet, a true gentleman raised in Jazz-Age Georgia, who expatriated himself to Western Europe in the mid-sixties. "Me, Two – Reflections of the Cannabis Poet" uncovers his years as a struggling writer and performer, a tough life for many, and mixes the relevant political climate of the times with his uniqueness as a black American travelling, living, and hustling abroad. The Poet has finally translated his life from verse into autobiographical form, his well-known poems interspersed at the chronological points at which they were written. Fans of his work can now relate to the verses in a new and appropriate context. The dreamy heat of his childhood home replaced by the hustle and bustle of European streets, the book details his adventures as a performer and hash smuggler moving from Amsterdam to Paris, and on to Lebanon and Morocco. Read about his escapades, errors, and incarcerations. Whether you're interested in poetry, music, the post-Vietnam and Hippie Hashish Trail era, or just smoking, make sure you check out this vibrant tale of one of Amsterdam's most celebrated locals. You can also find out about the birth of much of the performance scene of the time, including Lee's role in creating the Paris based performance troupe the Contacts. Although this street-wise hustler had slightly mellowed with age, Lee was also known as a staple of the smoking scene, and was often overheard administering anecdotes or literary advice to young hopefuls in the smokeshops, where he gently reigned

"His challenge now is to smuggle his poetry into eternity...."

and celebrated life. If you were never lucky enough to meet Mr. Lee, as his friends called him, now is a good time to familiarise yourself with his rich works and learn how to hustle, Lee Bridges style.

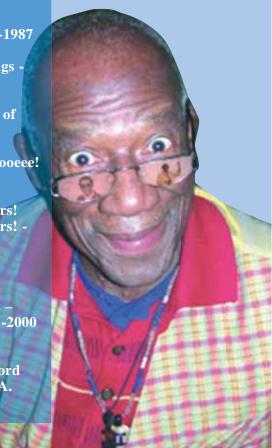
www.CannabisPoet.com

Wholesale orders: Skip@hipplanet.com

ISBN: 1-930258-02-X

Other works include but are by no means limited to:

- Bullshit! -1973
- The Rhythm Man -1987
- The Blues Bird Sings -1991
- An Approximation of **Appearances -1995**
- WWWHHHOOOooeee! -1997
- Oh, Amsterdammers! Oh, Amsterdammers!
- Whew -1998
- The Cannabis Poet -A World of Smoke -2000
- Cannabis Poet In-Exhales (spoken word CD with music by A. **Jones**) -2002



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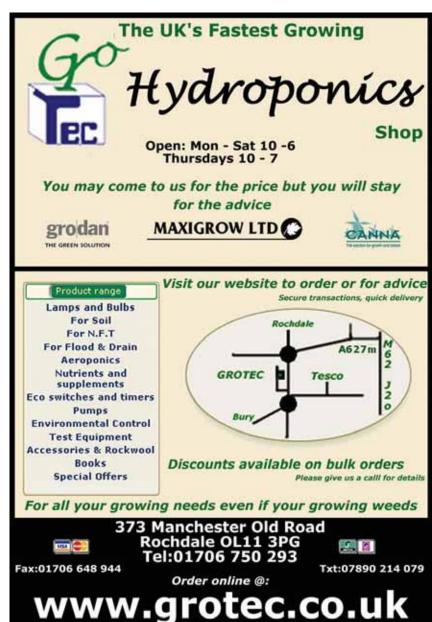
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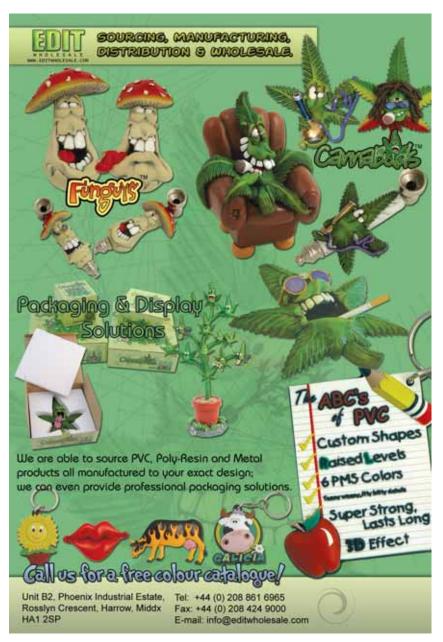
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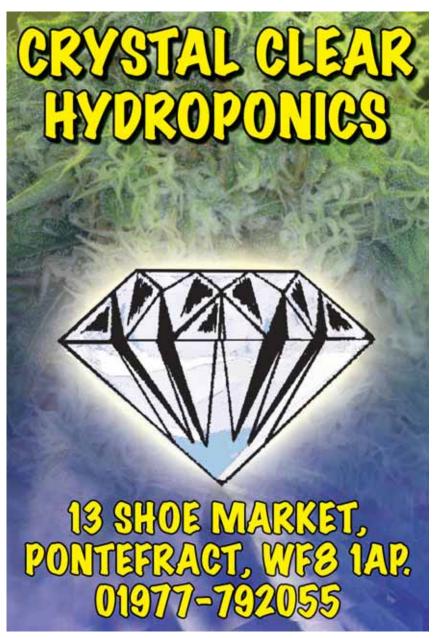












Growing for Dummies Part 8

From the first signs of buds to an exuberant bloom

Rart R

The end is almost in sight, and in just another couple of months of blossoming we will be ready to get our sheers out of the cupboard. In order to get the very best out of each plant we need to tune all the possible factors and harmonise them with each other. After all, it often the tiniest improvements that lead to the most enormous results. This issue I will look at each of the important factors in turn, as well as how you can quickly remedy a nutrient deficiency.

Blossoming is well and truly underway and after a couple of weeks white hairs start to sprout on various parts of the plant. The formation of the buds is now slowly but surely underway. As I have said before, do not forget to separate the male from the female plants. The males that develop will soon start to develop little balls that within about three weeks will be ready to burst and spread pollen all over the place, fertilising the hairy females.

The first three weeks of the blossoming period is in actual fact a sort of growth period. After setting your plants into bloom by putting the lighting on a 12 hours' light / 12 hours' dark time scheme. the plants will start to bloom (grow) explosively; they can very quickly double or triple in size. Especially if this is your first time growing it is a really wonderful sight to behold, watching that little sprog of a bush transforming into a strapping whopper with buds swelling bigger and bigger, whose THC-rich crystals begin to pile up in mounds. The specific odour of the plant develops more and more, leaving you barely able to wait to harvest some of those buds and get enjoying your first spliff of the new harvest.

Growth- and bloom-feed

During the blooming period we will be switching over to using bloom feed and we can stash away any remaining growth nutrients until the next time, however little we have needed it to date. If you have used well pre-fertilised soils, then you will easily have been able to go a few weeks without having had to use any liquid fertiliser. Naturally, your pregrowth period should not last too long, otherwise you will have to use growth nutrients. For this set-up we solely used Plagron nutrients; some brands use just a single bottle that you can use to make up both growth and bloom nutrient, while others make separate growth- and bloom-

Many growers also continue to give their plants growth nutrients into the first or second week of the blossoming period because this is a sort of transitional period and the plants still have a great thirst for nitrogen and other building blocks for their rapid development. By doing this the

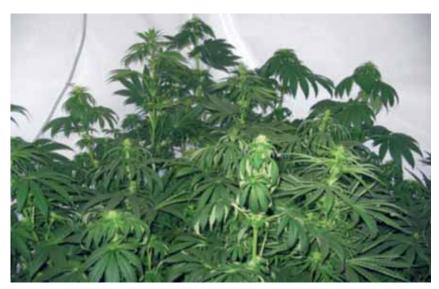


Close-up of a bud after 2.5 weeks in bloom

plants will also end up somewhat bigger, given that the bloom feed stimulated the plants to switch their attention (and resources) more to bud formation than increasing their size. In this way, you can use your giving of nutrients to play around a bit with the eventual size of the plant.

If you already have good-sized plants and would prefer that they remain a little compact due to constraints on the space you have available for them, then just give them bloom feed immediately. If your plants are on the small side and will not fill your space optimally at this rate and you want increase their size as much as possible, then you can continue to give them growth feed for a while longer to stimulate this. Of course, these differences are not huge, but every little helps, and a few centimetres more here and there can make a nice difference.

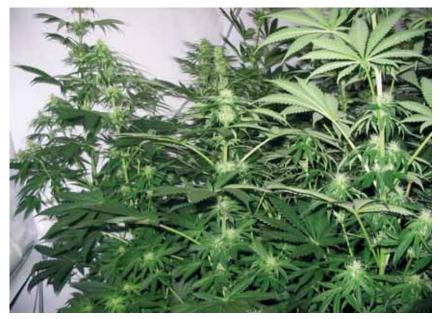
After three weeks' blossoming you will notice that the plants have reached their maximum size. The plants have stopped putting on any more height or girth and now they will be doing the real work of forming their buds. At this moment it is important to give them bloom feed, as the plants have a greater need of phosphorus and calcium. These are some of the most important building blocks for a good bud development. This means it is a good ideas to also get your bottle of PK 13-14 out. PK 13-14 (I used Plagron's PK Plus) is a separate bloom feed used as a supplement to your regular bloom feed. As you might have surmised from the name, it contains extra phosphorus and calcium that your plant really needs to be able to reward you with big, fat buds. There are two ways of administering PK 13-14. You can start with small doses from the first week and then slowly build up the dose each week. So start with 0.25 ml / per litre in the first week and by the third week aim to be giving 0.75 ml / per litre. How much you need to give is usually written on the side of the bottle too.



Overview of the seed plants after 2.5 weeks in bloom

The second way is to wait until the fourth week of bloom has begun, because it is this moment at which the most bud development begins, and then go straight to giving them 1.5 ml/per litre immediately and continue with this until the end of blooming. In short, using PK 13-14 makes for harder and denser buds by supplying the plant with a wealth of building materials.

giving them nutrients every day in the first few weeks, then maybe they only need them every other day now. It is something to pay attention to. Every plant blooms in its own way, so some varieties have a very rapid increase in bud size between the third and fifth week of blooming, while other varieties put their real weight on as measured in grams in the last weeks. This means that you just have to look carefully

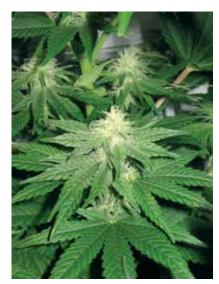


A week later, after 3.5 weeks of bloom there is already a clear change in the form of the buds

In order to achieve a good bloom there must be sufficient carbon dioxide for the plants. They need CO2 for a vigorous growth and bloom during the daylight hours.

Do not forget too that at this stage you must tailor your nutrient-giving to the needs of the plant. This has now developed very different nutritional requirements to when she needed lots of feeding for her strong development during the preceding three weeks. If you continue to give them as much nutrient as you have been doing, you run the risk of overfertilising very quickly. If you had been

at your plants (and listen to them) to know what their nutritional needs are at any particular moment. I mention this because many beginner growers start off well and think that they have everything running smoothly, when after a few weeks the needs of the plant changes and the grower sticks to her old pattern, which can then result in him only managing a feeble harvest.



The production begins to gather pace nicely (3.5 weeks' blossoming)



Young buds in full-on development mode



This Orange Bud will just get fatter and

large volumes of nitrogen. Particularly

during heat waves it is handy to spray

your plants with a nitrogen solution,

or simply increase the percentage of

nitrogen in your general feed water.

Obviously, the same process can be

In order to achieve a good bloom there

vigorous growth and bloom during the

daylight hours. The more CO2 in the

air the faster your plants can develop

and the greater their tolerance for high

temperatures. How you have your grow

optimal space is one in which all along

one side, at the very bottom, holes have

been bored to allow air in, while on the

- placed as high up as possible. This set

up offers an optimal air circulation from

one side of the space to the other side.

the plants, is used by them, then the

fresh air back in via the bottom-most

The CO2-rich air that enters flows over

CO2-depleted air is sucked out, drawing

the climate remains nearer to optimal. It

other side there is a vacuum extractor

space set up is very important. An

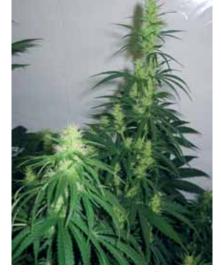
must be sufficient carbon dioxide

for the plants. They need CO2 for a

used for phosphorus and calcium

deficiencies.

Ventilation



White plastic ensures a good reflection of light for the plants placed outdoors

Feeding the leaves

The plants bloom enthusiastically and are fed with Algal Bloom. Every week they are sprayed with Phytamin Leaf Feed, and as a bloom stimulator, Plagron's Repro Forte is applied, which serves to ensure that more sugars are transported from the leaves to the buds. Every two weeks enzymes are also given. These enzymes clean your medium by removing dead roots and reduce the salt accumulation that has occurred from the application of nutrients.

Seed plants have the tendency to grow in height earlier than clones. So by now they will be considerably larger and for that reason I strongly recommend if you have limited head room in your grow space that you 'top' or bend your plants. You bend a plant by pulling down the crown bud with string fixing it bent under slight tension. By doing this you get the same effect as topping (removing the top of the plant) but with the advantage of you getting to keep the crown bud. The lowest-situated side branches will develop better and the plant will develop more buds, on a wider girth. Grow spaces that are lower than 1.5 metres in height will need their plants topping or bending earlier, or else given a much shorter growth period.

Better too little food than too much. but if you should experience a severe nutrient deficiency that you cannot solve by recommencing with the bloom feed, then the quickest way of solving the problem is by applying leaf feed. You make up some nutrient mix as you normally would and spray your plants with the solution. Plants can also take up nutrients via their leaves, and the advantage of doing it this way is that you do not change the pH of your medium. Spraying your plants is best done just before you turn off the lamps and / or just before you switch them

The problem that presents itself when you get a large deficiency to deal with is that when you give the plants a nutrient solution (via the medium) you have to wait until the plants are thirsty again. There is no point in giving them a feed solution every day if the plants can't actually take up what they need. You're forced to wait a while, certainly longer than you would wish, before you can adjust the deficiency properly. By combining watering with the application of leaf nutrient, then the plant gets what it needs immediately via the leaves. Generally, you will notice the improvement the very next day. You will observe that the yellow spots on the leaves will have regained some of their colour again. By continuing to give feed water and leaf nutrients, the plants will soon once again be a ravishing shade of green.

that you can safely experiment to find out what kind of deficiency your plants have. Many growers are stricken by doubts as to whether they are dealing with an under-fertilisation or an excess. By simply spraying the leaves with a feed solution you can very quickly observe if there is a positive or negative reaction from the plant and from that

giving the plant the elements that it does not need too. Adopt the simple expedient of keeping a separate bottle with only nitrogen in it. Adding this will raise your plants nitrogen levels without influencing the other fertiliser components. This bottle system is especially useful for outdoor growers who are in the process of raising large plants in pots and needing to apply

Another advantage of leaf feeding is deduce what the problem is. Something that is always handy to have around is a set of bottles filled with individual nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorus and calcium. With these you will be more easily able to experiment with your nutrient problem. Suppose you have a nitrogen deficiency and are forced to use a general nutrient solution to correct it; you are also

If growing in larger spaces and you are using a fan or air blower of some sort, this can be placed at the top of the space if you are also using an air-sock. The air blower works in exactly the opposite way to a vacuum pump; rather than sucking air out, it blows air in. This is unnecessary when growing in small spaces, which have sufficient air renewal with a pump. An Air-Sock is a long sock made from textile, between 3-5 metres in length. If you just use an air blower then you are usually getting cold air pumped into one side of your space which means the climate on this side is not at its optimal temperature. Nor is the CO2 spread evenly over the plants. The Sock works as follows: you fasten it on top of your air blower and fasten this to the ceiling. Once the blower is switched on then the Air-Sock is filled with incoming air, which then enters the space 3 to 5 metres into your space. After that the CO2-rich air is evenly spread throughout the space, and the effect of this is that all your plants can better enjoy the fresh air, plus the cold outside air is given time to warm up, so

is simple but effective. Having too little ventilation produces weaker growth and blooming, the plants can not develop well, and yellowing of the leaves can occur.

A rotating fan is another important piece of grow space equipment. This does not only ensure that you have good air circulation in your space which mixes the warm and cool layers of air together, but your plants also like a nice breeze. Thanks to the breeze your plants will develop nice thick stems, and they will mature into slightly smaller and more compact adults - and as you know by now, a thick stem determines to a large extent the eventual yield your plant will be able to produce. By and large, the plants with the thickest stems will also be the biggest yielders.

Bud formation

The most important weeks of the blossoming period are from the third to the fifth week of bloom for the majority of plants. Given that now most plants will be devoting most of their energy to developing their buds, during these coming weeks they are going to increase very rapidly in size. So now is the time when you really have to make sure everything runs as smoothly as possible. The beginning of the third week is also the last chance you have to spray your plants with an organic pesticide. The buds are not yet hard and compact. It can be a good idea to spray them now preventatively, rather than wait until the fifth week and find that your buds are now crawling with bugs, by which stage it is not advisable to spray.

There's not much more to do than simply giving nutrients during this stage - besides of course enjoying the sight of these gorgeous buds gradually appearing. More and more white hairs are being produced and slowly but surely separate small buds grow into each other to create one huge bud.

In the next issue I will be telling you more about the blossoming phase of the cannabis plant.



Better too little food than too much, but if you should experience a severe nutrient deficiency that you cannot solve by recommencing with the bloom feed, then the quickest way of solving the problem is by applying leaf feed.

Highlife Cup Winners:

X-Factor A.K.A. Sensi Star, from Paradise Seeds

The popularity of cannabis varieties is frequently subject to fashions that can differ from country to country, by region - even by district. This can lead to the impression that there is a sort of THC-race going on in the cannabis industry. Just like car manufacturers have to, if you want to stay in the picture as a seed company, you've got to present your new model every year or so, one that's newer, even stronger, even whiter. That this impression is not true of everyone is suggested by the persistent success of Paradise Seeds' Sensi Star, a variety that since 1999 has been among the prizes at various cannabis cups with the regularity of clockwork. Here's Soft Secrets'impression of a real evergreen.

White dream: also when dried, Sensi Star looks spectacular

Paradise Seeds began informally as a hobby club for members with a shared love of a good high. The efforts of this group of friends were directed into breeding a more tasty and stronger weed than was then available on the market. This noble mission succeeded so well that after 12 years of growing, testing and experimenting, in 1994 they decided to set up Paradise Seeds. In 1999 the prizes started to rain down on Paradise Seeds, a phenomenon that has not actually let up since. And although the company has a number of other top varieties on its books, it has consistently been their Sensi Star that over the years has garnered the top positions in a variety of weed competitions. In 1999 that was a first prize in the Highlife Cup. a performance that was repeated the same year in the High Times Cannabis



Cup, in which they also grabbed a fourth place with their Nebula variety.

In the High Times Cannabis Cup in 2000, Sensi Star once again found itself in the spotlight when it was awarded a second place. And in 2003 this golden variety – competing under the pseudonym X-Factor – once again topped the opinion polls with a first prize in the Highlife Cup. That same year at the first Spanish Highlife Fair in Barcelona, Sensi Star was crowned with a second position in the Outdoor Weed category - a stunt one would not necessarily want to try and imitate, given the inclemency of the Dutch (or British) weather.





According to its creators, Sensi Star is an almost 100% Indica, one of the richest in THC on the market. The blossoming period is between 55-60 days, and this begins outdoors at the beginning of October. In other words, if you want to get a really fat harvest of buds off her, then you really need to be living in a warm climate, somewhere the weed can be left until far into November to ripen in comfortable temperatures. Then yields of 350 to 400 grams are achievable, although considerably higher figures have been reported from Spain. The variety demands no special abilities of the grower and can be successfully grown on any medium.

When growing it, the most striking thing about Sensi Star is its aversion to too high concentrations of nutrients.













MUSIC

The Residents (Animal Lover' (Mute Records)



How excellent it is to once again enter the warped and wonderful world of The Residents, those mad genius eyeball heads from Ralph

Records, way back in the seventies and early eighties. With a typically comic and twisted take on a pretty heavy theme, they once again succeed in striking the gong and sounding absolutely and distinctively delightful.

With the characteristic, Residents completely out there vocals, weird beats and mad instru-mental passages, we are plunged into an existential crisis of human creatures whose normality is sliding toward the wrong end of the spectrum, inhabiting "a world of primal darkness, their heads forever stuck in the ground like frightened ostriches living in a constant murky dream state." In this totally entertaining and properly avant-garde piece of musical theatre, The Residents wanted to include a soundtrack that related directly to "animal love." The result is a very cleverly composed, arranged and produced album whose rhythm tracks are based entirely on animal noise mating patterns generated largely by cicadas and frogs. Also the actual sounds of mating whales and humans were used for longer tonal passages.

If you are a Residents fan you will absolutely love this and if you're not familiar with them but like something a little different then check this out. This band is certainly one of the most original outfits ever!

Will Saul Simple one' (Simple)



This inaugural release from Simple is a truly wicked mix, lush and inviting, groovy and

heady. Created by Will Saul it combines tunes from young up and coming artists from the global underground party scene. A few different styles and tempos are melted down into funky and psychedelic dance floor fluidity. All held together by this delicious acidic groove, the mix includes four tracks from Will Saul himself, the more hard-core tekno edge of Walker Hintenaus, the dubbed out planes of Sideshow and Precision Cuts with their deep breaks. This is a seriously well-crafted album that will make any party ROCK.

Sly and Robbie Version Born' (Palm Pictures Ltd.)



Produced by the prolific and brilliantly talented Bill Laswell, this album is a direct line into the imagination of infamous duo Sly and Robbie.

Offering here completely their own take on a fistful of tunes and styles, instead of being responsible only for riddim and

By Kaz Peet A STONED SELECTION

production on other artists material, this is an adventurous and limitless excursion into sound where as usual the Riddim Twins extend and expand the frontiers of dub. With a heavy emphasis on hiphop, including some guest vocals from Killah Priest, member of the Wu-Tang Clan, the album also traverses into dancehall, R.n'B., these different styles held together by the strong and spacey dub under current always present in Sly and Robbie's work. It is this that allows some unusual turns without losing the thread, such as outstanding track 'here comes the rain again', (Eurhythmics) with a passionate and sexy jazz style vocal from Imani Uzuri. Amongst other guests featured is Tricky bringing his touch of dark intrigue in 'street times' With probably one of the most extensive catalogues of work in the industry, Sly and Robbie rarely disappoint and this is no exception.

Emiliana Torrini

'Fisherman's Woman' (Rough Trade)



'Fisherman's Woman' consists of twelve moving and intricately melodic pieces from this very talented, Icelandic singer/songwriter. This is her second

album, the first being 'Love In The Time of Silence' back in 1999, equally melodic, but with a trip hop backbeat. This is voice and guitar, plain as can be, but just as full. She works with Mr. Dan, a Brixton-based producer who adds occasional instrumentation. She has excellent control of her voice and although she's not innovating any new genre of music here, she really captures your ears with the classic formula of an acoustic guitar and her voice. The lyrics are worth paying attention to.

Delroy Wilson

'Better Must Come' (Trojan Records)



Amidst a whole crop of re-releases and compilations of material from the Trojan vaults comes the very excellent 'Better Must Come' – the

comprehensive anthology of tuff tunes from Delroy Wilson. Arising in the days of Rocksteady and being inspired by Tamla Motown, he continued having hit songs right through the seventies (the golden age of reggae) and eighties appealing both to populists and the roots-reggae community. This double album showcases 50 of Wilson's tunes and demonstrates that he really could translate any song into reggae and then make it his own. Another outstanding release recently

made available is a 3 CD. box set of 50 Trojan rarities including the great I-Roy with 'The Drifter'.

Suns Of Arqa 'A Brief History Of S.O.A.' (Arka Sound)



With their incredibly distinctive sound- a blissful marriage of heavy dub coupled with indigenous Eastern sounds and instrumentation such as sitar, tabla, flute

and temple blocks etc., Suns Of Arqa have recently made their material more available through a series of re-releases and the release of this compilation of their tunes. Certainly amongst the originators of this fusion style, S.O.A. have been conjuring musical magick since 1979 and have performed many entrancing live sets around the planet. Completely peaceful, yet full of life, the music carries the listener to a temple of concord, a place of freedom to allow the whirling dervish sounds to swirl around and engulf amidst the beautiful melodies and the slowly-slowly rhythm of the tabla to gently entrain into an almost meditative resonance. In 'Libera Me' (from 'Land Of A Thousand Churches'), the dulcet lucidity of John Cooper Clark's poetry adds another compelling dimension and contrast to the classic Indian style lilting vocals of Sanyogita Kumari in 'Govinda's Dream'. The legendry Prince Far-I sings and stirs with his deep seated (smoked up NUFF weed) voice, asking the all important question 'Whatyougonnadoonth ejudgementday?'

This mantronic album provides a taste of the Suns Of Arqa sound. Amongst a fairly extensive recording catalogue are pieces such as 'Cosmic Jugalbandi' based around five ragas and featuring Youth on keyboards and Zion Train in production, well worth checking out. 2005 will see a new creation emerging from the S.O.A. temple, a collboration with the guys at Dragonfly Records. Contact: wadada@SUNSOFARQA.COM

Atomic Hooligan

'You Are Here' (Botchit & Scarper)



Working on this, their debut album, for the last three years, Atomic Hooligan duo, Matt & Terry, has come up with a real blinder, no less!

Encompassing old school influences such as hip-hop and electro, house and tekno along with their very innovative use of vocals, they are pushing the boundaries of breakbeat well into the phuture with their penetrating and phunky style. The album includes the duo's hit single 'Shine A Light'. A personal favourite for this listener is the psychedelically uplifting 'Steal The Sun' with a profundity both musically and vocally, which runs throughout this highly listenable or danceable album.

Scrap Killar Road Movies

'Right Off Brighton' (Scrap Records)



A most entertaining DVD. from the dirty squatters posse at Scrap Records featuring music by 2000 DS, LSDS, Crowzone, IK Dell and Manic Cough with visual scenes taken from

parties, protests, mad happenings and cool performance around the Brighton area of England. With freedom, equality and empowerment being at the core, styles involved obviously reflect this and move in an anything goes kind of way from scorching punk through up-front, anarchic hip-hop, drum n' bass and tekno to roots-rock-reggae.

In 'Acrowbatics', cavorting, gymnastic crows flex and frolic in this psychedelically filmed and edited escapade whilst the sounds give praise to Ganja with a stomping tune from 'Crowzone'. Typical of other Scrap Records projects, this is uninhibited, stirringly real, positive and perhaps most important of all, great fun! Check out the website-www.scraprecords.com

Massive Attack 'Danny The Dog' (Virgin Records)



The score to a recent Luc Besson film 'Danny The Dog', this is a captivating and atmospheric instrumental work reflecting the fast paced action and changing, intricate mood of the film. The film, a martial arts thriller, is the intriguing story of Danny (played by Jet Li), a slave who has lived his life without any sort of normal human education. with the mind of and personality of a young child, with only one lesson learned: how to fight. Treated like a dog by his owner, Bart (played by Bob Hoskins), which includes having to wear a collar, Danny fights in illegal gladiatorstyle fight clubs. After a car accident that lands Bart in a coma, Danny meets a kind elderly blind piano tuner (played by Morgan Freeman) who uses music to teach Danny some humanity. Demonstrating Massive Attack's ability to express depth of feeling and mood the soundtrack consists of 21 pieces of music; running in chronological order throughout the film, the scene moves from the intensity of tracks such as 'Atta' Boy' and 'Collar Stays On' to the haunting dub and ambience of 'Sam's Tunes', 'Right Way To Hold A Spoon' and 'Everybody's Got A Family'.

Said Some Girl Called Mercy

To Remember You've Taken It" by Fraser Clark **OUR ACCESS ALL LEVELS reporter.**

Everything would stop being in its perfect place if I opened my eyes, that's all I knew, though I didn't know there was an I, nor anything to know. Soon as I did, of course, and saw a female human watching me, I 'remembered' I was a 'person' too! Which is when I 'remembered' I'd lost my memory!

I was lying back on cushions in some kinda tecno studio, or hospital ward. Violet electric veins slithered constantly all over my companion's body, though after a while I hardly noticed them.

"Who are you?" I asked her.

"I'm Mercury Seventeen. I'm your... Doorway."

"Where.. is this? Is that a tv?" The set was easier on my eyes, it was 3D. Some politician type was giving a speech:

"In conclusion, Fellow Governors, ever since our society rejected the Church of Science's moral anarchy which was devastating our planet, and re-instated Magic Mother Mushroom at the heart of its spiritual life, the sociopathy of ego has largely disappeared from public life."

"What?! Who's he, Mercury?!" "Leader of the biggest Opposition Network? The Ethical Conservatives." She was pretty, beneath the electric clouds. We seemed to have been here a couple of hours already.

"Psychic nutrition" he was continuing, "is indicated for most forms of hypercompetitive behaviour. Most Anti-Socials prefer moral/mystic training to confinement." We were exploring each others bodies in a light show cavern beneath the blankets, still somehow 'receiving' the speech.

"But the New Liberal New Labour Greentheogenic Coalition's proposal to make psychedelics obligatory puts everything at risk! Surely we can pity, not fear, the 'dinosaurs' who hark back to the anti-nature alienation that so damn near destroyed us. This 'First True Democracy' of ours will become the first Tyranny of the Majority if we start chemically kidnapping them for their own good! We'd be no more enlightened than the 2nd Millennium Priest Politicians who used to demonise their shamanic citizens! We must treasure our diversity!"

"Is this the future, Merc?" Her 'veins', when our passions had reached their peak,

had rippled like a pool's sunlight reflections, strobing blindingly in the final seconds. "Of course not!" "Then why can't I remember my name?" She licked my dick, shrugging. "So when did all this happen?" I asked her big green eyes.

"The 2nd Millennium had shown everyone one thing." It was next morning, I had her spread-eagled on the bed. "No idealistic social model can work on its own. Your administrators are always open to temptation. Right?" Nose deep in her doorway I was in no position to disagree, but I winked my assent. "So, in the '20s, when the Anti-Nature Wars of the Dark Ages were finally grinding to a stalemate...' this was the future! For me! I had a memory flash of when I lived. "... the UN declared the Age of Representative Democracy over, and devised responsive models of the next - Participative Democracy - where the people make virtually all the decisions." Everything blipped, then again, we'd been hanging with Mercury for

"But what training could protect our 'administrators' from temptation, right?" Things were starting to blur, to telescope back and forwards. "The churches wanted the role, but we'd seen past that one! I remember marching with a huge banner: 'WHO CONFESSES THE PRIESTS?' She giggled, as things started blurring as well as

"But with the total information access of a Participative Democracy, everyone pretty soon realised what had gone wrong. When Science had replaced the Church's corrupt brand of Spirituality, it had thrown out the original Great Spirit too - who was blameless! And lived in Nature!" Who was talking? "And Anthropology showed that Spirit had first entered Ape history through the Psilocybin Mushroom."

I wrote that! Is it Mercy reading my article?

"So regular psychedelic ingestion was the answer." Whoosh! "Since 2038, all volunteers for public service have had to undergo a year of Mystic Initiation I remember who I am! It's 2005! "Nowadays the system's run by a class of psilocybin-trained samurai administrators, committed to a life beyond personal power or greed!" It's Now! Today! And what's Mercy saying (she looks like Mercury): "You gobbled M17, baby, did you remember?"

'Grow 3D''



Kristie Szalanski

The self-proclaimed "First indoor 3D interactive" tour through the Cannabis industry's crowded closets and attics was released in demo form at the Highlife 2004 festival in Barcelona. Rudimentary Spanish skills helped SSUK through the new game, which luckily is pretty straightforward. Who's to say that the released version will be so simple, and if it is, the game will bore people quickly. In its basic form, "Grow 3D" gives gamers a chance to stop shooting people and do something productive, like building a grow room! Okay, so you can't smoke 'em, but vou can learn about nutrient products in the Canna line and how much humidity Cannabis can endure. The game begins with a tour around the space and some basic plant and genetic information. Choose from Sensi Seeds

varieties like Jack Herer, Marley's Collie, Shiva Shanti, Northern Lights, and many more. Do to the helpful descriptions beside each strain, SSUK decided to try the Hindu Kush, and germination was successful! Next came lessons on maintaining a productive growing environment, and the grower is quizzed as to what to do next. If the wrong decision is made, problems can arise quickly, as any indoor gardener knows. The Canna products are waiting to be sampled, and it's up to you to choose the correct combination of growth and flowering liquids with enzymes and macronutrients. At this point the demo suffered from slow execution and a lack of text depicting exactly what was happening. Hopefully the language problems will be ironed out and several versions will be available. "Grow 3D" is innovative and unique, with interesting graphics and a fresh look at

computer games. Learn basic instructions on how to start a grow room yourself, as most of what is presented is accurate to actual indoor cultivation. Move from your guided tour on to seed selection, germination, vegetation, controlling the environment, sexing the plants, flowering, light variances, and then your virtual harvest. All those hours spent doing bong hits with a towel stuffed under your door can now be enhanced by a legal indoor grow, in 3D interactive form!

Demo Version 1.0 **Required Software: Pentium III** 300MH/ 128Mb RAM/ Open GL or Direct X SO: Windows 98 (or later)

www.grow3d.cominfo@grow3d.com Tel.: 00 (34) 93 844 02 45

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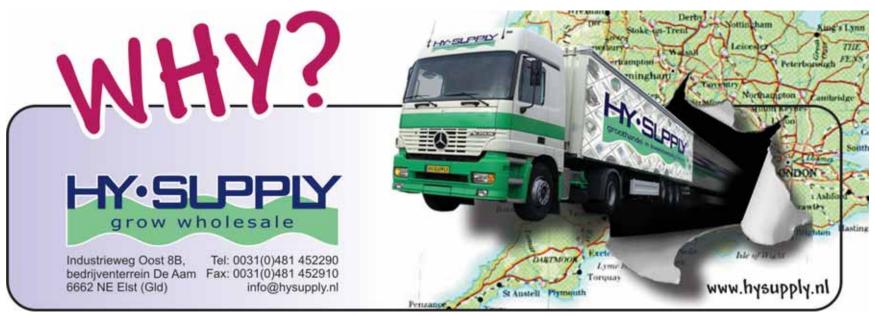
Marijuana Indoors: Five Easy Gardens

by Jorge Cervantes



If you really want to know exactly how to grow a garden from beginning to end, this is the book for you. Jorge Cervantes, a proud contributor to Soft Secrets, chronicled five different growers from beginning to end. He lists everything they use to layout and construct their grow room including all the prices for everything. He also clues you into all the facts and figures and how to achieve the gram of

dried sinsemilla per watt of HID light. Get the inside story from five growers. Every last detail on their grow operation (except location) - how they harvest heavy crops of potent marijuana indoors. They tell everything-how to choose a safe house, build a grow room & cloning chamber, install ventilation, hydroponic gardens & grow lights. Sixty full-color photographs, more than 80 black & white drawings, charts, and graphs illustrate the text. An index and an indispensable appendix of formulas and conversions are also included. See www.marijuanagrowing.com





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by Kristie Szalanski

"Homegrown Harvest"

by Jean-Pierre Galland & Phix



Amsterdam has been waiting for the alternate language release of Jean-Pierre Galland's "Homegrown Harvest," and now that it's in, readers are a bit baffled. The graphics and layout are stunning, especially considering the field. It's not often that a writer in the Cannabis industry can combine extensive knowledge with good editing and impressive graphic design. Unfortunately, Galland's book presents a sort of schizophrenic text in that a lack of index or introduction leads to an unorganised pile of information, albeit helpful information. A second problem is that it appears different people wrote the

first and second halves of the book. The first presents a tale of a grower's relationship with his outdoor crop, and is written in a whimsical style, but then in crashes the indoor hydroponics advice, and all in an attempt to simplify the growing process. When first reading the section it is not obvious that it is intended as growing advice, and maybe it isn't, because the text doesn't lean definitely towards either fiction or "how-to." The second half of the book, however, is another matter. Much detailed growing advice is thrown at the reader, and it is obvious that years of research and experimentation have gone into its writing. While a lack of organization is still noticeable, the information is concisely revealed, and sprinkled with resources and additional aspects of the growers' and smokers' lives, along the lines of the dangers of prohibition, keeping your nutrients safe and organic, and of course recreational smoking. My suggestion would be to read the book, as it is cleverly-devised and beautiful to look at, with amusing inserts showing the literal layers of building a grow room, all done with transparent paper. The end of the book provides a miniature cut-and-paste grow closet that you can build if the real thing is too much work. Keep in mind that all grow books are mere suggestions of gardening techniques, whether biological or hydroponics, and this one is not to be used as a step-by-step manual. It's always a good idea to consult several sources, especially as Galland makes no attempt to explain certain necessary info such as Northern vs. Southern hemisphere growing. At no point is it mentioned that the months declared for growing and flowering in France would not necessarily work in South Africa or Australia, for example, although he does point out that matching genetics from a climate similar to yours is a good idea. In general, "Homegrown Harvest" makes a nice coffee table book, and makes a great conversation starter or a beginning point for research into auto-production of Cannabis. Make sure you check out the end of the book for Galland's proposals for legalizing Cannabis in France.

Website: www.trouble-fête.fr / ISBN: 2-914-253-00-1

Other Works: J'attends une Récolte - Cannabiculture et bonnes manières

Fumée Clandestine 1 & 2 Nouvelles du Front

"Secrets of High Yield Plant Growth"

by Graham Reinders



This hydroponic tome hails from Vancouver, where business is brisk in the water cultivation industry. Graham Reinders offers almost 200 pages of detailed information that will help you to maximize your yield and quality, without crossing the line into scientific garble. Perhaps the book could be a bit shorter, but due to its containing gardening information and not weed growing information, the extensiveness must cover all realms of plant and flower growing. You really need to have some previous experience with growing for this book to supplement your knowledge; not because it's hard to understand, rather,

it takes a bit of work for some growers to relate to their ganja as plants or flowers. If this isn't a problem, and you're interested in the botanical and biochemical information regarding growing, then you'll benefit greatly from the book. Making seeds and clone taking are especially emphasized, as well as maintaining mother plants. Nutrition, how the plants use water, utilizing Humic and Fulmic acid: these are all covered in the first 30 pages. For the best results, whether concerning yield, flavour, or strength, gardeners must remain gardeners and not only commercial producers. If you've already started a small empire, pick up the book for tips on root stresses, comparison of growth media, increasing water uptake through temperature control, and foliar feeding. Many mysterious secrets of techniques like aeroponics are revealed and explained well, or even how to use what you already have at home to imitate indoor growing conditions and expensive lights. Pruning techniques are also emphasized, as well as how the plants actually benefit from each macro- and micronutrient instead of just how to tell deficiencies from toxicities. Pest control ranges through viruses, bacteria, moulds, and fungi, and how each disinfectant or fungicide affects people, the plants, and the environment in general. Live predators and organic pesticides are thoroughly discussed as well. This is not a photo-oriented book; it contains many simple diagrams that can easily be reproduced. "Secrets of High Yield Plant Growth" will definitely improve your gardening skills and results, but it's up to you to find the subtle nuances between growing produce and growing weed.

www.growsupergardens.com / ISBN: N/A

"How-To Hydroponics" (4th Edition)

by Keith Roberto





It's obvious from this completely revised and current edition that Keith Roberto is a champion of the hydroponics industry and truly believes in what he's writing. "How-To Hydroponics" is a concise, articulate, informative manual that is presented in easily understandable language and with helpful diagrams. This book is not a weed grower's guide; rather, it is a text rich with secrets that every weed grower should want to know. The best thing about a grow guide focused on production of fruits, veggies, and flowers is that the writer is not overly concerned with maximum yield or price per gram, and Roberto's work is a great link between

the botanical world and the commercial Cannabis trade. Many hydro ganja growers forget that they are actually producing flowers, and use loads of chemicals that make the buds heavy and produce a less natural and even dangerous effect when smoked. The emphasis of this guide is aiming your system and nutrients specifically towards whatever you're growing, and feeding the plants only what they need. One of the best things about the book is its history of hydroponics cultivation, beginning with Egyptian hieroglyphics depicting water-growing methods, through the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and the Floating Gardens of the Mexican Aztecs. Scientific and genetic information is explained well, right down to the differences between yields from Open Pollinated seeds and F1 Hybrids. While the hydro community receives criticism due to the lack of organic nutrients in the industry, Roberto explains that prevalent popularity is found in drought-ridden areas and out of season growing, and results in higher yields, ease of nutrient administration, and consistent vitamin content in produce. He goes on to explain that elimination of soil-borne pests, fungi and disease as well as no need for herbicides have made this method competitive against soil growing. A wide range of substrates is thoroughly defined, as are the most common hydro methods: Dutch Bucket, NFT, Rockwool Slab Drip System, Raft System, Ein Gedi, Aeroponics, Autopot, and Vertical Gardening. Figure out why your NFT setup has such bad stagnation problems! Macro- and micronutrients are explained, as are deficiencies and toxicities, and by the end of the book you can build your own hydro system and greenhouse! "How-To" is also a great guide for beginners choosing the right lights and dealing with issues like pest management and pH maintenance. Build your own hydro empire, and learn from someone who's not stoned like yourself!

Website: www.howtohydroponics.com / ISBN: 0-9672026-1-2

Indoor Marijuana Horticulture - The Indoor Bible by Jorge Cervantes



The new edition is completely rewritten, beginning to end. The classic "Indoor Bible" puts all the latest information on indoor cultivation at your fingertips. Learn how growers maximize yields, harvesting more than a pound of connoisseur quality bud per 1000w bulb every two months. Includes precise color drawings and photos of numerous plant problems, a troubleshooting chart, four case studies, weekly checklist, calendar, glossary and index. The book is packed with extensive information on hydroponics, including the Sea Of Green, lighting, soils & soilless mixes, CO2, insect, spider mite, fungus & disease control, fertilizers, nutrient disorders, seeds & seedlings, seed companies, plant care, mother

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Indoor Marijuana Horticulture: The Indoor Bible is the best-selling book on indoor marijuana cultivation in the world. This is why growers christened it "The Indoor Bible". All editions of the book have been bestsellers since it was first published in 1983. The book is packed with simple how-to examples and step-by-step instructions that both novice and advanced growers use successfully. If you want to read only one book on indoor growing, this is it!

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German grower Mr. Greenthumb

The Super Silver Haze adventure

Even experienced growers can find themselves with problems when they make a detour from their usual tried-and-trusted growing methods and cannabis varieties. You have Indica-growers, Sativa-growers and all-round-growers. This is the tale of the precarious adventure of a bunch of Indica-growers who tried their luck on an extreme Sativa. In the latest in his series on overseas growers, Bart B. talks to Mr. Greenthumb from Germany.

By Bart B.

The GGA (German Growers Association) consists of a large group of cannabis- and hash-lovers who got together a few years ago to try and do something about the dismal quality of the commercial cannabis. Wisely, they decided to start growing it for themselves. First outdoors, but after many problems with wild animals and thieves, many members of the GGS switched over to growing indoors and established their gardens under lamps.

"We started out using a 600 Watt HPS system that was pretty soon upgraded to three and four systems," says Mr Greenthumb, "and before we even realised what was happening we had become addicted to indoor growing. Since then we have bought many, many lamps. Our members had already accumulated a lot of growing experience, both in their own gardens and on large, commercial growing projects, both indoor and in greenhouses in Switzerland of up to 5000 plants per crop. Somewhere in the heart of Europe, far from the canals of Amsterdam and the mountains of Switzerland, the GGA-team set up a new high-tech hydro growing room with 14 x 600 Watt HPS lights in an old abandoned building. Right from the start, it was actually pretty difficult setting up this large grow room in such an urban, residential location. After all, we didn't want people asking themselves where all these trucks full of material were coming from and what were they up to. So it was extremely important that we were very cautious when working. Because there is not a huge growing scene in our own country it is not always easy to come across clones in any large quantities. Fortunately one member of the GGA has always been a good source of high quality clones. But once the grow room had been well and truly established, we found that our usual tried-and-trusted supplier of clones could not actually deliver this time. We were left with no alternative but to look elsewhere for clones with which to populate our new space. We had previously been very successful when we had generally used lovely - if commercial - Indica varieties. We had very little experience with exclusively Sativa varieties when we were offered some Super Silver Haze clones. Team member Mr. G did some research online and came to the conclusion that we should get the clones to work as soon as possible in the new growing space."

Designing the grow space

"To begin with we cleaned the whole space and covered the walls with white foil, which immediately made the crumbling building look a lot better. We decided to use stone wool slabs in Libra tubs as our growing medium. We used nine Libra tubs under every two 600 watt HPS lamps so as to use the space to the maximum, and then built wooden frames to support the Libra tubs. Because



The plants are in the growth or veg phase, but thanks to the low temperature they are not exactly shooting up.



Finally the plants came into bloom. The advantage of the lower temperature is that this kept the size of the Super Silver Haze under control.



After 22 days of bloom, there is still no sign of bud formation.



The development of the buds finally and slowly got into gear after 36 days.



An overview of the growing operation after 49 days' bloom. By this time many Indica varieties are already fully ripe.

ventilation is an underestimated factor in many grow rooms (when growing indoors) we decided to be safe rather than sorry and used a 5000 m3 squirrel ventilator that we then built in to a sound-proof box with sound-insulated extraction pipes, that were in turn fitted with two 2500 m3 carbonfilters. In doing all this we were certain that we had eliminated all sound pollution and odour to an absolute minimum. Our air intake this time was passive, and that worked really well. By that I mean that we did not use an air pump. The vacuum extractor was connected to a thermostat that regulated the speed of the ventilator. Next we moved a 500 litre reservoir into the space, and after that all the pipes and wires were well connected, making it time to turn on the lights, and get the clones planted under them. By the time the space was operational, it was freezing outside. Even so, we assumed that the 14 x 600 watt HPS lamps would warm the grow space sufficiently. Sadly this was not the case... The temperature where the clones were stood was low, even with all those lamps and using more sources of heat. So our clones got off to a slow start, even if they still looked fine. We used 2 x 5 Kilowatt propane gas heaters and a mobile 2000 Watt heater to keep the temperature at a reasonable level. Fortunately, the air moisture content stayed up around the 45-60 % mark. If the air moisture content fell too low we sprayed the plants every day with warm water (25 degrees) with Hesi Supervit mixed in. Happily, things improved after a few weeks and the temperature rose, which also increased the speed at which the plants grew. Things looked good. The clones were given a little more than a week of pre-growth before they were put into bloom. As I mentioned earlier, we were all only used to growing with commercial Indicas that tended to bloom in eight weeks, so we were a little bit worried about the slow bud formation in the beginning. Was that because of the low temperature, or was it due to a light iron deficiency or just poor genetics of the plants? What, in short, was going on with these Sativas?"

First buds

"After the plants had been given 48 days on a 12/12 (12 hours' night and 12 hours' light) schema, the clones finally began to get a bit fatter. Most varieties we had grown before would have been fully ripe by this time. But that is just how these Sativa varieties are: after 50 days there was still no sign of ripeness to be found. All the hairs were still bone white and they were still sprouting. The plants had filled their space well. The buds were slowly but surely getting harder and fuller, and we were keen to see how this Sativa adventure would turn out. We realised that this Sativa was not enjoying the large dosage of feed we were giving it, while our Indicas had done. So we gave a little pk 13-14 to the buds around the 70th day of blooming, still on a 12/12 period, and finally the blossom exploded. The buds grew and grew, but still did not show any sign of ripening, so we went even further and we made up a new 500-litre vat of feed water and gave a fresh load of nutrients to the plants. By the 90th day of blooming we began to flush the system with fresh water at the correct pH-value, for ten days, After that, after 100 days of bloom, we were finally able to harvest.'



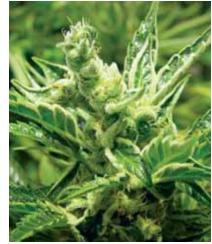
After 71 days' bloom, finally some cracking Sativa buds



It is difficult to keep a garden full of Sativas under control, so much so that many growers just don't dare go there.

Tedious trimming

"Compared with Indicas the Sativa buds were really tricky to trim. This was because they had a less-dense structure. The tri8mming cost us more time in comparison with our previous Indica harvests. When we had begun this grow we had a very good English grower tell us that we were very brave to try and grow a Sativa on such a commercial scale, and I asked him what he meant. Now I understood exactly what he meant by this, and I can not wait to get back to Indicas, even if personally I found the results of the Super Silver Haze a very nice smoke. Our final yield was in the end a little low and it averaged out at about 0.68 grams per Watt. Mr. G was adamant that if he ever grew this variety again in the same system set up, he could easily get a good gram per watt off it, but that will never happen. He did keep back a single clone for his own personal use because this Super Silver Haze is an excellent cannabis variety; once well dried, it was a top quality end product,' Watch out for new adventures of the GGA, and until then, enjoy your growing and your smoking - wherever you are!



After a long and drawn out bloom period it is finally time to harvest. A lovely bud Super Silver Haze.



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1. **Sincimania**

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3. Kaya ilers, prod.

4. **Under Mi Sleng Teng**

5. Stoned Immaculate

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Bushweed Corntrash

8. **Sensie A Medicine**

9. Oh Mr. D.C.

10. **International Herb**

The Herb

Tired Fi Lick Weed In A Bush 12.

Stick A Bush 13.

14. Rizla Skank

15. **Jamaican Collie**

16. **Colombia Colly**

Collie Weed

17.

18. African Herbsman

Sinsemilla 19.

20. The Dope

21. Nice Up U Medi

22. **Chalice Ina Palace**

International Herb 23.

Spliff Tail 24.

I Love Marijuana 25.

26. Strictly Sensi

27. **Smoking My Ganja**

28. Free Up The Weed

29. Quarter lb. Ishen

30. **Lick Mi Chalice**

Don't Smoke The Seed

32. **Whole Lotta Fire**

33. Herbsman

34. **Light Up Your Spliff**

I Shen Galore 35.

36. Joker Smoker

37. Legalize It

38. **Natty Chalwa**

39. **Margaret Dub**

40. **Peculiar Man**

100 dollar bag

42. Nah Leave Me Chalwa

43. **Light My Spliff**

International Herb 44.

Sensimilla Persecution 45.

Commandment 46. of Drugs

47. **One Good Spliff** The Melody Makers)

48. **Feeling High**

49. **Chalice**

50. **Pass the Couchie**

51. **Macka Splaff**

Lambsbread Collie 52.

53. Eyes a bleed

54. Herbs an' Spices

(Ziggy Marıey & The Melody Makers) 55. **Jungle Collie**

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63. Sensi

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66. Stalk of Sensimilla

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69. **Ganja Smuggling**

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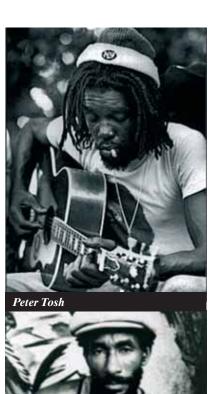
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Promote the ganja 97. **Bun The Kuchie**

Good Load of Herb 98.

99. **Weed Indeed**

Dead Man Smoking 100.



Legalize it

Lee 'Scratch' Perry

Legalize it Don't critisize it Legalize it And I will advertise it Some call it tampee Some call it the weed Some call it marijuana Some of them call it ganja Legalize it... Singers smoke it And players of instruments too Legalize it, yeah That's the best thing you can do **Doctors smoke it** Nurses smoke it Judges smoke it Even the lawyers too Legalize it... It's good foor the flu It's good for asthma **Good for tuberculosis** Even umara composis Legalize it... Bird eat it And they leave it Fowls eat it Goats love to play with it Legalize it... (Peter Tosh, Island Records)

From www.reggae.be, with thanks to Karel Michiels





Recognising Deadly Mushrooms

Simple colour tests, which reveal whether pills or powders actually contain the desired party drug, have been available for years in Holland and can be found at any smartshop. Similar test kits for mushrooms don't exist. But you can make one yourself. Soft Secrets explains how.

BY Rene Rikkelmann

Fatal poisoning from eating toxic fungi is thankfully a rare occurrence. The victims are usually inexperienced gourmets, hunting for wild mushrooms, who unwittingly put the wrong one in their soup-- Amanitas for instance. Ninety-five percent of people who die from eating poisonous mushrooms are victims of Anamitin, the principal toxin in Amanitas. Someone who ingests more than a hundred grams of the stuff stands a good chance of fatal poisoning if they do not receive medical treatment immediately.

After 2 days, a combination liver-kidney transplant might forestall tragic consequences. Most people know well enough to leave these deadly mushrooms alone. They have a tuber under the stalk, white pleats under the cap and white spores and they can easily be distinguished from edible mushrooms; the latter have darkened, reddish pleats under the cap, darkish spores, and never have a tuber under the stem.

People looking for psychedelic 'shrooms have plenty of signs to look for to ensure that they never run into danger. The Psilocybin varieties of mushrooms look much more like edible mushrooms than Amanitas do, so they're easier to identify. Magic mushrooms are almost never white, they never have any kind of tuber below the stem, have lots of darkish pleats and spores and they often exhibit a bluish stain when bruised.

But alas, Amanitas themselves are not the only danger out there. Some wood fungi such as Galerinas also contain the deadly Amanitin toxin. They grow on the same sort of mossy wood chips close to where the faded blue, bald headed Psilocybe cyanescens, and the "UFO" 'shroom, Psilocybe azurescens spring up. These poisonous moss fungi tend to sprout on rotting wood and other decomposed fungal material. Some of these moss fungi tend to look bluish to the untrained eve. They also have light brown folds or pleats, which are the same tint as the friendly bald-headed 'shrooms when the latter's spores have yet to ripen. The moss fungus Galerina shares some

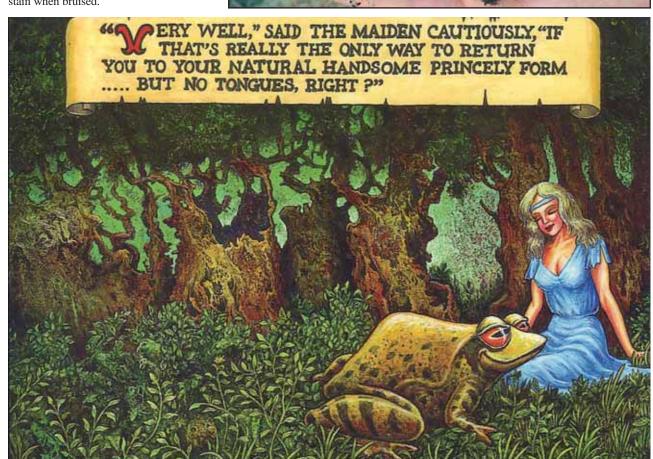


features of the bald-headed Psilocybin mushroom and grows on the same medium (wood chips). Sometimes they grow in the same place at the same time. The base of the stem of the Galerina (on the left) appears light blue. These moss fungi contain the deadly toxin Amanitin, and should be avoided. So while it is easy to distinguish Psilocybin from Amanitas, the Galerinas are somewhat more difficult to distinguish to the untrained eye. Caution is advised!

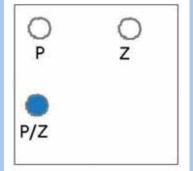
Fortunately it is simple to test mushrooms for the presence of Amanitin. (See sidebar.) Use the test and throw suspect mushrooms away immediately! If one of the poisonous ones gets mixed into a whole bag of friendly 'shrooms, that one is no less toxic!

The "UFO Mushroom": Psilocybe Azurescens and on the right: the faded blue, bald headed Psilocybe Cyanescens, both photographed before the spores have ripened. The pleats under the hood are of the same colouring as the pleats and spores of the deadly moss fungus.





The poison test



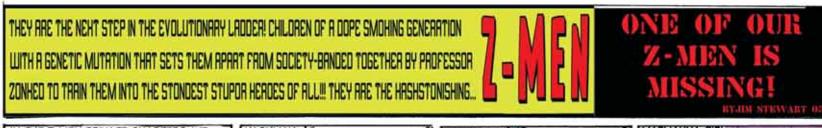
Amanita Muscaria (poison) mushrooms can be recognised with practice. A simple test is the newspaper test from Wieland, named after its developer. Get a bottle of Hydrochloric acid from the local drug store or paint shop.

Pour a small amount from the bottle into a miniature dropper bottle that you can carry with you. Be careful: wear rubber gloves when opening the Hydrochloric acid as it can cause blisters. Make sure the dropper bottle is well sealed!

The test: Take out a moist mushroom and squeeze two drops of juice from it, next to each other, onto a piece of newspaper, cheap cardboard or toilet paper. Mark a circle around each drop with a pencil and under each circle make a letter "p" (see drawing). Now let a drop of the acid fall right onto the drop of mushroom juice. Pencil a circle around that. Draw the letter "z" under it. Leave all the drops to dry. Then let another drop of the acid fall on the dried out juice and write "/z" after the "p". If the sample contains Amanitin the place where the "p/z" stands will have turned blue. The telltale blue colouring will show up within 15 minutes to one hour. If otherwise marked circles turn bluish, you've done something wrong. (For example using an ink pen instead of a pencil to mark the drops can bleed ink into the drop.)

A dried out drop of mushroom juice (on grey paper or cardboard) which turns blue when a hydrochloric acid drop is added should be regarded as possibly containing Amanitin!

If none of the circles turn blue, then your batch does not contain toxins. The Wieland test is very sensitive; it will register a concentration of less than one-tenth of that which is contained in a drop of mushroom juice. The colour change is caused by a reaction between Anamitin and Lignin, a substance that is present in the fibres of cheap paper and cardboard. (The test therefore won't work with finer paper that does not have these fibres.)















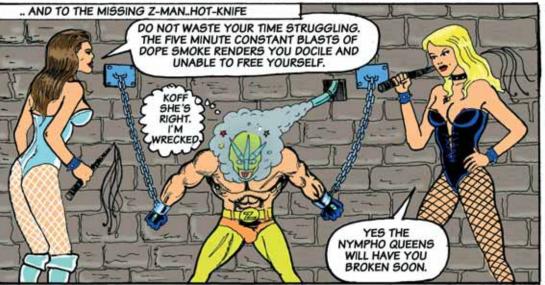






























Urban Garden Advanced Nutrients and the Eco Systems

The Eco System has landed in South Yorkshire. Urban Garden was the first hydro shop to take these daring first steps towards the new era of hydroponic growing. Urban Garden has been around longer than most new grow shops in Yorkshire and knows what it's talking about. We see more and more dodgy grow shops popping up all over the place, trying to bring in new products that are simply either dangerous or of no use for our UK Market. Hundreds of new products try to enter the UK growing scene, and we have always stuck by our guns and have to ask ourselves why fix something it it's not broken. BUT with the new Eco System we have held our hands up. We believe the Eco System is the future of hydroponic growing. When we first set the system up in our showroom we sat back and looked in amazement at how compact it was. Everything you need is supplied. The system

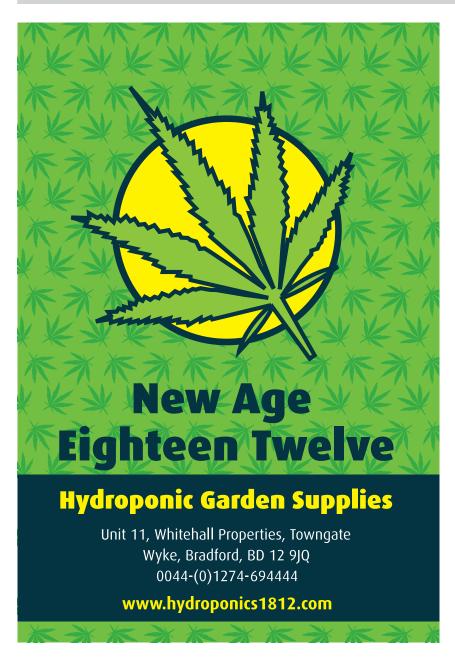


comes flat packed, and has no moving parts to jam or break down. The unit runs super cool and you only need to run two 600 watt sodium lights costing less than a pound a day. At first we thought no way could this system yield what it was rumoured it could yield, and lengthy heated discussions followed as 'it can't work - will work' concepts were discussed. But the proof is in the pudding, and as more and more of these systems went out of the door, the feedback we were getting was amazing, and all were consistent with each other. We are now getting orders for these systems daily, and cannot keep up with the supply. We have had bids over the asking price for the display models. We are currently running the systems with Advanced Nutrients from Ikon, and find these nutrients superb for the system. Everybody loves the Advanced range,





especially the additives like the Piranha, Voodooo Juice and Overdrive, just to name a few. The root mass from Piranha's beneficial bacteria is truly outstanding from anything else on the market, increasing root mass by up to 700%. Use Overdrive in the last weeks of flowering and see the weight and size of your favourite buds and flowers increase in front of your eyes. For more information on these quite unique systems and nutrients pop down to one of our shops situated in Barnsley and Sheffield. We have two of the biggest and well stocked shops in England, with fully trained staff and full working displays. We still manage to give all our customers the personal service they deserve, and feel we give 101% to all our customers.





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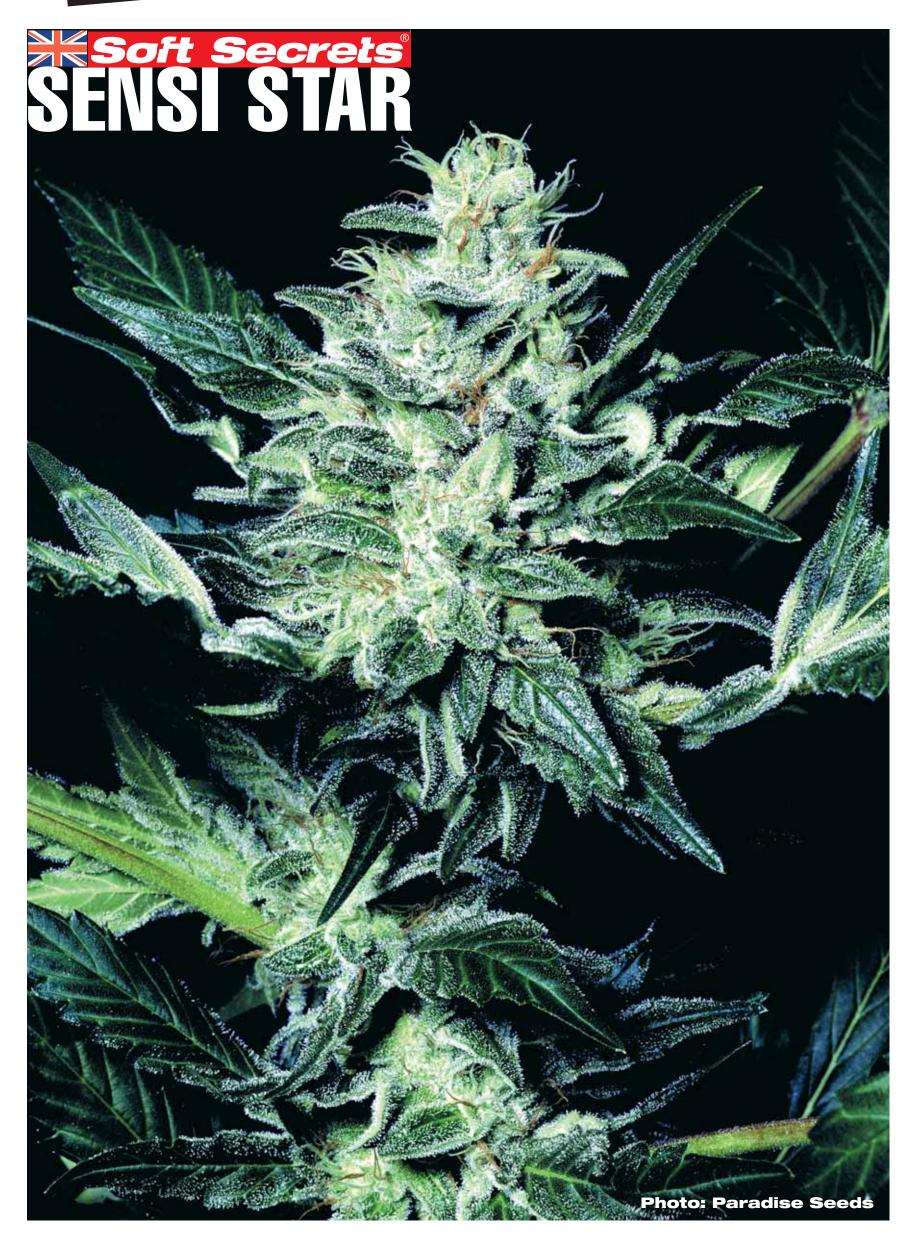
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UK: Cannabis Gran Hopes to Meet Blair

A drug-dealing grandmother is taking her fight to legalise cannabis to Downing Street today. Patricia Tabram is hoping to meet Prime Minister Tony Blair to give him a letter she has written asking for cannabis to be legalised on medical grounds. In her lengthy letter to Mr Blair, the 66-year-old, from Humshaugh, near Hexham, Northumberland, claims commercially-produced medicines are more harmful than cannabis.

She also claims that her dependence on the NHS has lessened since she started taking the Class C drug. Mrs Tabram hit the headlines when she admitted possessing cannabis with intent to supply from her bungalow. She maintains that she laces her food with the illegal herb because prescription medicines make her ill and cannabis does not.

The former chef said recently: "Friends introduced me to cannabis in February 2004 when they gave me cigarette.

"I suffer from depression, whiplash in my neck and back pain. I went to bed and the next morning I felt so much better. "I used to be on NHS medications but I found the side-effects were so bad that I stopped taking them.

"With cannabis I get rid of the pain but have none of the side-effects."

Pottering about with her grey hair and spectacles, widow Mrs Tabram cuts an unlikely figure as a drug dealer. She prides herself on her homemade herbal cookies, casseroles and soups, and became one of the most unlikely drug dealers. Mrs Tabram has cooked up treats laced with the drug for neighbours and friends in her village after being introduced to cannabis. She has also written a book called Grandma Eats Cannabis and hopes to have it published. While in London today, she is meeting literary agent David Godwin.

UKCIA is a part of the wider Legalise Cannabis Campaign in the UK. The core team and the mailing list are a collection of activists - that is users of cannabis and sympathisers - who all share two things; an Internet connection and the goal to help repeal the cannabis laws.

We know that the best weapon against the "War on Cannabis" is the truth. So UKCIA sets out to be a store of factual information, you can find information about all aspects of the cannabis plant, its uses and the way its used here.

UKCIA holds a wide range of research papers and government reports, we invite you to read it and to make your own mind up on the issue, free of political distortion.

Cannabis legalisation is a major issue and isn't going to go away, not if we can help it anyway!

Visit www.ukcia.org

Northumbria Police were tipped off about Mrs Tabram and twice raided her bungalow in May and June last year. They seized 32 cannabis plants growing in her home. Mrs Tabram appeared at Newcastle Crown Court to admit one charge of possession of a Class C drug with intent to supply on December 13.

A spokeswoman for literary agents David Godwin Associates said: "In the letter she explains why she takes cannabis. She cannot understand why the Government legalises many of these prescription medicines, which have such terrible side-effects, when cannabis has eased her pain and has none of the problems." Date: 09/02/2005 / Source: Press Association

UK: Warning Over 'Forgotten' Drug

Action to warn Scottish teenagers of the dangers of smoking cannabis is being urged by a leading expert amid fears it is being overlooked.

ONE of Scotland's leading drugs experts has called for cannabis use among young people to be put at the very forefront of the debate on substance abuse Professor Neil McKeganey, director of the centre for drug misuse research in Glasgow, has spoken out on the dangers of assuming cannabis is one of the least harmful drugs and its subsequent prevalence among young people. Prof McKeganey said: "Our level of cannabis use is among the highest in Europe. The young do not see it as a notable drug and that is hugely worrying. We must put the cannabis debate back to the forefront." Meanwhile, a pressure group is to highlight the dangers of smoking among schoolchildren as a "gateway" to cannabis use. The anti-smoking group ASH plans to hold a conference in Edinburgh this spring and it will feature the latest advice from narcotics experts. A spokesman for ASH said: "The dangers of cigarettes as a gateway to cannabis are apparent. We intend to underline this fact."

Earlier this month, the Executive called for urgent efforts to dispel the myth among schoolchildren that cannabis use is acceptable in society. The substance was downgraded to class "C" last year - lessening the penalties for possession. Heavy use of cannabis has been associated with mental illness and the effects of the drug on the still-developing brains of young people are believed to be more severe.

Prof McKeganey said: "It is highly concerning that children perceive cannabis as a part of their daily social life. Reclassification allowed police to focus on heroin; that focus eclipsed cannabis, pushing it to a sideline when we needed to pay it as much attention as heroin.

"Cannabis signals the onset of drug use and when children are exposed only to [advice from] kids like themselves, the risks seem meaningless. I believe they need exposure to recovered addicts who can speak with honesty and power."

Research has shown an increase in children smoking cannabis - a situation described by experts as a "timebomb" with the risk of severe mental and physical illness in future. Drug services in Scotland have been forced to divert their resources into combating the more immediate menace of heroin and, according to experts, the current generation of cannabis users may be missed because the health risks are rated lower than those of class-A drugs.

Margot Ferguson, the general manager of West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service, one of Scotland's busiest agencies, said the use of cannabis needed to be taken more seriously. She said: "Cannabis has been tailing into insignificance because of heroin.

Services with limited resources are forced to tackle the hard end of drug users, those who die or develop immediate, very complex problems.

"We must not allow ourselves to leave a major [cannabis] problem behind. Ordinary cigarettes are now a 'gateway' drug."

Official figures suggest cannabis use has risen yearly for a decade and caused a 60 per cent increase in health problems. The number of convicted cannabis offenders has also risen from about 4,000 in the early 1990s to double that today. It is now estimated cannabis is used by 20 per cent of all teenagers. It is thought to be taken by about six per cent of all 13-year-olds.

Two mental health organisations, SANE and Rethink, want the drug reclassified and have asked for an investigation into links with mental illness.Doctors first linked cannabis to psychotic symptoms 20 years ago and the British Medical Journal recently reported the drug doubled the risk of developing such symptoms. However, the liberal lobby is unconvinced. The writer Olaf Tyaransen, a pro-cannabis campaigner, described medical studies as "rubbish". He added: "They [mental patients] would probably have developed schizophrenia regardless."

UK: Clarke snubs cannabis conference

Home Secretary Charles Clarke today defended his decision to snub a national procannabis conference in Norwich - because he had "no respect" for the organisation behind it. The Legalise Cannabis Alliance, which has its head office in Norwich, invited the Norwich South MP to next month's conference at the University of East Anglia. But the alliance said Mr Clarke had not replied to the invitation and the Labour MP today revealed he was not prepared to meet the pro-cannabis campaigners - but would go head to head with them in this May's elections.

He said: "I have a very full schedule and I could not make that particular event. I am pretty sure I have replied. I would not be prepared to meet them anyway as I don't respect their argument in any way. I am expecting them to run a candidate against me at the next election and we can discuss it at the Hustings then. The Government has done the right thing to reclassify cannabis." In 1997 Mr Clarke revealed he had smoked cannabis and in 2001 he told TV's Question Time that he tried the drug twice while on holiday in America.

Date: 25/01/2005 / Source: Evening News, Norwich

Liechtenstein: Hemp diet over for alpine cows

Farmers in Liechtenstein will no longer be allowed to feed cannabis to their livestock under new rules to be introduced in March in the tiny Alpine state. Hemp, of which the marijuana plant is a well-known variety, contains small amounts of THC, the active substance in hashish, and traces of the drug

have been filtering through to the milk of dairy cows fed with the plant.

The country's veterinary and food controls office says the levels breach the maximum limit set by the new rules, which say that animal feed must be free of any component that could have an adverse effect on humans.

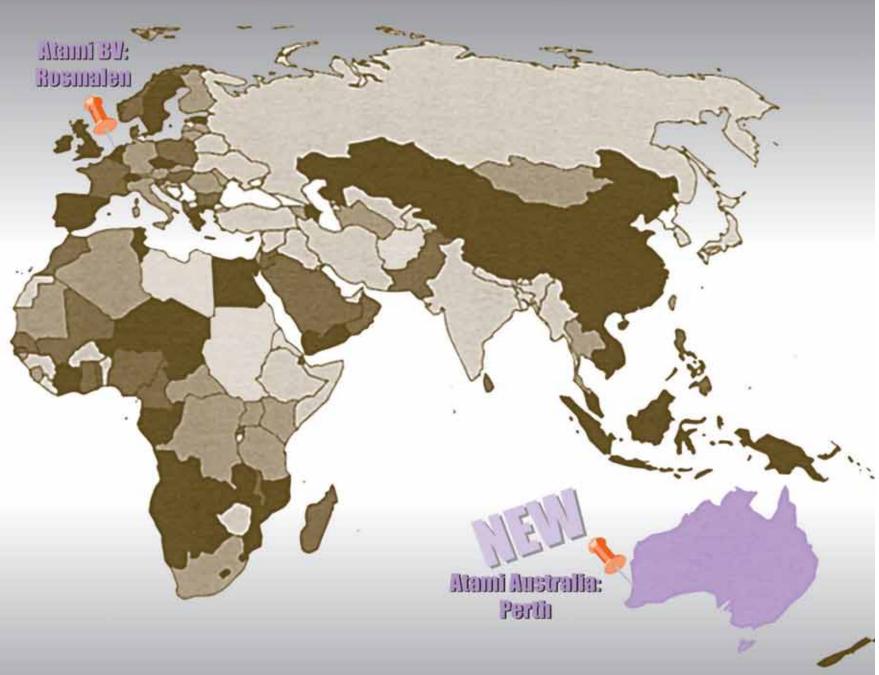
Hemp will also be banned from the diets of meat herds, although there is no clear evidence that THC can filter through into meat.

The rules intend to bring Liechtenstein, a tiny nation of 33,000 inhabitants, in line with food standards in neighbouring Switzerland, with which it forms a customs union.

Date: 11/02/2005 / Source: ABC News Online, Australia

DOWN UNDER

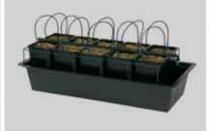




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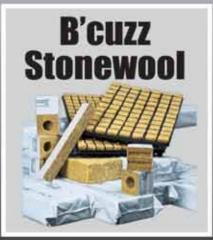
ATAMI











UK: Can cannabis be a killer?

Alistair Ramsay, the director of Scotland Against Drugs, says cannabis is a harmful drug for many users, is more powerful now than it used to be and public confusion needs to be ended THE arguments about the effects of using cannabis have raged for decades and are no closer to being conclusive because they have become the focus of a "debate" which is generating more heat than light. There is a need to recognise that, while some people say they can use the drug and declare it has no damaging effects, for others cannabis is a harmful drug.

Some users become addicted and for some it leads to the use of other drugs. Reports by users of feeling paranoid are common.

In a recent piece of research, an increase in the incidence of emphysema was discovered among cannabis smokers. The early onset of lung cancer in cannabis smokers was discovered in another work.

More is being learned about this "harmless" drug today than in the 1960s. The cannabis smoked then bears little resemblance to that used today. Some of the cannabis dealt in Scotland today has a THC content (THC being the active ingredient in cannabis sativa) much higher than 40 years ago. Nobody who used cannabis then talked about "white-outs" - similar to blackouts, except everything goes white and they lose long periods of time.

Despite the greater knowledge of the effects of this illegal drug, there is still a groundswell of opinion that it is harmless and can be smoked with little or no damaging effect.

But if the argument about effects is put to one side and its the legal status is considered, then its reclassification from class B to class C, despite being logical, has not helped the public understanding.

Before its reclassification, cannabis was in the same class as amphetamine, a significantly more dangerous drug. Logic suggests cannabis should be in a class lower than amphetamine. The only real difference between the legal position of cannabis today from before its reclassification is the penalty.

Before, possession could lead to five years in jail, whereas today the penalty is up to two years.

While all the substances covered by the act are dangerous, some are more dangerous than others. This understanding still needs to be tackled, despite considerable government efforts to make the public aware of the continued illegality of both possessing and supplying cannabis.

Margo MacDonald, the independent MSP, says labelling cannabis a killer and just telling people to say 'no' is too simplistic when we still don't know enough about the results of cannabis use

THE horror of Jodi Jones's death, hard on the heels of reports of confusion caused by the reclassification of cannabis - statistics showing four out of ten under-16s have been offered, or have tried, cannabis, and reports of a new, "stronger" strain of weed being used - have given easy ammunition to anti-drugs campaigners whose instinct is to just say "no".

If only it were that simple. If only the majority of health-conscious young Scots who back the ban on smoking in public places had the same attitude to cannabis, we could anticipate it becoming a very small problem involving few people.

And that's why it's no answer to existing, and any new problems posed by cannabis use to leave the law in its present state of confusion.

For a great many young people, it's their drug of choice, and they think it is hypocrisy to tolerate the destructiveness and violence associated with alcohol abuse while criminalising the use of a drug that, until the Luke Mitchell case, was almost universally judged to be less harmful to society, and the user. For them, Luke Mitchell's bad case isn't good enough proof to make them stop.

Scottish police forces have said they will still pursue cannabis users, but teachers' representatives have said their pupils are taking advantage of the uncertainty about the letter of the law. The only certainty is that, as law- makers, we still don't know enough about the results of cannabis use.

Why are there possibly millions of middle-aged, solid citizens who've either grown out of using cannabis, or still enjoy the odd roll-up, and why didn't cannabis use seduce them into darker narcotics? Have their powers of reasoning or concentration been diminished? What evidence is there regarding the greater mental damage done by the "new" cannabis?

Five years ago, I asked the Scottish Parliament to conduct its own inquiry into cannabis use before Westminster changed the law. I still think a change in the law is advisable, but I don't think we have sufficient evidence on which to base decisions regarding classification and the criminalisation of users.

Date: 12/02/2005 Source: The Scotsman

NL: Dutch patients prefer cannabis cafes to pharmacies

With legal cannabis readily available, the Dutch government's programme for issuing medical marijuana through pharmacies is losing money as stocks pile up because patients seem to prefer buying their stash at authorised cannabis cafes. Even though cannabis use is decriminalised and marijuana is widely available in hundreds of cannabis cafes known as coffee shops, the Dutch government set up a programme for medical marijuana in September 2001. It cited studies showing that marijuana can be used to reduce nausea and vomiting in patients undergoing chemotherapy and radiotherapy, to reduce tension in glaucoma patients and to improve the appetite of people infected with HIV or suffering from Aids. The idea was that patients would prefer a prescription from the pharmacy with a guaranteed strength and quality than take their chances in the commercial coffeeshops but it didn't work out that way.

After a year and a half of the groundbreaking programme, the Dutch Minister of Health Hans Hoogervorst calculated in December last year that the programme generated a loss of almost 400 000 euros (\$520 000) in 2004. Of the estimated 10 000 to 15 000 patients who use cannabis for medical reasons, only 1 000 and 1 500 people have taken part in the medical cannabis programme. The health ministry scaled down its expected yearly sales from between 200kg and 400kg of marijuana to just 70kg.

The government will not yet term the programme a failure but said it is being reevaluated and a decision on how to proceed would be taken after the summer.

"It appears that doctors are not prescribing as much as we had estimated based on studies," said Bas Kuik, a spokesperson for the government regulated Bureau of Medical Cannabis (BMC).

To James Burton, who was one of the two officially recognised growers of medical marijuana until the government ended its contract with him this year, it is clear what is holding back the programme.

"Problem number one is the price. Medical marijuana is sold at some nine euros a gram while in a normal coffee shop you can get a gram of cannabis at 4,5 to 5 euros," Burton said.

"There is a market out there, just not at this price."

The American knows what he's talking about. As a glaucoma patient he uses marijuana to ease tension. He was jailed in the US for growing the herb before he moved to The Netherlands in 1991.

"I thought I was in nirvana" because of the liberal Dutch policies on soft drugs, he said.

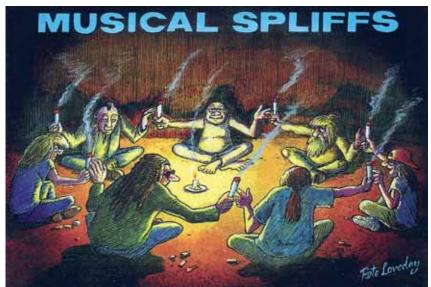
The use of cannabis has been decriminalised here since the 1970s and the sale allowed through authorised bars known as coffee shops. Sales are limited to five grams a person and growing marijuana is forbidden.

One of the problems for patients related to the price of medical marijuana is that the Dutch national health service does not reimburse prescriptions and there are only a few private health insurers that do. At the prices the government charges a 90g a month prescription like Burton has for his glaucoma costs more than 800 euros. This is simply too much for most patients.

Kuik insisted that the BMC does not make any money from the medical marijuana and explained the mark-up was necessary because of tax, research, sterilisation, packaging and logistics. He pointed to a possible other reason for the unpopularity of the medical marijuana.

"The medical cannabis is made to be inhaled in a steam treatment or infused and drunk like tea and not for smoking. Maybe that is a disappointment for people expecting to smoke it but of course the ministry of health cannot encourage smoking," he said.

Source: Mail & Guardian Online, South Africa



UK: Cannabis arrests fall under 'softly softly' law

The number of people arrested for possessing cannabis has fallen by more than one third since the drugs laws were relaxed. But the Home Office said the downgrading of cannabis, from a class-B to class-C drug exactly one year ago had made no difference to levels of use. There were an estimated 43,750 arrests over the past year, compared with 68,625 in the previous 12 months.

Ministers calculated the fall had saved about 200,000 hours of police time, freeing them to tackle the use of class-A drugs such as heroin and crack.

Following reclassification, cannabis is now ranked alongside anabolic steroids and some prescription anti-depressants. Although its possession is still a criminal offence, offenders are not usually arrested.

According to details of the British Crime Survey which were published by the Home Office yesterday, 10.8 per cent of adults report taking cannabis over the past year, compared with 10.9 per cent in the previous 12 months.

It also discovered that the proportion of 16- to 24-year-olds using the drug had fallen from 28.2 per cent to 24.8 per cent over the past five years.

Caroline Flint, a Home Office Minister, said: "The picture is encouraging, with significant savings in police time which can now be used to drive more serious drugs off our streets and make our communities safer."

Because each arrest takes an average of eight hours to process, the 24,875 fewer arrests saved 199,000 hours of police time. She added: "I'm pleased figures show that some predictions that cannabis use by young people would increase were wholly unfounded."

Martin Barnes, the chief executive of the charity DrugScope, said: "We supported, and continue to support, the reclassification of cannabis. It is encouraging that cannabis use among young people has been declining, although it is too soon to draw conclusions from the latest figures on the impact of reclassification. The reclassification of cannabis was in recognition that all drugs are not the same."

But the Tories, who have pledged to reverse the reclassification, accused the Government of releasing misleading statistics. They pointed to a separate survey that suggested overall drug use by teenagers has doubled since 1997.

David Davis, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "Downgrading cannabis was a mistake, which has sent mixed messages to the young and the vulnerable about the dangers of drugs. Mr Blair's government is deceiving itself by using misleading figures to measure cannabis use."

Date: 29/01/2005 Source: The Independent

Belgium: New rules on cannabis use enter into force

BRUSSELS - New guidelines came into force on Tuesday stating when users of cannabis in Belgium should be prosecuted. A law on the soft drug was passed in May 2003, making it clear that not everyone found in possession of cannabis should be taken to court. However, in October 2004, the Court of Arbitration, which reviews new legislation in Belgium, branded the law "unconstitutional" because of the vagueness of some of its wording. For instance, the law said people should be prosecuted if they were guilty of a "problematic use" of the drug. The Court ruled that that description was unclear.

As a result, public prosecutors decided they could not apply that part of the law, leaving the country in legal limbo over the drug. But on Tuesday, the Justice Minister Laurette Onkelinx and the Public Prosecutors Office issued a joint directive designed to clarify the situation. If anyone is found with less than 3 grammes of cannabis or with a plant being kept to produce dope for personal use, they should receive the lowest form of punishment a verbal warning.

The police will store the warning on computer and send all warnings issued to the magistrates court on a monthly basis. The police will have no right to confiscate the drug from users if it does not exceed 3 grammes.

A person will only be dealt with more severely if he or she is using cannabis in a school or youth centre or nearby, or in a public place, or a prison.

The federal Justice and Health departments are still drafting the text which will replace the May 2003 law.

The first proposals are expected to be considered by the cabinet in March. In the meantime, public prosecutors will follow Tuesday's directive, with each prosecutor issuing legal teams with any additional guidance necessary according to local needs.

Date: 01/02/2005 / Source: Expatica.com

Spain to experiment with cannabis

Four hospitals and 60 pharmacies in the north-eastern Spanish region of Catalonia will distribute cannabis to patients suffering from Aids, cancer, multiple sclerosis or chronic pain of nervous origin, local media reported.

The Catalan regional government has agreed with the Spanish health ministry that patients not responding to conventional treatments may be prescribed capsules containing powder made of cannabis, the plant from which marijuana and hashish are made.

The one-year pioneering experiment, which follows a similar one in The Netherlands, is due to start mid-year.

Cannabis is believed to increase appetite in Aids patients, to reduce nausea and vomiting in cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy, and to alleviate muscular pain caused by multiple sclerosis as well as chronic pain of nervous origin.

Marijuana is banned in Spain, but many people are already using it for medicinal purposes. Many of them smoke it instead of taking it orally, a method that can irritate and cause cancer of the respiratory tract, experts said.

The goal of the experiment is to monitor such patients and to allow others to benefit from the possible therapeutic effects of cannabis.

Date: 01/02/2005 Source: Mail & Guardian Online, South Africa

France: France launches E10m anti-cannabis campaign

Days after easing restrictions on alcohol advertising, the French government launched a E10m (\$13m, ukp6.9m) information campaign yesterday to deter cannabis use among young people.

Philippe Douste-Blazy, health minister, said cannabis use was more prevalent in France than in any other European country - apart from the Czech Republic and the UK - with 20 per cent of young men and 10 per cent of young women regularly using the drug. "This is a major public health problem," he said. Some other European governments have drawn a distinction between soft and hard drugs and have relaxed the penalties for cannabis use. But Mr Douste-Blazy rejected the "myth" that cannabis was a safe drug. He said the French government would steer a course between excessively permissive and repressive measures to deter its use.

"The only solution to lower drug use is to sensitise adolescents and young adults to the problems of health. One must tell them the truth and make them understand, what has never been achieved before, that regular cannabis use is dangerous," he said in Le Figaro newspaper.

The government's anti-drugs campaign contrasts with its recent relaxing of some alcohol advertising. Last month, Mr Douste-Blazy brokered a compromise deal between France's wine producers, medical associations and members of parliament to amend the Evin law, which strictly regulated alcohol advertising. French wine producers will now be able to promote the virtues of their region and the quality, smell and taste of their products. But the health ministry insists the aim is to allow French wine producers to compete more effectively against foreign imports and not to encourage an increase in overall alcohol consumption, which has slipped steadily for many years.

As part of its anti-drugs campaign, the health ministry is setting up a telephone line to answer questions about cannabis use and will open 240 consultation centres around France. It is launching an advertising campaign later this month on youth television channels and radio stations, which it claims will be the first of its type in Europe.

The advertising, which health officials say will try to avoid a moralising tone, will show drug users talking about bad experiences with cannabis. The adverts will end: "Anxiety, malaise, bad trip: cannabis is a reality." The ministry is also planning to distribute written information.

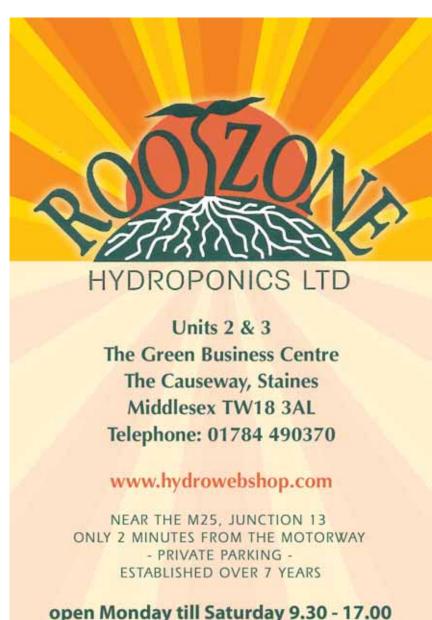
Date: 03/02/2005 / Source: Financial Times / Sun Jan 30 23:59:01 GMT 2005

UK: Big rise in cannabis seizures

CANNABIS use in Scotland has risen sharply since the drug's legal status was downgraded, figures show. In Strathclyde, seizures of home-grown plants has more than doubled in the last year and in Tayside there has been a sixfold increase. From April 2003 to April 2004 there were 742 cannabis plants seized in Strathclyde, compared with 1715 between April 2004 and December 2004. Cannabis was classified down from a class B to a class C drug on January 29, 2004 to allow forces to concentrate on hard drugs such as heroin and cocaine.

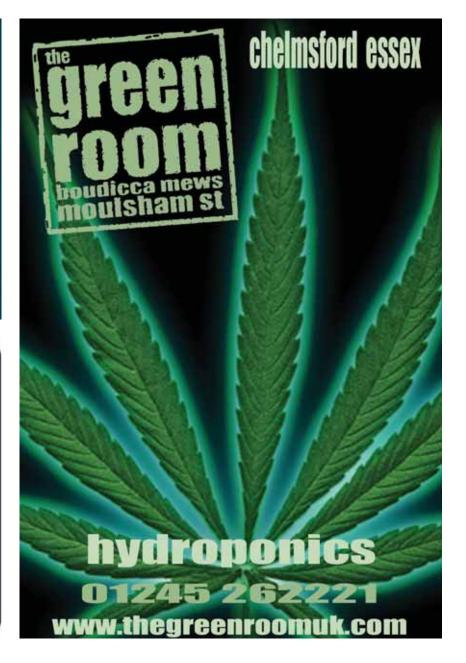
Date: 20/01/2005 / Source: Evening Times, Glasgow











Soft Secrets 75

UK: Cannabis arrests fall by a third

Arrests for cannabis possession have fallen by a third in the first year since the drug was downgraded, official figures for England and Wales showed today.

The Home Office said the move to re-classify the drug from Class B to Class C had saved police an estimated 199,000 hours of work.

Cannabis is now ranked alongside anabolic steroids and some prescription antidepressants, and its possession is generally not an arrestable offence.

But ministers insisted cannabis use by young people had remained stable and was "significantly down" since April 1998.

The Home Office's British crime survey suggested 28.2% of 16 to 24-year-olds used cannabis then, compared with 24.8% today.

Former home secretary David Blunkett decided to re-classify cannabis so that officers could spend more time combating hard drugs such as heroin and crack.

It was reclassified on January 29 last year but remains illegal.

The figure of 199,000 saved hours was estimated from provisional data supplied by 26 of the 42 police forces in England and Wales, said a Home Office spokesman. The Home Office minister Caroline Flint said: "The government's drugs strategy focuses on tackling the Class A drugs which cause the most harm to communities, individuals and their families.

"A year ago we reclassified cannabis on the recommendation of the advisory council on the misuse of drugs, so that the police could concentrate on the far more destructive Class A drugs. "One year on the picture is encouraging with significant savings in police time which can now be used to drive more serious drugs off our streets and make our communities safer."

Date: 28/01/2005 / Source: Press Association

UK: Rising cannabis use prompts call for war on drugs

RISING cannabis and cocaine use was yesterday attacked by a senior Tory as an "epidemic" requiring a war on drugs, after The Herald's report that the changed legal status of soft drugs had fuelled an explosion in marijuana use.

But backers of cannabis legalisation argued that the growth in police seizures of home-grown plants was down to smokers wanting to get away from unreliable sources of the drug, as it is sold by dealers of class A drugs such as heroin and cocaine

The news of a growth in use and cultivation, since marijuana's status as an illegal narcotic was downgraded in 2003, was followed yesterday with evidence from a survey of Edinburgh University students showing an alarming level of cocaine use.

The Student newspaper found that nearly one-quarter of students asked in its poll of 500 students had tried cocaine, while more than half had smoked cannabis. Although most thought ecstasy to be dangerous, more than a third had taken it.

The growing evidence of drug use was seized on by the Conservative Party. Annabel Goldie, the justice spokeswoman, said: "These figures are totally staggering and will shock many people, not least the parents of students at Edinburgh University.

"They show the epidemic proportions that drug abuse has reached in Scotland and that we must wage war against drugs, rather than against the lame attempts of the Labour-LibDem executive to try to wish the problem away."

Statistics reported yesterday in The Herald showed that police seizures of cannabis

UK: High-Strength Cannabis 'Harming the Young'

The increased availability of high-strength cannabis is harming the physical and mental health of young people in the UK, an expert warned today.

Dr Clare Gerada, head of the Royal College of General Practitioners' Drugs Misuse unit, said: "With cannabis now more popular among young people than cigarettes and higher potencies more widely available than ever before, it is time we looked again at the health risks

"There is evidence that high levels of use, especially among teenagers who are physically and mentally still developing, carries with it the increased risk of psychosis and respiratory conditions such as asthma.

"While we are finally winning the battle against smoking and alcohol we are in danger of ignoring cannabis. Genetically modified forms of the drug are now the norm rather than the exception - in fact in many cases it is difficult for users to buy anything else."

Dr Gerada was speaking ahead of a conference on cannabis being held by the Royal College in London tomorrow (Tuesday).

The meeting aims to broaden GPs knowledge about the drug and help them deal with conditions arising from its use, as well as understand the evidence for possible medical benefits.

Speakers will include Professor John Henry from St Mary's Hospital, London, Kate Hoey MP, the Labour member for Vauxhall, and Jeff Ditchfield from Bud Buddies - a group campaigning for a change in the law to allow medicinal cannabis use.

Traditionally GPs have shied away from questioning patients about drugs, due to a lack of knowledge and concerns about confidentiality.

Almost a third of young men aged 16 to 24 took cannabis in 2003, according to the Department of Health.

In November last year, figures from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction showed that two in five British 15-year-olds had tried cannabis - the highest rate in Europe.

Date: 17/01/2005 / Source: The Scotsman

plants has more than doubled in Strathclyde in the past year from 742 in a full year to 1715 plants in the last nine months. In Tayside police area, there has been a sixfold increase.

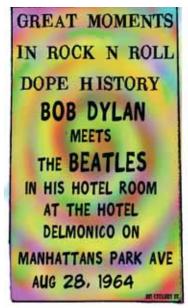
Professor Neil McKeganey, of the Centre for Drug Misuse at Glasgow University, last night warned that the figures highlighted problems in government drugs policy.

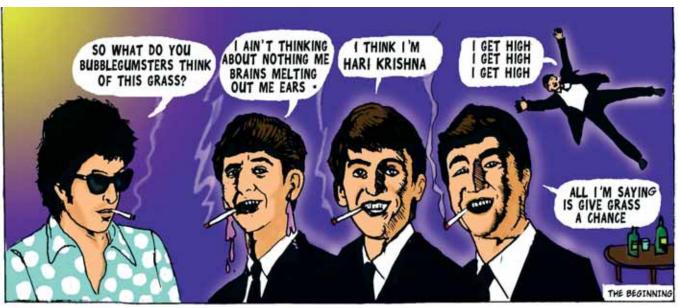
"This data is really concerning," he said. "Scotland arguably has one of the highest levels of cannabis use in Europe and we need to find ways of reducing it."

A spokesman for the Scottish Socialist Party, which backs legalisation of marijuana, said the exposure of the rapid growth of cannabis plant seizures was significant.

"The huge rise in the popularity of home grown cannabis is because of the highly suspect nature of a great deal of the cannabis resin available on the black market," he said.

Date: 21/01/2005 / Source: The Herald, Glasgow













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Sunday Mirror Sunday 2, January 2005

By STEPHEN HAYWARD

TWO drug smugglers were beheaded in Saudi Arabia vesterday despite protests from Western governments and human rights groups.

The New Year's Day executions were The New Year's Day executions were carried out in public by sword after the men had been found guilty of smuggling heroin and cannabis into the country. Pakistani Mohammed Amin Abdullah Jan was beheaded in Jeddah and Mattar bin Hussein bin Bakhit al-

Khazaali, an Iraqi, in the northern town of Arar, close to the Iraqi border.

Saudi Arabia, which follows strict Islamic law, put 35 people to death last year, and at least 52 the year before.

Western governments have condemned Saudi Arabia's justice system amid claims of torture and forced confessions.

The Human Rights Watch pressure group says the death penalty should be suspended until the Saudi legal system is reformed.

But a Saudi Arabian government spokesman said: "We apply the laws of God and don't pay attention to whoever says anything about that.

And Saudi Arabia's chief executioner Mohammed Saad al-Beshi has spoken of the pride he takes from his beheadings.

news@sundaymirror.co.uk



Executions continue despite outrage in the West

The News (Portsmouth) Monday 10, January 2005

<u>Cannabis</u> campaign award

A CAMPAIGN warning young people that cannabis remains illegal despite being downgraded has won a national award.

West Sussex Drugs Action Team and West Sussex Prima-ry Care Trust teamed up to raise awareness among young people about cannabis.

Five sample posters were pro duced and young people were consulted about which they felt would be most effective before 7,000 were produced and distributed across West Sussex along with 12,000 leaflets.

The efforts of those behind the campaign paid off when they were recognised at the stakeholder awards for Frank, the government's drugs mis-use campaign, as a creative way of raising drug aware-

Irish Independent (Dublin) Saturday 8, January 2005

bis worth €28m found in truck

Security Editor

AN IRISH lorry driver has been remanded in custody in a court in southern France after customs officers found a haul of cannabis with a street value here of €28m in his truck.

Last night detectives from the Garda national drugs unit were trying to establish if the cannabis had been intended for the Irish market and if any local drug gangs were involved.

The driver, who is in his late 30s and from Westmeath, appeared in court yesterday but his trial is not likely to take place until later in the

It emerged vesterday that he had flown to the Spanish seaside resort of Alicante to pick up his Irish-registered lorry, which had a legitimate cargo. After crossing the Spanish border last Monday, the lorry was stopped by French customs officers during a routine check on a motorway near Perpignan and they became suspicious

while questioning the driver.

Hidden inside the container they
found four tonnes of cannabis – worth more on the streets than all of the cannabis seized here last year.

The lorry was heading for England and gardai last night were trying to determine if the illegal load was intended for there or if at least part of it was destined for the Irish market

The driver has no known links with drug trafficking gangs in this country.

Bath Chronicle Friday 31, December 2004

Behind bars

GREECE: The father of a British woman jailed in Greece on suspicion of drug offences yesterday spoke of his daughter's four-month nightmare behind bars.

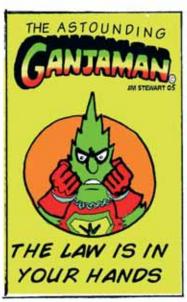
Rachael Swinden will spend her 24th birthday on New Year's Day in a women's jail in Athens.

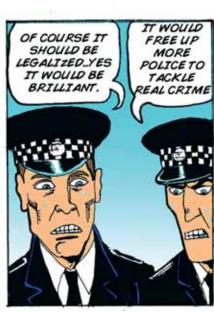
She was arrested in September on the island of Kos, where she lives, when found carrying three packets of herbal cannabis, a set of scales and £500 in cash.

The former shoe shop manager, from Sandy, Bedfordshire, claims she was only carrying the drugs for Greek boyfriend 'Sam', 27.

Both deny drug dealing, but admit possessing marijuana for personal

Yesterday, Swinden's father, Geoff, 53, said his daughter faced counts of possessing and buying the drug.







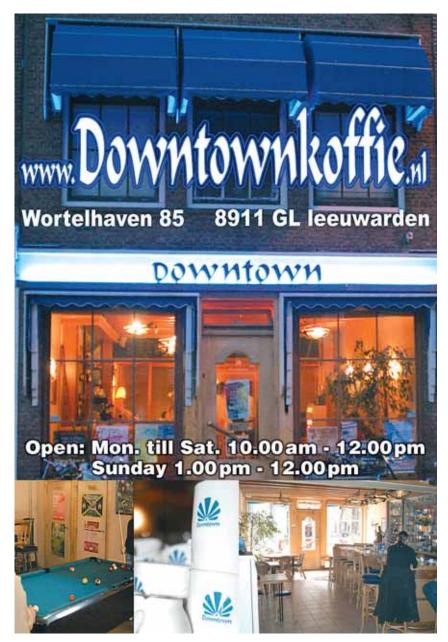












Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent) Final edition Wednesday 5, January 2005

Home remortgaged to finance legal fight

l'Il free my fiancé from his Spanish prison nightmare

BY NICK MCDERMOTT

A WOMAN has remortgaged her home in a legal battle to free her fiancé from a Spanish prison.

fiancé from a Španish prison.
Stephen Toplass, of Longton, is in Fontcalent Prison, in Alicante, serving a four-year jail term for possessing cannabis.

The 38-year-old unemployed fatherof-two was arrested and convicted last year after Spanish police found <u>cannabis</u> in a lorry he was driving back to Britain on a one-off job for a haulier.

Fianceé Diane Downes has just returned from Spain after visiting Mr Toplass for New Year. The couple, who have been together for two years, got engaged in prison.

The 44-year-old has remortgaged her home to pay for a lawyer and regular trips to Spain. She said: "It's bitter-sweet when we

She said: "It's bitter-sweet when we see each other. It was great to see Steve but it breaks my heart to leave him again.

"We are supposed to get married

this year. The only thing keeping him going is knowing that he has me and his family waiting for him.

"The last year has just been hell. I'm exhausted all the time and have massive financial problems. It's a struggle just to get through the day."

Ms Downes is convinced of Mr Toplass's innocence, and is banking on support from Britain's National Crime Squad, which she says has fresh evidence which can free her fiancé.

She said: "I believe the National Crime Squad has evidence that proves Steve's innocence and they have taken it over to Spain. If all this information is in the hands of the Spanish authorities, Steve should now be released. But we are still a long way from resolving it.

long way from resolving it.
"I just want to get him back. It's totally drained me but I have to keep fighting.

fighting.
"I don't want Steve to be forgotten about in a Spanish prison."

His mother Margaret Toplass has travelled to Spain three times to see her son and says she is living every mothers' worst nightmare. Mrs Toplass, of Longton, said: "The last 10 months have been hell, financially and emotionally. His situation is horrendous. The prison itself is terrible and the conditions are atrocious.

"He has lost almost three stone in weight. When we last saw him in June he looked like a skeleton.

he looked like a skeleton.
"We are not a wealthy family which
can afford the luxury of lawyers.

"We are doing everything we can and we will fight until he is freed. We know he is innocent."

A spokesman for the National Crime Squad said: "We can confirm that National Crime Squad officers travelled to Spain in November to speak to the Spanish authorities and to give them certain items of relevance to the case. We are not at liberty to discuss the contents.

"Mr Toplass has been convicted under Spanish law. We are unable to discuss this further. There are still active proceedings against individuals in this country."

nick.mcdermott@thesentinel.co.uk

Western Morning News (Cornwall) Monday 3, January 2005

Drugs offences admitted in courtroom

DRUG dealer Robert Beedles, 44, of St Brth, near Hayle, Cornwall, has been remanded on conditional bail by Judge Jeffrey Rucker at Truro Crown Court to await sentence after he admitted possessing 36.7 grams of herbal cannabis and a quantity of cannabis resin with intent to supply and also possessing cannabis.

Prosecutor Pentreath Wilson said that assets totalling £2,060 were seized when Beedles was arrested in June.

Judge Rucker told him: "If you have nothing better to do, read all the literature available on the long-term harm of taking cannabis."

Irish News (Belfast) Friday 31, December 2004

<u>Cannabis</u> plants found

FORTY cannabis plants were seized by police in Co Antrim yesterday. Officers discovered items used in the manufacture of Class C drugs during a planned search of a house in Ballycastle. One person was questioned but released last night pending further police inquiries.

Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent) Final edition Wednesday 5, January 2005

Police smelled drug

A 34-YEAR-OLD man caught red-handed using his garage as a cannabis factory has been spared a jail sentence.

Michael James Nixon, of Westonfield Drive, Weston Coyney, was arrested when police went to his home on an unrelated matter on March 20.

Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court heard yesterday officers noticed an "extremely strong" smell of <u>cannabis</u> coming from his garage.

He was sentenced to 40 hours of community punishment and a two-year rehabilitation order.

Press & Journal (Highlands & Islands) Friday 7, January 2005

Cannabis guilt

A THURSO man ended up in double trouble after he was found with a small lump of cannabis resin in a street in the town. A subsequent search in the police station revealed a loaded airgun in Shaun Jennings' rucksack, Wick Sheriff Court heard yesterday. Jennings, 22, of Thorfinn Place was fined £450 after he admitted having the loaded gun without lawful consent and possession of the controlled drug in Sinclair Street on January 11 last year.

Liverpool Daily Post Friday 7, January 2005

Three deny £34m drug plot

Cannabis smuggled in marble, court told

BY SARAH CHAPMAN

Daily Post Staff

FOUR men arranged for marble slabs to be hollowed out to smuggle millions of pounds worth of drugs through Liverpool's ports, a court heard yesterday.

Liverpool Crown Court was told that barber Scott Minshull, Gary Scarlett, Neil Mollart and accountant Nigel Harper conspired to import large amounts of cannabis hidden in containers that came by ship from Lisbon to Liverpool.

Nigel Power, prosecuting, told the jury Minshull's father, Michael Minshull, set up a false company, called Maplechief, which purported to import slabs of marble to make fireplaces. He told the court that, on 14 separate occasions between March 2002 and April last year, containers were shipped from Portugal carrying marble slabs, which had been hollowed out and filled with cannabis.

In the last consignment, drugs worth £34m were recovered, the court heard.

Mr Power said Michael Minshull was arrested on April 14 last year with Scott Minshull and Gary Scarlett at an industrial unit in St Helens.

He told the court that the unit was Maplechief's premises and where the prosecution say where the cannabis was taken out of the marble casing and prepared for distribution.

Michael Minshull killed himself two days after his arrest. He was the senior figure in the alleged conspiracy, the court heard.

Mr Power told the court that the final shipment of hollowed out marble arrived in Liverpool docks on March 31, 2004 and customs officers seized it on April 7.

"Inside the marble casings,

there was just less than seven tonnes of cannabis, worth about £34m if sold in individual deals.

Mr Power told the jury that Harper was Michael Minshull's

friend who helped with the management of Maplechief's affairs.

He told the jury Harper knew the company was a front for a drugs smuggling operation and he kept a file of Maplechief's papers at his home, not at the accountants' firm where he worked.

Harper, 30, of Newchapel Road, Kidsgrove, Staffordshire; Scarlett, 31, of Burlidge Road, Stoke; Minshull, 24, of Blandford Close, Longton, Stoke and Mollart, 38, of Royden Avenue, Stoke, have all pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to supply cannabis.

The case continues.

sarahchapman@dailypost.co.uk

Prisoner found hanged in his cell was leader of cannabis gang, court told

BY SENTINEL REPORTER

A MAN who was found hanged in his prison cell was the senior figure in a £34 million drug smuggling operation involving four other men from North Staffordshire, a jury

Michael Minshull, aged 44, of Rockside, Mow Cop, was part of a five-strong gang involved in smug-gling seven tonnes of cannabis into Britain.

Liverpool Crown Court heard how Minshull was arrested on April 14, 2004, with his son Scott and Gary carlett, at an industrial unit in St

Helens where the drugs were discovered by police.

Nigel Power, prosecuting, said 27,724 nine-ounce blocks of cannabis were found by Customs and Excise officers, when a shipment of marble was opened at Liverpool

Mr Power told the jury: "This case involves the importation of quite enormous amounts of cannabis from Lisbon in Portugal to Liverpool. Michael Minshull was the

senior figure.

"Sadly he took his own life two days later on April 16."

The prosecution alleged a company called Maple Chief was set up by Michael Minshull as the front for the cannabis smuggling.

He was part of a gang which had been smuggling cannabis when the final shipment was seized by Customs and Excise on April 7.

toms and Excise on April 7.
Scott Minshull, aged 24, of Blandford Close, Longton; Gary Scarlett, aged 27, of Burlidge Road, Chell; Neil Mollart, aged 39, of Royden Avenue, Northwood and Nigel Harper, aged 30, of Newchapel Road, Kidsgrove, each face one count of conspiracy to supply class R drugs — cannabis supply class-B drugs — cannabis — between January 1, 2001, and January 28, 2004.

They also face one count of conspiracy to supply class C drugs — cannabis — between January 29, 2004, and February 15, 2004.

Scott Minshull faces a further

Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent) Final edition Friday 7, January 2005

count of possession of a class-A drug

cocaine. All deny the charges.

The prosecution alleges Scott Minshull and Gary Scarlett, with stepfather Michael, made regular trips to Portugal and were more involved than Mollart or Harper, who were arrested

eparately. Hurper helped with the accounting for Maple Chief and documents showed the firm made no sales, which Mr Power said proved it was a false company. He told the jury that the company was a "vehicle for crime"

Mr Power said Harper knew about the drugs deals, because he was part of the gang which, between January and April 2004, made more than 1,000 phone calls to each other, which Mr Power said "was beyond just social contact". Tuesday 11, January 2005

Citizen (Gloucester)

Man to pay up £1.5k of drugs profit

A GLOUCESTER man who is doing time for selling cannabis to his friends will be £1,500 worse off when he comes out of jail - for a judge ruled that he should repay some of the profits of his illicit dealing.

Daniel Thayer, Street, Granville Gloucester, admitted dealing cannabis to a small group of friends and was given a one-year jail sentence on August 24 last year.

Thayer had originally claimed he was part of a syndicate of cannabis-using friends who clubbed their cash together to buy in bulk.

Police who raided his home found six 9oz bars of cannabis resin with a street value of £1,800 disputed this view, leading to the confiscation hearing to determine just how much of Thayer's wealth was ill-gotten, and how much he should repay to the State.

Toby Halliwell, prosecuting, told the judge that after a discussion with Thayer's barrister, Kanaan Siva, the benefit sum had now been agreed.

Judge Jamie Tabor QC heard that Thayer had made an agreed profit of £10,000 from his activities, but that the total amount of ready cash available to Thaver was only £3,151, tied up in cars. Of this sum the realisable realistically amount was just £1,500, Mr Halliwell said.

Police had already seized £615 from him, which would count towards the repayment, he added. The judge agreed and gave Thayer six months to repay the balance of the £1,500, or face an additional 45 days in prison.

ds fears for son ice to cannabis ha

SNAPSHOT

When police called round to a father's flat after he reported his two-year-old son missing, they found £8,000 worth of cannabis plants and herbal cannabis worth £559.

A dad who called police to report his two-year-old son as missing was arrested for growing 79 cannabis plants.

Mark Sutcliffe was rumbled when police visited his home in Old Catton and found the plants.

It later emerged his son was not missing, but was safe and well with his mother. Yesterday, 42-year-old Sutcliffe, of Bryony Close, escaped a jail sentence, partly because of the recent reclassification of the drug.

Norwich magistrates heard vesterday that after his arrest Sutcliffe had given up drugs.

He was given a six-month daily 7pm to 7am curfew and a two-year community rehabilitation order. He was also ordered to pay £45

Passing sentence, chairman John Wilson warned Sutcliffe: "If you fail there is only one conclusion on re-sentencing."

Sutcliffe had admitted producing cannabis and being concerned in the supply of the drug.

Most of the plants were growing in two foil-lined rooms, using equipment including fluorescent lights. The plants had a maximum value of more than £8,000 and police also found herbal cannabis potentially worth £559. Sutcliffe told police that he had

been growing cannabis for several months. He had supplied some to people in exchange for money or heroin.

Ian Fisher, for Sutcliffe, said his arrest and the court proceedings had had a salutary effect on him and, after many years of using drugs, he had stopped taking them.

Mr Fisher said Sutcliffe had been frank with police, telling them what he had been doing and that he occasionally sold cannabis to friends or swapped it for heroin.

"He is not a local drugs baron. He was growing cannabis on a scale, but not a huge scale, not a vast scale," Mr Fisher told the magistrates.

Grizelda Graham

grizelda.graham@archant.co.uk

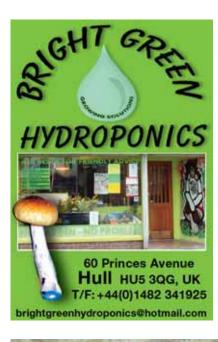


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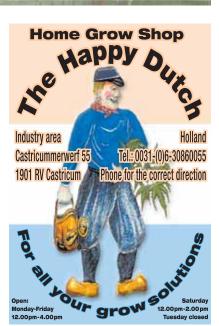






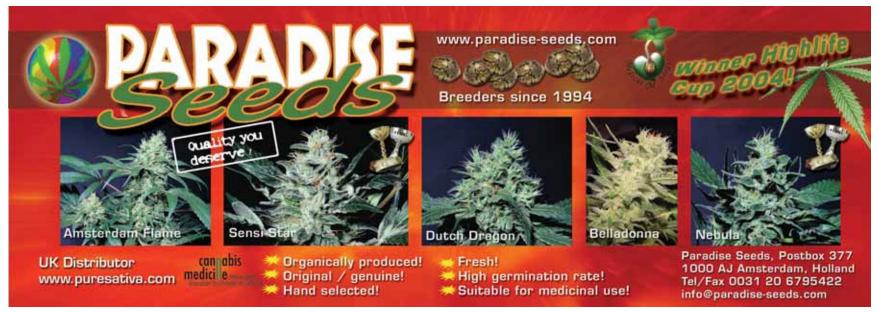


















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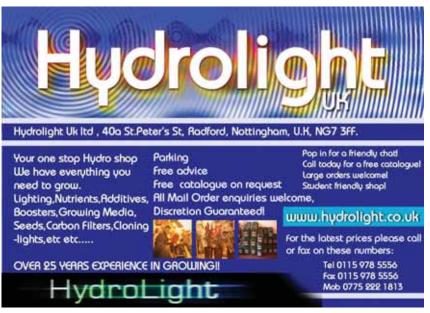
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Friday January 21 2005 South Wales Echo



A canny factory

WITH rotating lights, an irrigation system and walls coated with reflective sheeting, the cannabis factory was one of the most sophisticated ever found in Cardiff.

One senior police officer with 29 years' experience said it

also the largest set-up he

had ever seen.
Acting Chief Inspector Phil Cunningham congratulated the court for the prison sentence handed to Harry Gilfin.

"This is an excellent result and sends out an unequivocal

and sends out an unequivocal
message to anybody dabbling
in the drugs trade," he said.
Acting Chief Insp
Cunningham was based in
Canton when police
discovered the factory in the
shadow of the Millennium
Stadium. Stadium.

"It was the biggest and most sophisticated set-up I have ever seen," he said.

A MECHANIC has been jailed for his part in one of the biggest cannabis factories ever found in

Cardiff.

More than 60 cannabis plants, which when har-tvested would have had a street value of up to \$28,000, were found in his

Harry Gil was told by a judge that Gilfin producing drugs was "simply evil" and despite its reclassifica-

on that drug tion, growing cannabis w still a serious of-

Judge

His Honour Judge Christopher Llewellyn-Jones QC said: "I see on a daily basis people coming through these courts who have become addicted to the more serious drugs

anna.hammond@wme.co.uk

who have started on can-nabis. What I see is the end result of people who have started on that drug."

drug."
Gilfin, 48, of New Road, Rumney, admitted be-ing concerned in

the production What I see is the end result of the drug after police raided his of of people who garage Tudor have started

Lane, just off Clare off Road, Riverside, in July last

Officers found four cars on the ground floor used as a repair shop but upstairs a sophisticated can-nabis farm growing plants with an estimated yield of

more than 10kgs.
The father-of-four

claimed he had sublet the first floor to people he refused to name. wanted it for a gym.

But Cardiff Crown Court

heard that he quickly real-ised a hydroponic system had been installed, not a gym, and became volved. Prosecutor Anth in-

Prosecutor Anthony Vines said Gilfin had denied that the garage

was just a front.
Peter Davies, defending, said: "He didn't at the time

the enterprise was.

"He stupidly went along with it, putting himself as the only person in the firing time."

ing time."
But sentencing Gilfin to two years in prison, Judge Llewellyn-Jones said: "It has been said that you stupidly went along with it, but I don't think you did it stupidly. I think you did it with your eyes wide it with your eyes wide

FACTORY FIND Pc Lloyd Williams is pictured with the huge cannabis haul found in a lock-up garage in Tudor Lane, Riverside, Cardiff. Inset, Harry Gilfin. PICTURE: Peter Bolter ©

Daily Record

Thursday 6, January 2005

LUKE 'SMOKED 600 JOINTS EVERY WEEK

Jodi trial told of boyfriend's drug habit

JODI Jones's boyfriend smoked the equivalent of 600 cannabis joints a week, a court heard yesterday.

Luke Mitchell, now 16, told police he was smoking about 80 cannabis reefers a day in the weeks after 14-year-old Jodi was killed.

But, at the High Courtin Edinburgh, detective constable Brian Melrose, cast doubt on the claim, saying: "It

is a huge amount. Even for an adult, it would be difficult to function."

Mitchell was arrested at his home in Dalkeith, Midlothian, in April last year and charged with Jodi's murder.

Officers found around four ounces of cannabis on him, enough to make 500 joints when added to tobacco.

Detective constable Melrose, 42, told the court: "I would say that is in keeping with a dealer's amount."

Advocate depute Alan Turnbull, OC, showed the officer an interview in which Mitchell claimed he smoked 600 joints a week after Jodi's death.

The detective added: "I have never

heard of anyone using that amount."

Mitchell denies murdering Jodi near Dalkeith's Roan's Dyke path on June 30, 2003, and has lodged defences of alibi and incrimination.

He also denies carrying a knife and supplying cannabis.

The trial continue



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The Guardian Wednesday 12, January 2005

Juror's letter 'should have halted trial'

Rosie Cowan

Crime correspondent

A jury which convicted two men of murder should have been dismissed after the judge received a letter from a juror alleging serious misconduct by fellow jurors during deliberations, a House of Lords appeal heard yesterday.

Self-confessed gangster Patrick Smith and Joe "the Italian" Mercieca were found guilty at the Old Bailey in May 2002 of kidnapping and killing a Hertfordshire businessman and father of four, Mark Levy, in January 2000.

The murder apparently took place under the noses of

detectives who were watching Smith because they suspected he was about to receive a huge drugs consignment.

Smith, 37, from Harrow-onthe-Hill, Middlesex, thought Levy, 43, a former point to point jockey who had appeared on Channel 4's Big Breakfast Steals on Wheels, giving advice on second hand cars, owed him £40,000 for a failed cigarette deal.

On January 27 2000, Levy set off to buy 12 Rolex watches for £45,000. But he was tricked into going to an industrial unit in Alperton, west London, where he was bound and gagged, thrown in a car boot and driven to a Bucking-

hamshire farm, where Smith and Mercieca, 33, from west London, killed him and buried him in a shallow grave.

National crime squad officers were tracking Smith's movements and were outside the farm when Levy was murdered.

Within hours, a <u>cannabis</u> shipment arrived at a west London warehouse and Smith was arrested. But when police searched the grave 17 days later, Levy's body was gone. It has never been found.

The appeal court last year threw out Smith's and Mercieca's attempt to have their convictions quashed, but the pair have now brought the case to the Lords. Yesterday, Clare Montgomery QC, for Smith, told five law lords how a female juror had sent a letter to the court, detailing her worries about the behaviour of some jurors.

The woman alleged several jurors were "badgering and intimidating" others to reach the "right" verdict.

The jury was aware of Smith's criminal history because of testimony from the police officers who had him under surveillance.

One comment the juror quoted was: "Even if they're not guilty, do you really want these people to go free?"

The hearing continues.

Shropshire Star (Last edition) Monday 3, January 2005

Police find drug stash

Drugs with a street value of more than £4,000 were recovered when two suspected street dealers were spotted on a Telford housing estate.

Officers found the blocks of <u>cannabis</u> when they swooped on a car at Leegomery yesterday afternoon.

Two men from Telford – one aged 34 and the other 32 – were arrested in Mill Stream Way around 3pm.

At least eight "bars" of cannabis were said to have been found underneath the car occupied by the two men.

A police spokesman said that two men had been questioned and both were later released on police bail.

Jersey Evening Post Monday 10, January 2005

Cannabis: Slawek Rojek (24), of David Place, admitted possessing cannabis at his home on 2 October and was fined £200. Press & Journal (Highlands & Islands) Friday 7, January 2005

In brief

Shetland police in drugs seizure

POLICE in Shetland recovered a quantity of cannabis on Wednesday night following a search of a house in the Sandveien area of Lerwick. Sergeant Garry McCarthy said the police operation was assisted by sniffer dogs from the Dogs against Drugs charity. Nobody was arrested in the operation, which was described by chief inspector Andy Cowie as following up the forces' targeting of drug dealers in the isles. He added the amount of drugs recovered were "not sizeable", but more than initially expected. The drugs are believed to be cannabis, but have been sent to a laboratory on the Scottish mainland to be analysed. A report is being prepared for the procurator fiscal.

Hartlepool Mail Thursday 6, January 2005

Man tagged for theft offence

THE following cases were dealt with at Hartlepool Magistrates Court on December 13, 2004:

Court on December 13, 2004:

David Andrew Halcrow,
26, of Dent Street, Hartlepool,
was given a curfew order to be
monitored with an electronic
tag between 2pm and midnight
each day for four months after
stealing an electric shaver from
Boots worth £34.99 and for failing to surrender to custody,
after criminal proceedings had
started, on two occasions.

Stephen Francis Bloor, 45, of Dent Street, Hartlepool, was given a community rehabilitation order of six months, to run consecutively to a current order, and ordered to pay £70 costs after assaulting a woman and damaging a window.

and damaging a window.

Kelly Joanne Hedley, 27,
of Turnbull Street, Hartlepool,



was ordered to pay £35 compensation to Hartlepool Football Club and was given a 12-month conditional discharge after stealing a football shirt from the club.

Brent Fellows, 17, of Lister Street Hartlepool was ordered

Street, Hartlepool, was ordered to pay £34 costs and given a sixmonth conditional discharge for being in possession of a cannabis joint on November 24 last year.



Sentinel (Stoke-on-Trent) Final edition Saturday 8, January 2005

Drug-smuggling trial adjourned

THE case of four men who are alleged to have been involved in a plot to smuggle millions of pounds worth of drugs into Britain has been adjourned until Monday.

Scott Minshull, aged 24, of Blandford Close, Longton; Gary Scarlett, aged 27, of Burlidge Road, Stoke; Neil Mollart, aged 39, of Royden Avenue, Northwood; and Nigel Harper, aged 30, of Newchapel Road, Kidsgrove, have pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to supply cannabis.

The judge sitting at Liverpool Crown Court yesterday adjourned the case because of legal arguments. On Thursday, Nigel Power, prosecuting, said the men were allegedly involved in hiding cannabis with a street value of £34 million in containers of marble.

The trial continues.

Scarborough Evening News Thursday 6, January 2005

Cannabis case is again adjourned

A SCARBOROUGH man has appeared before magistrates on five counts of possessing cannabis with intent to supply.

Roger Bowdidge, 45, of Clark Street, is accused of two counts of supplying cannabis resin to Luke Flint, and three further charges of possessing a quantity of cannabis with intent to supply to unspecified others. All alleged offences were said to have been committed between September 1 and 28 last year in Scarborough.

The case has so far been adjourned six times due to Bowdidge's ill health. His solicitor, Paul Lane-Ryan, asked for a further adjournment in order to clarify some of the charges, which he believed may have been duplicated in error.

The bench adjourned the case until January 26 when Bowdidge will be required to provide a medical certificate to explain his previous absences from court. An outstanding warrant for his arrest in connection with a failure to attend court for an alleged breach of a community punishment order was withdrawn.

Daily Telegraph Thursday 13, January 2005

Tories seek drug crackdown

By Brendan Carlin

TOUGHER sentencing on drugs and an inquiry into cannabis classification were demanded yesterday by the Tories.

Nigel Evans, the party vicechairman and MP for Ribble Valley, introduced a Private Members' Bill that would impose a mandatory sevenyear jail sentence if a dealer was caught selling Class A drugs for the third time.

An independent commission to examine cannabis's effects would also be set up.

Soft Secrets UK 3/05 out: May 6 2005

Colofon

Soft Secrets is published by Discover Publisher BV P.O.Box 362, 5460 AJ, Veghel, Netherlands

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Layout & print: R&B Communicatie, Schijndel, Holland

Advertisements: Bart T. (Tel. 0031-6-51805017)

Cover photo: Great White Shark © Greenhouse Seed Company

A word from the publisher:

The UK government has embarked on a process of relative liberalisation towards the use of cannabis, and cannabis activists are engaged in broadening this engagement. Several local councils and police chiefs now actively support a Dutch-style coffeeshop system as a way of separating soft and hard drugs, as it has proven to do in Holland. Whether they are finding their way to new coffeeshops or growing for their personal supply, cannabis users are a menace to no one, and are causing no discernable social problem. Some politicians and commentators are calling for the outright legalisation of marihuana. Let's wait and see how the debate develops during a period of relative peace between all sides of the argument. In the meantime, the publisher hopes Soft Secrets will show the public a positive side to the normalisation of cannabis use, and is anxious to offer a forum to both pro- and anti-legalisation advocates. This assumes that the publisher does not necessarily agree with everything that appears in articles and advertisements. The publisher therefore distances himself explicitly from published statements or images that might give the impression that an endorsement is being made for the use or production of cannabis. Nothing from this publication may be copied or reproduced in any format without prior permission from the publisher and other copyright holders.

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