

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries and Associated Issues
Presented to the California Chiefs of Police Association
July to September 2008
Cmdr. M. Regan

The violence inherent in the manufacture, procurement and possession of drugs has been a constant issue for some time. Advocates for the legalization of marijuana to include the "Oaksterdam University" shamelessly state that marijuana does not lead to the violence and destruction associated with alcohol or other drugs. We in the law enforcement community know this to be false. The violence associated not only with growing and selling marijuana continues, but also we are seeing more marijuana related collisions and now some cases of murders using marijuana influence or brain damage caused by marijuana in their diminished capacity defenses

Report: Accused grandmother killer was high on Rohitussin and marijuana

By Leslie Parrilla / San Luis Obispo Tribune / 07/17/2008

SAN LUIS OBISPO - A Cayucos man accused of killing his grandmother was under the influence of cough syrup and marijuana before he struck the elderly woman and put her into a bag, then stuffed her into a suitcase that he dumped over a remote ocean cliff, according to a crime report released Wednesday.....A Sheriff's Department report released this week said Levine had ingested three bottles of Rohitussin DM and smoked marijuana.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9910591?nclick_check=1

Man found guilty in suffocation case

By Chris Collins / The Fresno Bee / 07/14/08

Timothy Stanbrough wrapped duct tape around his brother-in-law's face and hog-tied him so he could steal his marijuana plants.....Otis Jones, a 38-year-old security guard, suffocated after he was left bound and lying face down in his home..... Stanbrough was a drug dealer who had convinced his sister to help him steal the marijuana plants so he could finance his methamphetamine habits.....The men assaulted Otis Jones and used zip ties to hog-tie him -- binding his feet and hands behind his back and then tying the limbs together so Jones was incapacitated, Francis said. He said Stanbrough and Gutierrez then stole Jones' marijuana plants, a box full of computer equipment and a PlayStation 2.....Burton said the question in the trial was whether taking the marijuana plants constituted a burglary. Green argued it was not a burglary since the plants belonged to both Otis and Amanda Jones, but Francis said that it was since it deprived Otis Jones of his shared property -- even though the property was illegal. Stanbrough also was found guilty of residential burglary and false imprisonment. He was acquitted of home-invasion robbery.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/730662.html>

SLO teen pleads not guilty to vehicular manslaughter, marijuana charges

By Leslie Parrilla / Aug. 22, 2008

A San Luis Obispo teenager accused of killing a woman in a car wreck has pleaded not guilty.....The teenager was driving east on Price Canyon Road around 5 p.m. on June 13 when the Audi sedan he was driving slammed head-on into a Toyota Avalon driven by 58-year-old Francheska Rubin, who died in the wreck. Forster allegedly tested positive for marijuana.....

<http://www.sanluisobispo.com/178/story/447963.html>

Man takes plea deal in pot killing case

By John Canalis, Staff Writer / 09/10/2008

BELLFLOWER - A Bellflower resident who shot and killed a teenager taking marijuana plants from his backyard in 2007 has pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter, authorities confirmed Wednesday.....Cress shot Jacob T. Walker, 15, twice at 6 a.m. on Jan. 21, 2007, with a .22-caliber weapon. The Paramount High School freshman died the same day at Lakewood Regional Medical Center of shoulder and back wounds.....He probably would have gotten five or six years on the felon-with-a-gun charge," Brown said of Cress' 1989 conviction for marijuana cultivation that prevented him from legally owning a firearm. ".....Cress initially told investigators that he fired a pellet gun at the intruders. He later told the Press-Telegram that he regretted lying about the type of gun used - he didn't believe anyone had been shot and did not want to reveal that he owned a gun - but maintained the statement about the dogs being attacked.....

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_10433284?nclick_check=1

Men report shooting, theft of medical marijuana

By ANITA STACKHOUSE-HITE / September 12, 2008 / THE PORTERVILLE RECORDER

Two Porterville men were reportedly shot at by three suspects who forcibly took medical marijuana plants from a yard located at an undisclosed residence. The shooting and theft took place at about 7:50 a.m. Thursday, the Tulare County Sheriff's Department reports. Alfonso Avila Jr. and Alfonso Avila Sr. were not injured during the shooting.

http://www.recorderonline.com/news/porterville_37895_article.html/yard_marijuana.html

3 slain in unrelated S.F. attacks

[Jaxon Van Derbeken, Chronicle Staff Writer](#) / September 16, 2008

SAN FRANCISCO: San Francisco police are looking for suspects in unrelated attacks over the weekend that left three people dead, including a young mother shot and killed outside her housing project on Potrero Hill and a man slain as he left a medical-marijuana club.....The bloodshed continued Sunday evening, when Royshawn Holden, 23, who lived in the Western Addition, *was shot and killed at 9:30 p.m. after what police said was a robbery outside Mr. Nice Guy, a medical marijuana dispensary* at Duboce Avenue and Valencia Street. The gunman approached Holden and another man after they came out of the club, robbed them and, after shooting Holden, sped off in a green minivan. The club had no comment.....

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/15/BAC412UCEE.DTL>

Questions abound in Crescent City woman's death

By [KAREN WILKINSON](#), The Eureka Reporter / Jul 25 2008

More questions than answers linger regarding the circumstances of Michelle Ashlee Dickson's death following the discovery of her body and the arrest of an Arcata man on suspicion of murder.Hours after her body was identified, authorities arrested her good friend 27-year-old Josiah Miller at his Arcata home, after which he was transported to the Del Norte County jail in Crescent City. Miller, who told authorities he bought three ounces of marijuana from Dickson.Dickson was last seen at a beach picnic area just south of Crescent City the night of July 15. Her burning car was found off U.S. Highway 101 across Sand Mine Road the next morning.Steven said other sources have corroborated Miller's story that he'd purchased pot from Dickson prior to her disappearance.

<http://www.eureka-reporter.com/article/080725-many-questions-in-death-of-crescent-city-woman>

Hydroponic store robbed at gunpoint

Santa Cruz

Two armed men robbed California Hydroponics on Friday afternoon, the Sheriff's Office reported. The robbers, who covered their faces so they wouldn't be identified, walked into the store around noon, brandished a handgun and demanded money.They allegedly took cash from the people in the Commercial Way store and from the business. The amount of money stolen was not released.They're not sure why California Hydroponics was targeted or if the robbers took anything other than cash, such as store products.

http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_10005324

Business robbery turns out to be attempted pot heist

Arrests made after employees overpower armed men, but now Laguna Niguel marijuana dispensary is being investigated.

By SALVADOR HERNANDEZ and LOIS EVEZICH / The Orange County Register / Sept. 4, 2008

LAGUNA NIGUEL – Armed men searching for marijuana and cash at an office building Wednesday instead found themselves confronted by employees ready to protect their pot. One of the office workers tackled a gun-wielding robber and wrestled his gun away. Then he called 911. The Orange County Sheriff's Department arrested three men in the botched heist and are now wondering how a medical marijuana dispensary has been operating unnoticed. Three people have been arrested in connection with the robbery, and investigators have launched a parallel investigation into the legitimacy of the medical marijuana dispensary that was operating quietly at an industrial cul-de-sac in an unmarked suite, said Sgt. Andy Ferguson of the Sheriff's Department. An initial report of the incident had described the incident as the attempted robbery of a roofing company, at

a similar address. But instead, an apparent pot dispensary was what was held up, officials say.....*The business was called Gifts From God Ministries, though city officials said they didn't know that a medical marijuana facility leased the space, said Tim Casey, city manager for Laguna Niguel. The city received periodic inquiries over the years about applications and permits but applicants were told the city's code prohibits such establishments.....*

<http://www.oregister.com/articles/city-marijuana-ferguson-2146513-inside-robbery>

Burglar threatens Petaluma man, steals marijuana

By DEREK J. MOORE / THE PRESS DEMOCRAT / July 30, 2008

A Petaluma man was threatened with a gun and told to leave his own home during a burglary that involved medical marijuana, police said.....Police said the victim returned home from work to find the intruder, who wore dark clothes, gloves and a black ski mask. The homeowner called police after he was ordered by the suspect to leave the house. Police said 26 medical marijuana plants that were being grown at the home were stolen....

[http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080730/NEWS/855724373&title=Burglar threatens Petaluma man steals marijuana](http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080730/NEWS/855724373&title=Burglar+threatens+Petaluma+man+steals+marijuana)

Three sought in home invasion robbery

Colin Atagi • August 15, 2008

Sheriff's deputies are looking for three men who tied up two homeowners as they robbed the place this morning.....One of the victims was hit in the head with a flashlight and suffered minor injuries. The robbers got away with a victim's wallet and marijuana, according to the sheriff's department.....

<http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080815/NEWS0801/80815031>

Cash and marijuana taken during home invasion

By Art Campos - acampos@sacbee.com / Monday, September 29, 2008

A Rocklin man told police that three men broke into his home, held a sawed-off shotgun on him as they beat and tied him and then stole \$500 and marijuana he uses for medical purposes.....Two of the suspects were described as being in their 20s, one of them wearing short, curly brown hair. The other was described as an African American in his 20s. He wore braided hair and carried the sawed-off shotgun. Lt. Lon Milka said the victim had a valid Proposition 215 card.....

<http://www.sacbee.com/102/story/1275622.html>

Sacramento-area men arrested for raiding Mendocino medical marijuana garden

By Chelsea Phua - cphua@sacbee.com / Saturday, September 20, 2008

Mendocino County sheriff's deputies arrested eight Sacramento-area men Friday on suspicion of robbing at gunpoint a Laytonville man who grew marijuana in his garden for medical use.....Detectives said the men learned about marijuana growing in Mendocino from reading the High Times, a magazine about marijuana. They took six large plants -

equivalent to 10 pounds of processed marijuana, said Sheriff Tom Allman. Each pound is valued at \$3,000, he said. At least one of the men pointed a handgun at the grower of the plants, who later called authorities, Allman said.....

<http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/1252486.html>

Medicinal Marijuana Sparking More Violence in Butte County

Reported by: Britt Carlson / 9/30 10:36 pm

Originally legalized to help patients with chronic pain and physical discomfort, medical marijuana is stimulating more than just the people being prescribed the drug. Law enforcement agents tell Action News why they're seeing a boost in crime associated with the drug in Butte County.....Sergeant Rob Merrifield with Chico Police says, "It's a pretty popular crime, medicinal marijuana is fairly valuable." In the past week, three crimes related to medicinal marijuana occurred in Butte County. ***Most recently, Robert Thomas of Oakland was arrested for attempted murder and grand theft for stealing pot plants from a medicinal marijuana card holder's property. When the resident chased after him, Thomas fired a shot, but missed him.*** Six men were arrested Monday night at various locations in Butte County for their involvement in an alleged illegal marijuana Co-op. They say they were growing it for medicinal purposes.....In September through November, marijuana's coming ripe for harvest, this is where we see people trying to steal others medicinal marijuana." And it's not just plants criminals are after. ***Last week in Corning, a man was shot three times by another who stole his bag of medicinal marijuana.*** The big concern for police is people who are abusing the rights associated with the drug. Collins says, "They're harvesting under the disguise of (Prop) 215 and then selling it. Those are the criminals we're looking for.

http://www.khsltv.com/content/topstories/story.aspx?content_id=C9D6458E-A65C-4EAA-9AC9-B900F974C9BF&gsa=true

Man reports being robbed by pair he was trying to sell marijuana

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 09/17/2008 / The Daily Journal

Laytonville A drug deal gone bad ended with one man robbed at gunpoint near the Earth Dance festival north of Laytonville at about 4:30 p.m. Saturday. Suspects in the robbery of \$250 and two pounds of marijuana are a white woman and a black man, based on the victim's statements.....According to what the man told sheriff's deputies, he entered a car with the alleged marijuana buyers and was then robbed of marijuana and cash. The vehicle driven by the suspects was said to be a tan-colored car.....

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_10484981

More marijuana-related arrests

Saturday, August 23, 2008

Big Bear Sheriff's Deputies arrested three Sugarloaf residents on Aug. 22 on possession of marijuana for sale. Charges were also filed for possession of stolen property....Authorities were investigating reports of stolen property and narcotics at the residence. Approximately \$2,500 worth of stolen property was recovered and returned to the property owner. Several pounds of marijuana packaged for sale, along with several thousand dollars in cash, were recovered

http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/articles/2008/08/23/news/latest_news/ppot.txt

Solar panels are hot for the stealing

By Eric Louie / Valley Times / 08/30/2008

They turn the sun's rays into usable electricity, with proponents calling it an environmentally friendly alternative that saves money on utilities. But the growing number of solar panels being installed on roofs of government buildings, private businesses and homes are becoming a hot commodity in a way many say they didn't expect. East Bay law enforcement has been seeing a number of solar panel thefts. One industry expert said it was an uncommon crime, but there was a brief spree of thefts six weeks ago throughout the Bay Area.....She said another possibility is that they're being used by marijuana growers. Other thefts include St. Anselm's Episcopal Church in Lafayette, which was hit twice in the spring.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/localnews/ci_10337819

SANTA ROSA: POLICE CATCH FOUR OF FIVE MEN STEALING MARIJUANA PLANTS

SANTA ROSA (BCN) / Tue, 09 Sep 2008 22:45

Four alleged gang members were arrested in Santa Rosa today after they were observed stealing 23 marijuana plants, police said. Just before 1 p.m., a witness called Santa Rosa police and reported seeing men climbing the fence of a home at 2337 Jose Ave. and making numerous trips to bring marijuana to a vehicle parked nearby. Officers arrived at the scene and took four of five suspects into custody but were unable to locate the fifth suspect who dropped plants near Jose Avenue and Josefa Street before fleeing on foot.

<http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=POT-THEFT-bagm->

Alleged bribe attempt in marijuana arrests

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 09/17/2008 / The Daily Journal

Two Willits men and a man from Malibu are suspects in a marijuana related investigation by the Mendocino County Sheriff's Office. Discovery of a marijuana garden led one man to allegedly try to bribe a sheriff's deputy, resulting in his arrest and the arrest of two other men.....Deputies discovered a marijuana grow near the Mendocino Pass area of Covelo in the Baur Subdivision, stated a sheriff's report.....The report stated that Gage allegedly tried to bribe the deputy with cash and goods to not eradicate the Mendocino Pass garden....When the warrants were served, deputies found 365 marijuana plants and the two other suspects at the Covelo location. Deputies also found 3 pounds of marijuana and \$2,000 cash.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_10484979

Police looking for teens who stole cash, medical marijuana

Sentinel staff report / 09/17/2008

SANTA CRUZ - Police are chasing three teenagers suspected of threatening a person with weapons and stealing medical marijuana and cash. The armed hold up happened around noon at 124 Locust St.....The teenagers reportedly had a knife and possibly a gun, according to police.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_10488814

Police reports:

By DN Staff / 09/30/2008

Thefts

Lloyd Hank Wimer, 29, reported the theft of medicinal marijuana from his Molinos Avenue backyard Saturday, according to TCSD logs.

A woman was knocked down and had her medical marijuana stolen Saturday afternoon on Orange Street, according to RBPB logs.....

Michael Rene Martinez, 34, of Red Bluff, who was booked Friday on charges of the attempted murder in the shooting of Timothy Martin,.....Martinez and Martin were in an altercation Friday about noon near South Avenue and Highway 99W.....The two argued about the theft of medicinal marijuana, and Martinez shot Martin three times while he was attempting to leave.....

http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/ci_10598819?source=most_viewed

Police find marijuana growing inside home after man claims robbery

By VICTOR A. PATTON / vpattton@mercedsun-star.com / Monday, Jul. 07, 2008

A report of an armed robbery Saturday led Merced police to arrest two men on suspicion of armed robbery, marijuana possession and other charges. Suspects.....were taken into custody after officers and members of the department's Gang Violence Suppression Unit served a search warrant.....after a victim reported he had gone to the home earlier to purchase some lighting equipment. The victim told police that Gamble had pointed a shotgun at him during the visit -- and then robbed him of a wallet and some cash. Inside the home, police said they entered two bedrooms that were used to cultivate marijuana plants. They reported finding 42 plants, 157 grams of packaged marijuana, two semi-automatic handguns and ammunition. Police believe one of the guns is stolen and the officers also located the property that belonged to the victim..... [http://](http://www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/335724.html)

www.mercedsunstar.com/167/story/335724.html

Mailbox break-in leads to pot find

HESPERIA: An investigation into a mailbox break-in led sheriff's deputies to a home Wednesday where about 100 marijuana plants were growing, authorities said. An additional five pounds of marijuana and several grams of heroin were also discovered inside the house.....A witness reported seeing two men breaking into the community mailbox at Escondido Avenue and Ranchero Road. The suspects' car was seen in front of a nearby house, and a search warrant allowed deputies to search the house.....

http://www.dailybulletin.com/search/ci_9845769?IADID=Search-www.dailybulletin.com-www.dailybulletin.com

Man places casino bet with marijuana

Posted by [Mark Frauenfelder](#), July 30, 2008 12:44 PM | [permalink](#)

The gentleman was arrested in a Fresno, California casino after he placed a bet with marijuana in a card game. He was arrested, even though he produced a "cannabis club" card purchased on the internet.

<http://www.boingboing.net/2008/07/30/man-places-casino-be.html>

With the proliferation of dispensaries comes a significant amount of abuse of a poorly written legislation. It is quite obvious that the lack of regulation has allowed individuals to profit from this criminal activity while hiding under the guise of legitimate medical need.

Many, Many Pot Growers Reside in CV

By: Robert Souza: 7/29/08

The Alameda County Sheriff's Office expressed frustration over the continuing problems of medical marijuana clubs Monday night in a lengthy presentation to the Castro Valley Municipal Advisory Council. Deputy Paul Liskey told the meeting that burglaries are prevalent near dispensaries along with such violations as on-site pot smoking, gambling, and clubs keeping more than the permitted 20 pounds of marijuana in stock.....“The problem is there’s no way to track the amount of marijuana sold at these shops.....On the issue of cultivation of marijuana, Liskey said the sheriff’s office spent \$45,000 to eradicate outdoor and indoor illegal pot cultivation that, he said, caused theft of electricity and serious negative impacts to the environment. “There are many, many growers in Castro Valley and the Hayward area, and we’re literally lining them up to take them out,” Liskey said. A pot garden bust covered by The Forum in the Palomares area last month, resulted in the confiscation of 400 plants.....That raid occurred just weeks after a sweep brought in \$2.4- million worth of pot from the same general area.....

<http://www.castrovalleyforum.com>

Police Make Major Pot Bust

Police: More Than \$1M In Pot Recovered From Pajaro / September 20, 2008

UPDATED: 1:41 pm PDT September 20, 2008

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. -- Police said Friday they raided a Santa Cruz medicinal marijuana organization for dealing drugs. The undercover operation led to the arrest of five men, including the founder of the local medical marijuana patients’ advocacy group, police said. Authorities said they face charges include growing and selling marijuana illegally.

Police said that the men violated the spirit of medicinal marijuana and were out to simply make a profit. The postal service tipped off Santa Cruz County Drug Enforcement officers after discovering marijuana shipments out of Soquel.....“In our undercover sale at the store front (we were able to purchase) whatever size and whatever quantity of marijuana,” said Phil Wowack, Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office. At the Crystal Heights address police said they confiscated 100 pot plants and believed the person living there was mailing marijuana to customers all over the country.....The Santa

Cruz County Sheriff's Office said they are also trying to track down how much money was made to freeze bank accounts.....

<http://www.ksbw.com/news/17520736/detail.html>

Newcastle man sentenced for medical marijuana operation

Sacramento Business Journal - by [Mark Anderson](#) Staff writer

Richard Marino, 54, of Newcastle was sentenced to more than four years in federal prison by U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton for money laundering and narcotics conspiracy in connection with a medical marijuana operation. *He pleaded guilty May 6 to the charges arising from [Capitol Compassionate Care](#), which had gross sales of \$2.3 million between Feb. 3 and Aug. 31 in 2004.* Federal agents searched Marino's home in Newcastle and the business *on Sept. 3, 2005, and they seized 189 pounds of hashish, 1,175 pounds of processed marijuana, 617 live marijuana plants and more than \$100,000 in cash.....Business records showed Capitol Compassionate Care has sold some 482 pounds of marijuana*, and that Marino used Compassionate Care proceeds to pay for a down payment for his home, a housekeeper, an apartment, loan payments, dinners and payments on credit cards. Marino was also ordered to forfeit over \$91,000 in cash as well as a house in Newcastle in a separate civil forfeiture case.

<http://washington.bizjournals.com/sacramento/stories/2008/07/21/daily29.html>

Berkeley, CA

A local reporter added: "there are several "pot clubs" within city limits, and many more outside them, where legally purchased dank is available." Berkeley Marijuana Prices: Eighths run from shitty weed on the block for 30 to 40 bucks, to bomb ass dank from your folks, about \$45 - \$60 an eighth. Quarters are usually \$80 - \$90. *Most people who sell theyr Dank to the clubs also slang on the side.* Cheaper that way. The clubs hike all prices by ten bucks a product. Usually this place is flooded. Hella people grow. Weed food is also a delicious option with several professionally devoted culinary artists working in the area.... Plus California has decriminalized other marijuana use to a \$100 fine for under an ounce possession and fines for paraphernalia; no jail time and some cities have set marijuana use in general as the lowest law enforcement priority thus ignoring small time possession much more often.

<http://www.webehigh.com/city/detail.php?CITYID=Berkeley,%20CA>

Medical marijuana dispensary owner convicted

The Associated Press / 08/06/2008

LOS ANGELES—The owner of a Morro Bay medical marijuana dispensary has been convicted on federal drug distribution counts. Charles Lynch was found guilty on Tuesday of distributing more than 100 kilos of marijuana, some of it to minors.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10113784?nclick_check=1

Federal Raids Lead To Pot Seizure, Arrests

POSTED: 4:51 am PDT August 6, 2008

SAN DIEGO -- Federal raids on four San Diego medical marijuana dispensaries this week led to four arrests and the seizure of about 20 pounds of pot, it was reported

Wednesday. The businesses were allegedly not selling the drug within the limits of state Proposition 215.The arrests culminated an investigation that took several months, Zeidler told the newspaper. Marijuana and marijuana-laced brownies, ice cream, chocolate and fruit bars were seized, along with a loaded handgun and thousands of dollars, she said.

<http://www.10news.com/news/17107918/detail.html>

Attorney General Shuts Down Illegal Marijuana Operation

Written by Imperial Valley News / 25 August 2008

Northridge, California - California Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. today announced a raid on an illegal marijuana operation that used a medical marijuana dispensary as a front for massive illegal drug sales. On Friday, August 22, special agents from the California's Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) arrested two men in Los Angeles for the illegal possession, transportation and sale of marijuana in connection with a marijuana dispensary, Today's Healthcare, in Northridge. Nathan Holtz, age 37, is the suspected middleman between northern California marijuana growers and the Today's Healthcare marijuana dispensary in southern California. Louis Godman, owner of the dispensary, admitted he conducted a profitable business with the majority of his customers being between the ages of 18 and 29 years-old. Under the Attorney General's medical marijuana guidelines, also released today, medical marijuana collectives or cooperatives should operate as not-for-profit only, serving qualified patients who've been examined by a doctor and issued a medical marijuana identification card. "This criminal enterprise bears no resemblance to the purposes of Proposition 215, which authorized the use of medical marijuana for seriously sick patients," said Attorney General Brown. "Today's Healthcare is a large-scale, for-profit, commercial business. This deceptively named drug ring is reaping huge profits and flaunting the state's laws that allow qualified patients to use marijuana for medicinal purposes."....

http://www.imperialvalleynews.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2470&Itemid=2

During this quarter, four more cities opted to enact marijuana dispensary bans in their communities.

Dispensaries banned but advocates still hopeful

Nearly 2 years after Darrell Kruse first opened his medical marijuana dispensary along Indian Hill Boulevard, the Claremont City Council adopted an ordinance to officially ban the dispensaries. The decision would appear to be the final piece of the puzzle in a lengthy debate by city officials on how to deal with the controversial facilities.

<http://www.claremont-courier.com/pages/Topstory070208.1.html>

Council adopts ordinance prohibiting medical marijuana dispensaries

By [CERENA JOHNSON](#), The Eureka Reporter / Jul 22 2008

The Fortuna City Council adopted an ordinance on Monday that prohibits the establishment and operation of medical marijuana dispensaries within city limits. The

ordinance outlines inconsistencies between state and federal law regarding the possession, sale and distribution of marijuana and a threat to public health and safety. Under the ordinance, any existing dispensaries are also required to cease operations. Those who violate provisions of the ordinance will be guilty of a misdemeanor.....

<http://eurekareporter.com/article/080722-fortuna-prohibits-medical-marijuana-dispensaries>

Oakdale rules out medical marijuana dispensaries

No plans filed, but chief says it was matter of time

By RICHARD T. ESTRADA / August 06, 2008

OAKDALE -- Fearing the city could become a magnet for medical marijuana dispensaries, and the criminal element the police chief says comes with them, the City Council has voted 4-0 to ban the businesses. Police Chief Marty.....cited reams of reports from law enforcement across the state detailing assaults, robberies and home invasions, all of which he attributed to the presence of medical marijuana dispensaries.....

<http://www.modbee.com/local/story/382766.html>

Garden Grove says no to medical pot

City Council members say they are concerned marijuana dispensaries' effect on neighborhoods.

By DEEPA BHARATH / The Orange County Register / Tuesday, September 23, 2008

GARDEN GROVE – City Council members have voted to pass an ordinance banning medical marijuana dispensaries.....Some Orange County cities with moratoriums or permanent bans on pot dispensaries include Buena Park, Fullerton, Mission Viejo, Santa Ana, Tustin, Huntington Beach and Placentia. Laguna Woods last week became the first local city to pass an ordinance allowing medical marijuana dispensaries.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/marijuana-dispensaries-city-2168130-police-council>

The business of growing marijuana both indoors and outdoors is continuing to grow. Both the Federal and State Law Enforcement community continue to reporting increasing yearly seizures. These grows endanger and destroy both the lands and homes used for the production of marijuana. Neither know the difference between marijuana grown for medical or illicit purposes.

Lodi man severely burned while extracting oil from marijuana

By The Record / September 16, 2008

LODI – A 35-year-old man set himself ablaze, both externally and internally, while attempting to extrapolate oil form a marijuana plant in a Lodi apartment Monday night , Lodi police said.....Elhard put marijuana in a sock, and pushed it into a piece of PVC pipe. He then poured butane into the pipe and let it filter through the sock in order to extrapolate Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) from the cannabis. THC is marijuana’s active chemical. The butane fumes were so heavy, a nearby water heater ignited, Eubanks said. A flash fire quickly set Elhard ablaze.....

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080916/A_NEWS02/80916010/-1/A_NEWS06

Mid-Valley meth scourge touches all walks of life

July 07, 2008 12:58:00 AM / By Rob Young

.....Motorcycle gangs pioneered the manufacture and distribution of meth a half-century ago and are still involved, but not as much as in the late 1970s and early 1980s. *The Hell's Angels, for example, have turned more to marijuana sales, he said.....*

http://www.appeal-democrat.com/news/published_66024_article.html/black_recently.html

Arcata, the Californian town that has gone to pot over marijuana, cultivation

By Philip Sherwell in Arcata, California / 07/2008

The smell of marijuana hangs in the air in Arcata, California.....The small northern Californian community has long been the heart of the Emerald Triangle in America's Pacific North West - a prime region for illicit cannabis cultivation because of its lush, rolling terrain and its relaxed attitude to drugs. A decade ago Arcata's voters overwhelmingly backed Proposition 215, a ballot initiative that gave California the most relaxed medical marijuana laws in the US. *But now there is a growing backlash. Angry residents are increasingly questioning the abuses of the loosely-drafted law that have followed that decision including the fact that the town has four officially-approved medical cannabis outlets, where the drug is sold, compared with just two ordinary pharmacies for all Arcata's other health needs.* They are even more irate about the way that illicit commercial marijuana growers and dealers have quietly moved in, exploiting Arcata's reputation as a liberal-minded town with an easy-going approach both to marijuana, and to law enforcement. *According to local counter-narcotics officials, up to 1,000 of its 7,500 homes have been converted into illegal "grow houses",* where hydroponic watering equipment and high-wattage lighting enable large quantities of cannabis plants to grow rapidly indoors - in far greater quantities than are allowed by law.But some of Arcata's dispensaries are accused of paying little heed to whether their patients are genuinely sick, or have just obtained a dodgy doctor's note from a \$200 "consultation", and last week town officials began hearings on how to regulate them more strictly. One, the Humboldt Co-operative, which operates out of a disused car dealership, has 6,000 registered patients across northern California, 2,000 of whom buy the drug regularly.....*Inside the dispensary, a range of different marijuana products with such unmedicinal names as Brain Wreck and Purple Haze are on display - often bought, said Mr Hoover, by healthy-looking college students.....*The dispensaries operate a sliding rate for clients, depending on income and disability, but the usual rate is \$40 for an eighth of an ounce.....Our residential neighborhoods are being turned into industrialized drug production zones." *The scale of the problem only became clear after fires caused by shoddy wiring broke out in two grow houses. There has also been a spate of armed robberies by cannabis thieves and an influx of outsiders with pitbull dogs and what locals describe as threatening attitudes.....*Wade DeLashmutt, a carpenter and lifelong resident, is a leader of this latest counter-cultural revolt. He became convinced his new neighbor, from Montana, was growing marijuana commercially.....It

was very unpleasant," said Mr DeLashmutt, 43, who now regrets voting for Proposition 215. "How has this happened? We've let criminals into our town and nobody seemed to be doing anything about it. We're a very liberal community and the wrong people have taken advantage of that in a big way." His neighbour's house was eventually raided by the police who recovered 600 cannabis plants, 27 pounds of processed pot and thousands of dollars in cash.The mayor, Mark Wheatley, said problems unleashed by the explosion in grow houses ranged from a surge in crime and fire risks to soaring rental prices. He said the huge consumption of energy to run the operations shocked environmentally-conscious residents. "*Arcata is a highly tolerant community, but we have now reached the tipping point with the fires, the home invasions, the impact on housing and the environment.*" he said. "People have had enough."*The illicit pot is sold for about \$3,000 a pound, and is usually shipped to buyers around San Francisco, Los Angeles and further afield.* The town's police chief, Randy Mendosa, is alarmed that his sedate town is rapidly gaining an unsavory reputation. But he acknowledged that he did not have the resources to bust the grow houses. ".....

<http://www.uk420.com/boards/index.php?showtopic=137303>

Medical marijuana activist convicted of growing 24,000 pot plants

[Bob Egelko, Chronicle Staff Writer](#) / September 6, 2008

A federal court jury has convicted a medical marijuana activist of illegally growing more than 24,000 pot plants that were clearly visible from a highway near his home in Lake County.....He was arrested in 2004 after federal agents said they found 32,500 marijuana plants in gardens near his home in Upper Lake. U.S. District Judge Marilyn Hall Patel ruled that the seizure was based on an invalid warrant, but allowed prosecutors to offer evidence of more than 24,000 plants that were in plain view of Highway 20. Lepp also argued that, as a Rastafarian minister, he had a religious right to grow and use marijuana, a sacrament to his faith. He claimed his church had 2,500 members who were all sharecroppers of the plants.....Defense lawyer Michael Hinckley said Lepp would appeal on the religious issue and perhaps on other grounds as well. He said Lepp, whose wife and father both died of cancer, believes strongly in the religious and medical use of marijuana. Noting that the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld such federal prosecutions despite California's medical marijuana law, Hinckley said, "As long as the state and federal government are in conflict on this issue, unfortunate results like this are going to continue to occur."

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/05/BAVJ12OIKI.DTL>

Pushing Back: ONDCP Releases 2008 Marijuana Sourcebook

(Washington, D.C.) – Today, the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) released it's largest-ever compilation of data relating to marijuana. The 2008 Marijuana Sourcebook contains important data on marijuana in the United States including the latest use patterns and trends, health effects, criminal justice aspects, supply sources, and information regarding so-called "medical marijuana." The publication draws from a wide variety of national scientific and research-based data sources. The Sourcebook also contains data from the Bureau of Justice Statistics that reveals that less than one half of one percent of inmates in state prisons are serving time for marijuana possession only.

Additionally, the Sourcebook contains the latest analysis from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) which reveals that levels of THC – the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana – have reached the highest-ever amounts since scientific analysis of the drug began in the late 1970s. *The average amount of THC in the most recently seized samples of marijuana has reached a new high of 9.6 percent.* This compares to an average of just under 4 percent reported in 1983 and represents more than a doubling in the potency of the drug since that time.

<http://stash.norml.org/2008/07/29/pushing-back-ondcp-releases-2008-marijuana-sourcebook/>

Marijuana trafficker Edwin Hoey being prosecuted for tax fraud

By Jennifer Squires- Sentinel staff writer / 08/12/2008

SANTA CRUZ - A Westside man convicted last year of possessing and selling hundreds of pounds of pot is now under investigation for tax evasion, according to court records. Hoey faced more than 10 years in state prison, but was sentenced in November to a year in County Jail after he pleaded no contest to trafficking marijuana. He served just less than eight months for the crimes, which at the time he said he thought were OK because he was largely selling to medical users through a Santa Cruz medicinal dispensary. Hoey, a photographer, was arrested in December of that year after deputies found 100 pounds of pot in his house and \$500,000 cash in a storage locker. He remains adamant that most of the marijuana was destined for medicinal users. Hoey said his "one mistake" was that he had also sold pot to friends on the East Coast. Sheriff's deputies reported Hoey had shipped marijuana through the US Postal Service to people in 10-15 states, and that many were not medicinal users. Officials from the District Attorney's Office and the state Franchise Tax Board were not available to comment Tuesday.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10181258?nclick_check=1

Medical Marijuana's Eco Boomtown

Humboldt County High: California Community Thrives on Legal Pot

By MARY SPICUZZA / =ARCATA, Calif., Sept. 5, 2008

When Stephen Gasparas arrived in Humboldt County in late 2004, he was driving a VW Westfalia pop-top camper on the verge of breaking down and had only \$100 in his pocket. Gasparas, who ran a flooring business in Chicago before heading west, seems to have found far greener pastures in Humboldt County's medical marijuana industry. Less than four years later, the owner of the Arcata iCenter, a collective marijuana dispensary, is now driving a new hybrid Toyota Highlander and bringing in about \$100,000 a year. (And judging by the foot traffic in and out of the iCenter, that figure is a modest estimate.) But Gasparas, 38, is just one of many in Humboldt County and throughout California benefiting from the booming medical marijuana industry. Exactly how much the Golden State has made in pot profits is a hazy figure, mostly because California doesn't keep exact numbers on the sales tax on medical marijuana. It's estimated that \$143 million in medical marijuana sales have netted \$11.4 million in state and local taxes annually, based on registered businesses, California State Board of Equalization spokeswoman Anita Gore said. And those estimates are small compared with those in a

2006 report co-written by [California NORML](#) state coordinator Dale Gieringer, which said that Californians consumed between \$870 million and \$2 billion worth of medical marijuana per year. . . . For years, Humboldt County has enjoyed the benefits of a booming underground economy. But changes to state laws -- such as the passage of Proposition 215 in 1996, when voters approved the medical use of marijuana -- mean that many engaged in cultivation and sales are trying to follow state medical marijuana laws. Or at least some of them are making an effort, and in doing so are pouring money into local and state tax coffers. The City of Arcata declined to disclose specific taxes paid on medical marijuana sales by local businesses, calling that "proprietary information." ***But the city's finance director, Janet Luzzi, said one dispensary in town is among Arcata's top 25 producers of sales tax, and has been for several quarters.*** "It's not always there," Luzzi said. "But it's often there." Other medical marijuana dispensaries, however, recently received written reminders from Luzzi. "Not all of them were paying taxes," she said. And taxes aside, most here acknowledge marijuana sales have for years contributed to county finances. . . . Despite widespread support for medical marijuana, tensions seem especially high in towns like Arcata, where people are struggling to agree on the details of medical marijuana, such as rules for growing and limits for medical marijuana possession. It's a debate that's playing out in counties around California, from historically pot-friendly places like Mendocino County to Los Angeles. . . . Some residents complain that a few grow houses have grown out of control, causing problems ranging from skunk-like odors to house fires. So, even as California's attorney general seems comfortable delving into the medical marijuana debate, stores like Humboldt Hydroponics refuse to even discuss the topic. When asked about the issue of medical marijuana and the economy, a man behind the counter of Humboldt Hydroponics shop in Arcata seemed on edge as he immediately insisted he had nothing to say because his shop had "no affiliation" with medical marijuana. But while standing outside his Arcata iCenter dispensary, Stephen Gasparas seemed to be making a sincere effort to bring medical marijuana out of the shadows and celebrate its contributions to California's economy. . . . <http://abcnews.go.com/Business/story?id=5727836&page=1>

Pot-candy boss sentenced on federal drug charges

[Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer](#) / September 6, 2008

The owner of an Oakland factory that produced marijuana candy with names like Buddafinga and Mr. Greenbud has been sentenced to a year in a halfway house and a year of home detention for conspiring to manufacture and distribute marijuana. Michael Martin, 33, of El Sobrante was also sentenced Wednesday to five years of probation by U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken in Oakland. Martin is the owner of Tainted Inc., which started as a boutique business that made chocolate truffles and grew into a large marijuana-candy maker that bought chocolate by the ton, authorities said. Tainted Inc. employee Jessica Sanders was sentenced Wednesday to three years' probation for illegally using a phone to distribute marijuana, a felony. . . . In a sentencing memorandum, however, Assistant U.S. Attorney Keslie Stewart wrote that Martin "was not growing marijuana solely for his own use or for the use of a sick family member. He was running a profitable business and supporting himself and his family with the proceeds of marijuana sales. . . . In September 2007, federal agents raided his factory on the 900 block

of 61st Street in North Oakland and a building on the 300 block of 40th Street where marijuana was grown. The investigation bore similarities to DEA raids in Oakland in 2006 in which five people connected with a company called Beyond Bomb were convicted of making marijuana-laced treats with such names as Munchy Way, Rasta Reece's and Puff-a-Mint Pattie. In federal marijuana cases, defense attorneys are barred from telling jurors that companies supply medical cannabis products through licensed dispensaries to qualified patients.....

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/09/05/BAGS12OSPG.DTL&tsp=1>

Where have all the meth labs gone? South of the border

By Linda Williams/TWN Staff Writer / 09/10/2008

.....Mexican D.T.O.s now dominate the wholesale distribution of ice or meth, marijuana, cocaine and heroin throughout California, according to federal and state law enforcement agencies. *The D.T.O.s then recruit affiliated street gangs Norteño and Sureño as well as outlaw gangs such as the Hells Angels for retail distribution. The trading of marijuana for ice is considered a key element in the distribution of meth within Mendocino County.....* Earlier, in March 2008, agents confiscated 27 pounds of ice, 69 pounds of marijuana, as well as hashish, cocaine, and \$46,000 in cash from an alleged distribution ring bringing meth into the Santa Rosa area from Merced County. Most other area busts have involved much smaller amounts of meth more closely associated with the retail distribution network. The two main Mexican drug trafficking organizations, according to the U.S. D.O.J., influencing the Mendocino County drug scene are the Federation cartel (a coalition of the Sinaloa, Juárez, and Valencia cartels) with prime jurisdiction over the Bay Area and the Tijuana cartel controlling central valley regions around the Sacramento and Stockton areas.....*In the Willits area, one small-scale lab was found at a fugitive's hideout on Sherwood Road in 2008. The fugitive was dodging attempted murder charges in Lake County stemming from an alleged marijuana theft in Willits.* Broken glassware and a quart container partially filled with a caustic material was discovered near a Brooktrails residential marijuana grow late in 2007 that was considered a possible old meth lab site.....

http://www.willitsnews.com/ci_10428046

In Door Grows

Oakland man arrested for growing 160 pot plants

The Associated Press / 07/05/2008

OAKLAND, Calif.— Officers from the city's public school detail said they could smell marijuana when they went to John Halsema's home....Halsema told them he was an authorized medical marijuana user and had 40 pot plants. When police returned with a search warrant, they found 160 marijuana plants growing under automatic watering, lighting and ventilation systems in three of the house's six rooms, but no documents backing up Halsema's claim he was a medical marijuana patient. Authorities also said they seized were fake police identification cards, three guns and books on how to make bombs, silencers and homemade guns

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9795308

Fire in nice Oakland neighborhood reveals pot-growing operation

Henry K. Lee, Chronicle Staff Writer / July 16, 2008

OAKLAND A man and a woman were arrested today after a house fire led to the discovery of a marijuana-growing operation in a well-scrubbed Oakland neighborhoodThe cause of the fire was under investigation. Authorities found about 100 marijuana plants inside the home, which was being rented the two people who were arrested.....Several large marijuana-cultivation operations have been uncovered recently in Oakland. In May, 150 pot plants were found after a fire broke out at an apartment complex overlooking Lake Merritt. In April, police raided a former auto body shop in the city's San Antonio neighborhood and seized 2,100 marijuana plants. In November, several hundred marijuana plants were found at a West Oakland building after firefighters doused a three-alarm blaze at an adjacent warehouse. The month before that, police found more than 4,000 marijuana plants inside a newly built East Oakland home after checking on the resident's well-being because the garage door was left open.....

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/15/BAHI11PHGM.DTL&tsp=1>

Police investigate foster parents for medical marijuana sales

By MARY WESTON - Staff Writer / 07/17/2008

OROVILLE -- Police arrested a man, cited a teen and began an investigation on the teen's foster parents after marijuana was found during a welfare check.....At the property, officers found 18 marijuana plants. One foster parent had doctor recommendations for the drugs. Officers found evidence the parents had been selling the medical marijuana to a distributor, Trostle said. Police are investigating if two other medical marijuana growers at the scene were selling their crops, too. Also found were marijuana plants growing inside a trailer where the juvenile lived, as well as a bag of dried marijuana, police said. The foster teens were removed from the home, and police confiscated six medium-sized plants and the bag of marijuana as evidence.....

http://www.orovillemr.com/news/ci_9905813

Police seize marijuana, arrest 2

Published: Saturday, July 19, 2008

Marijuana growers converted a west Santa Rosa home into an indoor pot farm crammed with so many plants there was no room left for anyone to live inside the house, police said Saturday. Santa Rosa police arrested two men and seized 1,008 marijuana plantsSanta Rosa Code Enforcement, PG&E and the Santa Rosa Fire Department were called to the scene because of unsafe conditions at the home. The property was condemned by code enforcement due to numerous violations and PG&E pulled the electricity meter to prevent an electrical fire.....

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20080719/news/349487548>

Sweep nets 18 suspects, cache of cocaine, guns

Federal agents arrested 18 people yesterday and seized more than 2 pounds of cocaine and five handguns in conjunction with a state narcotics investigation, authorities said. Eight search warrants were served in the southeastern area of San Diego County and one was executed in San Bernardino County, where agents found an indoor marijuana-growing operation.....The cocaine and weapons were found at one location in San Diego, and about 4½ ounces of crack cocaine was confiscated at another.....

<http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/metro/20080723-9999-1m23pubsafe.html>

DEA Seizes More Than \$60M Worth Of Marijuana From California Homes

Story by [knbc.com](http://www.knbc.com) / Wednesday, July 23, 2008

RIVERSIDE, Calif. --

Thousands of marijuana plants -- which could have generated millions of dollars a year in illegal profits -- were seized Tuesday during raids on three homes in Riverside County, authorities said. Marijuana-growing facilities were shut down in Eastvale, Hemet and Riverside, in an operation targeting a total of eight homes....."Drug traffickers are using sophisticated equipment and measures to transform their seemingly quiet suburban homes into illicit marijuana grow operations,"....."These lucrative illegal operations can function with little scrutiny, which makes them attractive to the criminal element....." He said the marijuana growers reconfigured the home's electrical system to bypass the local utility meter, stealing roughly \$4,000 a month in wattage....."These sophisticated growing operations pose an extreme hazard to our neighborhoods with their dangerous electrical wiring and changes made to the house infrastructure.....Tuesday's arrests and seizures stemmed from a yearlong investigation that, to date, has led to the dismantling of 33 marijuana grow operations and the seizure of more than 19,000 plants.

<http://www.officer.com/online/article.jsp?siteSection=1&id=42468>

4 arrested in major marijuana bust, police say

By Harry Harris and William Brand / Oakland Tribune / 07/24/2008

OAKLAND — The suspected ringleader of a marijuana growing operation that stretched from Oakland to Mendocino County was one of four people arrested Wednesday night by police who also seized more than \$250,000 in cash and at least \$60,000 worth of pot, police said. It was one of the largest and most sophisticated marijuana growing operations police have seen in recent years, they said. Among the more unique details about the operation, Sgt. Bernard Ortiz said, was that suspected ringleader Theodore Christos had three houses in Oakland — each for a different part of the enterprise. One house was for growing marijuana, the second was for conducting transactions with buyers, and the third was his residence in North Oakland.....Besides the Oakland locations, Ortiz said, Christos owns property in Mendocino County where authorities believe additional crop is grown.....Working until early Thursday, officers also served a search warrant at a house in the 500 block of Crestmont Drive in Oakland, where two men who apparently worked for Christos were arrested and 151 marijuana seedling plants were seized as well as a revolver and more than \$250,000 in cash that was in a duffle bag. The men's names were not released. The grow site on Crestmont was very sophisticated, police said, with the latest watering, lighting and ventilation technology.....

http://www.insidebayarea.com/timesstar/ci_9987635

Pot house busted in San Bernardino

By Stacia Glenn, Staff Writer / 07/28/2008

SAN BERNARDINO - Police seized more than 70 marijuana plants at a house over the weekend.A search of the property revealed a large marijuana grow house with plants worth about \$15,000, police said. The marijuana plants were in various stages of grow both in the house and the backyard.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/search/ci_10020626?IADID=Search-www.dailybulletin.com-www.dailybulletin.com

Five-city pot farm raid nets \$1M in marijuana

Lori Consalvo, Staff Writer / 07/23/2008

A Corona house was one of five residential pot farms busted in a \$1 million raid this week, according to U.S. Justice Department officials.Officials believe the houses were connected to an Asian organized crime ring that is involved in growing and distributing large amounts of marijuana. "They had the same kind of material. ... Each house was modified to accommodate the grow," said Special Agent Sarah Pullen of the Drug Enforcement Administration. "We definitely believe they were related." All of the indoor-grow operations were bypassing local utility meters and stealing electricity to support growing operations, according to a news release.

http://www.dailybulletin.com/search/ci_9977337?IADID=Search-www.dailybulletin.com-www.dailybulletin.com

800 Marijuana Plants Seized From Bradbury House

Two Men In Custody After Investigation In San Gabriel Valley Foothills

Authorities Tuesday seized about 800 marijuana plants that were growing inside a house in the [San Gabriel Valley](#) foothills city of Bradbury and took two men into custody.He said he was hesitant to estimate the street value of the plants. But he noted that 300 of them were nearly mature, and the others were young plants. <http://www.knbc.com/news/17104345/detail.html>

Deputies bust three Bonny Doon pot grows

By Jennifer Squires - Sentinel staff writer / 08/09/2008

Sheriff's deputies found nearly 1,200 pot plants and arrested two men suspected of cultivating and selling marijuana Thursday at three indoor grows discovered in June during the Martin Fire. The simultaneous busts netted marijuana worth about more than \$1 million.***Packer told deputies he had a medical recommendation for one of the grows, but couldn't find the paperwork.***Carney said he was initially worried that the grow on Ice Cream Grade could have sparked the Martin Fire because indoor gardens require a lot of electricity to feed and the use sometimes blows power transmitters. The wildfire was human-caused and ignited deep in the ecological preserve near the foot of the Moon Rocks, according to Cal Fire. The person who started the fire has not been located.

Indoor pot grows found in Bonny Doon

* 433 plants on the 200 block of Atherly Lane.

* 221 plants on the 600 block of Ice Cream Grade Road.

* 516 plants on the 300 block of Conifer Lane.

SOURCE: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

http://www.mercurynews.com/centralcoast/ci_10142283?nclick_check=1

PETALUMA: NEARLY 300 MARIJUANA PLANTS SEIZED FROM RESIDENCE PETALUMA (BCN)

Sun, 17 Aug 2008

Nearly 300 marijuana plants were seized and two Petaluma residents arrested after officers responded to a disturbance call Saturday afternoon.....Once inside the officers discovered two bedrooms, a downstairs closet and part of the garage were being used to grow 297 marijuana plants, police said.....

<http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=MARIJUANA-ARREST-baglm>

Marijuana, explosive found in Vallejo home Monday

Times-Herald staff report / 08/17/2008

The District Attorney's office is investigating the discovery of dozens of marijuana plants and an explosive device found at a Vallejo home Monday evening, officials said Friday. Authorities responded to the 100 block of Greenfield Avenue at about 5:40 p.m. on Monday and safely detonated an unidentified explosive device found at the home, Vallejo police said. Police said they also confiscated 59 mature marijuana plants, each about 3 feet tall, from the property. No arrests had been made as of Friday evening and police declined to release any further information about the incident or suspects. The case has been transferred to the DA's office pending the filing of charges, police said. http://www.timesheraldonline.com/ci_10230600?source=most_email

Big week for marijuana busts

By Adam Madison / Triplicate staff writer / August 19, 2008

Authorities confiscated about 100 pounds of processed marijuana, 84 plants and more than 20 firearms from a Gasquet residence last week, according to the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office. Two men had the bad timing of being in the middle of preparing marijuana inside a French Hill Road mobile home Thursday when authorities served a warrant and arrested both of them, said Sgt. Steve Morris of the Sheriff's Office.....We recently overflowed the property and saw what we believed to be marijuana growing on his property," Morris said. When federal agents and sheriff's deputies arrived, "he had two rifles right next to him," Morris said of Stewart. "There were 22 firearms taken from the house, several of which were loaded firearms which were accessible.....

http://www.triplicate.com/news/story.cfm?story_no=9862

Police nab two men and seize \$10,000 in marijuana

By [Dispatch Staff](#)

Police arrested two Gilroy men in connection with a marijuana growing a sales operation, police said.....the Anti-Crime Team and the Unified Narcotic Enforcement Team served a search warrant at a home.....At the home, officers found about two pounds of marijuana - some pre-packaged for sale - seven mature plants, cash, digital scales and packaging

material, police said. The seized marijuana and plants were worth about \$10,000, police said.

<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/248270-police-nab-two-men-and-seize-10000-in-marijuana>

Fremont police find six pounds of marijuana in, under home

Ben Aguirre Jr. / Bay Area News Group / 09/15/2008

FREMONT — Police recovered more than six pounds of marijuana from a South Sundale neighborhood home early Monday after someone tipped authorities off about the drugs, a sergeant said. The marijuana was found in three locations — in the backyard, in a bedroom and under the house. . . . Police were dispatched to a home on Porter Street after an unidentified man reported seeing someone drop off several bags of marijuana earlier in the night, Mazzone said.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10472296?nclick_check=1

Drug agents raid pot farms in upscale Calif. homes

The Associated Press / 09/16/2008

SACRAMENTO—Drug agents say they have arrested six key players in a Sacramento-based drug ring that was growing hundreds of marijuana plants in upscale suburban homes. U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration special agent Gordon Taylor says nearly 800 plants were found in a posh home next to an elementary school in El Dorado Hills. . . . Another 500 were found in a home in Placerville, a Gold Rush era town about 43 miles east of the state capital. Equipment used to grow marijuana plants was found inside a house in Cameron Park, an upscale enclave between El Dorado Hills and Placerville. Gordon says the probe began when authorities found more than 2,000 plants growing inside two Placer County homes a year ago. . . .

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10479022

Elk Grove police uncover another network of indoor pot farms

By Sandy Louey / Thursday, September 18, 2008

Elk Grove police have uncovered another network of homes used for growing marijuana. In the latest series of raids, which took place Wednesday, police served warrants on 12 homes in Elk Grove and Sacramento. More than 2,000 marijuana plants were confiscated from the network of five Elk Grove homes that were used for indoor marijuana growing operations. . . . The raid in Elk Grove came only a day after an investigation led by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration resulted in a series of raids of a network of homes in El Dorado Hills, Placerville, Cameron Park, Sacramento, Elk Grove and Lincoln that resulted in more than 1,500 marijuana plants being seized. . . . Elk Grove police raided 21 homes last fall. From summer 2006 to early 2007, the DEA busted a network of 50 homes in the Central Valley, stretching from Sacramento to Modesto. Fifteen of the homes were in Elk Grove. That operation was linked to a Bay Area crime ring.

<http://www.sacbee.com/102/story/1248319.html>

FAIRFIELD: TWO MEN ARRESTED AFTER POLICE FIND MARIJUANA IN APARTMENT

FAIRFIELD (BCN): Fairfield police arrested two Fairfield men and seized about one pound of marijuana and \$6,000 in cash after a search of an apartment Wednesday night.....Etue, who already has several drug cases pending against him, was arrested and booked into the Solano County Jail for possession of marijuana for sale, destruction of evidence, committing a felony while out on bail, and being a convicted felon in possession of ammunition.....

<http://cbs5.com/localwire/22.0.html?type=bcn&item=MARIJUANA-ARRESTS-bagm->

More pot gardens found in suburban Calif. homes

The Associated Press / 09/27/2008

CHICO, Calif.—Authorities are finding marijuana gardens hidden in suburban homes from Chico to Modesto. Butte County officers found pot growing in six Chico homes, including three in the same apartment complex that had been modified so marijuana could be grown without neighbors knowing. Four people were arrested. Officers seized 275 plants, 10 pounds of processed pot, firearms and nearly \$15,000 in cash Thursday. Modesto police found about \$100,000 and a large number of plants at a rental home. And in Stockton, officers arrested three people, including a 67-year-old cardiovascular surgeon, after they found 120 marijuana plants, weapons and thousands of dollars in an upscale home. A federal grand jury this week indicted five people for similar grows in Placer and El Dorado counties.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10577915

Out Door Grows

Deputies take out marijuana field near Chualar

July 8, 2008

A marijuana garden with an estimated value of \$24 million was eradicated today by Monterey County deputies just north of Chualar,.....Deputies found about 6,000 marijuana plants in the garden. They estimated the street value at \$24 million, had the plants been allowed to mature for harvesting.

<http://thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080708/NEWS01/80708010/1002>

\$35 million worth of marijuana seized near Hearst Castle

Associated Press / 07/08/2008

SAN SIMEON - Narcotics agents have seized 7,081 marijuana plants worth an estimated \$35 million that were growing near Hearst Castle in the coastal town of San Simeon.....Hearst Ranch manager Cliff Garrison says the bust was on a remote ridge area of the ranch. Officers found a campsite near the plants, which were being watered by an irrigation system.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9817740

Marijuana gardens hazard firefighters

Published: Wednesday, July 9, 2008 11:55 AM CDT

.....On 6/30/08 CAL FIRE advised that one of their bull dozers had pushed into one of the marijuana garden. In an effort to make the area safe for fire personnel members from

the Marijuana Suppression Unit along with members from the Butte Interagency Narcotics Task Force and Butte County Sheriff's Deputies entered and cleared three of the five plantations. It was difficult to enter and clear these marijuana plantations due to the fire danger and heavy smoke around these gardens.The gardens were being watered by a gravity fed irrigation system from black plastic pipe supplied with water from a nearby creek. Four abandoned campsites were located throughout the garden system.

<http://gridleyherald.com/articles/2008/07/09/news/news06.txt>

\$23M worth of marijuana removed from mountains

The Associated Press / 07/09/2008

SANTA CRUZ, Calif.—Narcotics officials have removed almost 20,000 marijuana plants worth \$23 million from public land in the Santa Cruz Mountains.Almost 8,000 plants with buds were hauled away to be disposed of. Plants yet to produce marijuana were left to wilt on the hillsides. Officials say the five pot gardens were initially spotted by helicopter fire crews battling the Summit Fire in late May. No arrests were made.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_9827527

Man killed, 2 flee in Saratoga pot farm raid

[Steve Rubenstein, Chronicle Staff Writer](#) / Friday, July 11, 2008

Saratoga -- One armed man was shot and killed and two others escaped on foot into the brush during a raid early Thursday on a marijuana patch in the hills south of Saratoga, a Santa Clara County sheriff's lieutenant said. The shooting happened when five deputies and 15 other officers confronted the men at the patch."The deputies started to enter a large marijuana garden and encountered three subjects armed with guns," Wise said. "During the encounter, shots were fired. One subject was shot and fatally wounded, and two others fled on foot."It took responding officers 90 minutes to reach the site of the shooting and farm, where there were at least 10,000 pot plants growing, she added.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2008/07/10/BACT11N1DV.DTL&tsp=1>

Officials seize \$20M in marijuana

Published: July 14, 2008 at 8:05 PM

SAN DIEGO, July 14 (UPI) -- Federal authorities said they raided three cultivated fields in California, removing at least 7,200 marijuana plants worth about \$20 million.A trafficker's living area contained a tent, shower facility and edible goods.The Union Tribune reported 60 sites used for harvesting marijuana have been raided and 128,000 plants have been removed by authorities in San Diego this year.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2008/07/14/Officials_seize_20M_in_marijuana/UPI-72071216080349/

Pot garden, 1,130 plants destroyed in Madera Co.

Led by a SWAT team, Madera County sheriff's narcotics officers and members of the state Department of Fish & Game on Tuesday eradicated a marijuana garden found growing on private property near Raymond. Erica Stuart, a sheriff's spokeswoman, said 1,130 plants were destroyed. Had the plants been processed for sales, they would have yielded more than \$3 million, she said.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/733234.html>

Marijuana garden destroyed

The Monterey County Herald / Herald Staff Report / 07/15/2008

A marijuana garden growing in the area of the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel Valley was eradicated Monday, the Sheriff's office said. Sgt. Daniel Karamitis said there were about 32,000 pot plants at the garden off Robison Canyon Road. Had the plants been allowed to grow to maturity, the marijuana could have fetched an estimated \$128 million, he said.....

http://www.montereyherald.com/breaking/ci_9888372?nclick_check=1

DFG Wardens Arrest Six Suspects in Marijuana Eradication Operation on Sensitive Ecological Site

Published on Jul 22, 2008 / DFG

State, local and federal enforcement agents arrested six suspects and removed 4,100 marijuana plants from a sensitive state ecological area in Kern County....."Our wardens, assisted by other enforcement officers, did an outstanding job to end the destruction of such a protected ecological site and to further protect the public.....Some of the suspects have lengthy criminal histories and have used up to 14 different aliases from prior law enforcement contacts. The arrests netted 9.5 pounds of processed marijuana, and 4,100 plants with a street value of \$16.5 million. Also seized were \$6,900 in cash, two vehicles and three firearms.....Wardens suspect that deer and other animals may have been killed to protect the marijuana plants from being eaten.....

<http://yubanet.com/california/DFG-Wardens-Arrest-Six-Suspects-in-Marijuana-Eradication-Operation-on-Sensitive-Ecological-Site.php>

\$12 million in marijuana seized

July 23, 2008 - 5:40PM

[BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA Staff Writer](#)

SILVERWOOD LAKE — More than \$12 million in marijuana was seized from an outdoor marijuana grow east of Silverwood Lake, officials said Wednesday. The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Marijuana Eradication Team seized 3,460 marijuana plants Tuesday,.....The plants, which ranged in size from 4 feet to 7 feet, were in the budding stage and considered to be ready for harvest, according to officials. The estimated value of the grow is \$12,110,000.....Detectives were also involved in the seizure of more than 3,000 plants on Monday in the Houston Creek area, Miller said.

That grow was estimated at about \$11 million, according to officials. http://www.vvdailypress.com/news/seized_7649_article.html/silverwood_lake.html

Authorities clear marijuana grow site in Lindsay

[By KELLY JURKOVICH](#) / THE PORTERVILLE RECORDER / July 25, 2008 -

The Tulare County Sheriff's Tactical Enforcement Personnel reports that 39 marijuana plants were found and eradicated Wednesday.....The report said that had the plants been allowed to reach maturity, their street value would have reached \$156,000. No suspects were identified in the news release.

http://www.recorderonline.com/news/county_37190_article.html/site_eradicated.html

Back yard Marijuana farm Uncovered

By: Bill Curtis / July 27th, 2008

Detectives served a search warrant at the residence and located approximately 1/2 pound of marijuana inside. In the back yard detectives located a green house which had 9 mature marijuana plants growing inside.....This investigation was begun after detectives received a flyer advertising free samples of marijuana at this residence. The occupant had a medicinal marijuana recommendation. The investigation will be submitted to the district attorney's office for review and possible charges of possession of marijuana for sale.

<http://www.1bakersfield.com/news/read/2/152495>

Marijuana bust in the forest

Federal, state and local law enforcement agents seized 19,951 marijuana plants this week from three areas of San Bernardino National Forest in Riverside County. The estimated street value of the marijuana is more than \$60 million.....The officers found several campsites in the canyons north of Idyllwild, as well as extensive irrigation systems, fertilizer, trash, propane tanks and other items in the marijuana plots. Large areas of native shrubs and trees were cut down to make room for the plants. The confiscated marijuana was carried by helicopters to trucks then transported for disposal. No arrests were made and the investigation will continue

<http://www.bearvalleynews.com/bvn%201072808.htm>

T.N.T. And S.W.A.T. Eradicate Another 6,357 Marijuana Plants

Bill Johnson / MML News Director / July 28, 2008

Sonora, CA -- Friday the Tuolumne Narcotics Team, members of S.W.A.T. (Special Weapons and Tactics) along with other patrol and jail deputies eradicated 6,357 marijuana plants from an area above the Beardsley Reservoir. The plants ranged in height between three and five feet. The garden appeared to have been 75 percent harvested Thursday evening.....Using an average figure of \$1,500 per plant, the Sheriff's Office effectively took \$9,535,500 out of the pockets of the Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization.

<http://www.mymotherlode.com/News/article/kvml/1217265589>

Pot crop worth nearly \$14M seized in Central Coast

The Associated Press / 07/31/2008

ATASCADERO, Calif.—Authorities say they have seized thousands of marijuana plants from the Cerro Alto hills near Atascadero in a haul estimated to be worth nearly \$14 million. San Luis Obispo sheriff's officials say 3,900 plants were seized Wednesday. Investigators also found an unoccupied campsite in the area. The marijuana plants were discovered Sunday while authorities searched for a missing hiker.....

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10054408

California Agencies Uncover Hidden Pot Farm

Adam Foxman / Ventura County Star (California) / July 31, 2008

To an untrained eye, the chaparral-covered hillsides under the circling helicopter looked like any others, but Ventura County sheriff's Cmdr. Gary Pentis saw a few spots of emerald green - telltale markers of marijuana farms. Authorities had spotted the pot farms in Los Padres National Forest about eight miles from Rose Valley north of Ojai about three weeks ago. On Wednesday, they seized 7,514 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of more than \$15 million.....The raid was the third large marijuana seizure in Ventura County in as many weeks. Authorities found and destroyed more than 14,000 pot plants on July 15 and an additional 7,249 plants on July 24. The total seized so far is nearly as much as is normally found in the forest in an entire year, authorities said. "It's probably going to be a record year,".....Sheriff's officials believe the pot cultivation problem is getting worse, partly because of an increase in the influence of Mexican drug cartels. They also believe drug cartels are behind an increase in violence associated with pot farms this year.....Sheriff's and Forest Service officials said continuing eradication efforts are important because of the influence of organized crime, [environmental](#) degradation and danger to park visitors.The pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers used by growers filter into local water sources and can affect the entire food chain in a wide area, authorities said. The diversion of natural water for pot irrigation also can harm the environment, they said. Growers are often armed, and while the pot farms dismantled Wednesday were in rugged terrain about a mile from the nearest road, others are close enough that park visitors could stumble upon them, authorities said.....
[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/California-Agencies-Uncover-Hidden-Pot-Farm/1\\$42570](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/California-Agencies-Uncover-Hidden-Pot-Farm/1$42570)

Officers conduct drug raids in five California counties

By David Richie - driche@sacbee.com / August 1, 2008

A four-month investigation has resulted in the seizure of an estimated \$5.6 million in marijuana and the dismantling of a major organization also involved in sales of methamphetamine and cocaine, state Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement officials announced Thursday. State and local officers swooped down on multiple locations Wednesday in El Dorado, Placer, Stanislaus, San Joaquin and Sacramento counties, making 21 arrests. In addition to the marijuana, agents seized about 3 pounds of crystal methamphetamine, confiscated about \$10,000 in cash and took firearms from suspects during several arrests, officials said. Marijuana gardens on public land were raided in the Latrobe area of El Dorado County and near Lake Clementine in Placer County. About 1,700 plants were seized at each location. Officials estimated the value of the marijuana under cultivation at \$5.5 million. They also seized about 60 pounds of processed marijuana worth another \$102,000, they said.....Gardeners taken into custody at the growing sites were armed with shotguns. He also said all of the 21 people arrested were illegal immigrants.....This was an organization involved in illegal drug activity "from Kern County up into the state of Oregon," Giorgi said.

<http://www.sacbee.com/crime/story/1125457.html>

Thousands of marijuana plants removed from forest

By [ESTHER AVILA](#) / THE PORTERVILLE RECORDER / August 2, 2008

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST — More than 26,000 marijuana plants were removed by the combined effort of Federal and State agencies during the past week from public lands located above Springville. And officials said there was a lot damage to environment caused by the illegal activity. On Thursday, officials found and removed more than 7,000 feet of irrigation tubing, more than 2,000 pounds of garbage and hazardous waste, more than 200 pounds of fertilizer and two gallons of pesticides.....growers can live in remote locations near the sites for months at a time and officers have come across camps with exercise facilities, tree houses, barbed wire fences and numerous firearms. The camps often contain cooking and sleeping areas within view of the cultivation site.....The news release said many bears and other animals were killed during the past few years by the growers. Also, herbicides and pesticides are used to remove competing vegetation and gnawing rodents. The chemicals, human waste, and garbage often end up in rivers after winter rains, the news release said. Irrigation systems remove water needed by fish from small streams, and soil compaction in the gardens lead to erosion. In 2007, more than 760,000 illegal marijuana plants were seized on California's Federal lands managed by the Sequoia National Forest, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and Bureau of Land Management, the release said.

http://www.recorderonline.com/news/sequoia_37302_article.html/forest_national.html

Three men arrested near site of marijuana garden in San Jose

Bay City News Service / 08/02/2008

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office has announced the eradication of a marijuana garden in an unincorporated area of the county and the arrests of three San Jose men on charges related to cultivation on July 25.....The eradication yielded about 5,300 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of about \$15.9 million.

http://www.mercurynews.com/crime/ci_10078688?nclick_check=1

Officers destroy marijuana plants

By Record Searchlight staff / August 6, 2008

More than 32,000 marijuana plants were destroyed Tuesday after they were discovered growing in the Platina area of western Shasta County.....Two different marijuana growing sites had been located in July.....A total of 32,718 plants were destroyed. Three Hispanic men were seen fleeing the Platina Road site, but no one was taken into custody. More than 200,000 marijuana plants have been destroyed this season.

<http://www.redding.com/news/2008/aug/06/officers-destroy-marijuana-plants/>

Marijuana sweep nets big payoff

BY BRETT WILKISON / August 6, 2008

Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies say they have seized more than 340,000 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$1.4 billion and arrested 36 suspects in a sweeping crackdown on marijuana cultivation on public land in eastern Tulare County over the last week.....Up to 80 percent of the marijuana grown in the United States is grown on public lands, much of it controlled by Mexican cartels, Walters said.....Last year, Tulare County spent \$350,000 and was forced to assign much of its gang task force to public lands drug policing during the summer, county officials said.

The joint operation, however, helped the county quickly equal its 2007 record-setting marijuana busts and dismantle some of the infrastructure — irrigation hoses, stream diversions, and tents and cabins — that growers erect.....

<http://www.visaliatimesdelta.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080806/NEWS01/808060314>

Mexican cartels running pot farms in U.S. national forest

From Dan Simon / "[American Morning](#)" Correspondent / Fri August 8, 2008

SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST, California (CNN) --Illegal immigrants connected to Mexico's drug cartels are growing hundreds of millions of dollars worth of marijuana in the heart of one of America's national treasures, authorities say. It's a booming business that, federal officials say, feeds Mexico's most violent drug traffickers.....Ten thousand marijuana plants, some 5 feet tall, dotted the mountainside's steep terrain amid thick brush, often near streams. This garden's street value is an estimated \$40 million, authorities said....."This is about serious criminal organizations," Walters said. "They're willing to kill anybody who gets in their way. They're taking money back to those who kill prosecutors, judges and law enforcement." Over the past eight days, a federal, state and county law enforcement initiative called Operation LOCCUST has eradicated 420,000 marijuana plants here worth more than \$1 billion on the street. By comparison, authorities eradicated 330,000 plants over the six-month growing season last month, said Lt. Mike Boudreaux of the Tulare County Sheriff's Department. Authorities have arrested 38 people and seized 29 automatic weapons, high-powered rifles and other guns, Boudreaux said. For years, Mexican drug cartels have used the remote [forest](#) to conduct and conceal their business. But the pot production has intensified because it has become harder and harder to smuggle marijuana across the U.S.-Mexico border, Walters said..... The goal is not just to eradicate the plants but to go after the organizations," Walters said. What's different this year from years past, officials say, is that they're working to destroy the entire infrastructure of the marijuana grown in this region, from the irrigation systems to capturing the growers to ripping up the plants. And they're trying to get at the heart of the cartels.Allen Ishida, a member of the Tulare County Board of Supervisors, said the illegal activity is alarming. "I want to state that the guys growing the marijuana are not the guys I went to college with," he said. "These are organized drug cartels out of Mexico." Boudreaux says authorities are furious that cartels are operating in a U.S. forest. "It's something that's troubling for many of us in law enforcement," he said. "You have illegal criminal activity in the mountain regions not only destroying the natural beauty of the landscape but as well as the potential for this product to reach the children of this community."

<http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/08/08/pot.eradication/>

Tons of Marijuana Hauled by Helicopter South of Palm Desert

By Nathan Baca / Aug 12, 2008

Tons of marijuana were taken away from local mountains for the second day in a row.....This was no small pot raid: 26,000 plants on day one and around that many on day two. It was spread over 6 different sites in the remoteness of the Santa Rosa Mountains near the community of Pinyon Pines. It takes a two hour off-road drive from

Highway 74 to the get to the sites. Marijuana busts this big lately have become common in these mountains.....Undercover Riverside County Sheriff's Deputies and National Guard troops teamed up for this bust two weeks in the making. It was just in time, the marijuana buds were getting close to harvest. Each one of these plants has a street value of around \$1,000. Most of them are grown by Mexican drug cartels. Deputies haven't found those growing the marijuana yet. "They're obtaining their water sources from the springs up there, up on the mountains. Another issue is contamination," said Valenzuela. The pesticides and toxic chemicals used to grow the marijuana plants were stopped before reaching the drinking water according to local water agencies.

<http://www.kesq.com/Global/story.asp?S=8830867&nav=9qrx>

8-Foot-Tall Marijuana Plants Found In Snelling

Friday, August 15, 2008 | 11:55 PM

Merced County, CA, USA (KFSN) -- North valley authorities broke up eight marijuana growing operations this morning, including some in an area where children often play. This is one truckload full of the eight foot tall plants deputies cut down this Friday morning.....It started out as assist to Fish and Game. They had a report of someone poaching in the area, so we used our air service to assist in searching for the poachers and that's when they found the marijuana grow." Thirteen deputies spent nearly seven hours uprooting and destroying all of the plants.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kfsn/story?section=news/local&id=6331013>

Federal raids net approximately 5,000 marijuana plants

By KAREN WILKINSON, The Eureka Reporter / Aug 15 2008

Nearly 5,000 marijuana plants were seized from two southern Humboldt County areas this week, in an operation dubbed "Green Acres" that again brought federal agents to the area. Drug Enforcement Agency agents, in concert with Humboldt County Sheriff's Office deputies, raided "multiple" parcels with outdoor marijuana grows.....Deputy Todd Fulton said that unfortunately, this county is "inundated with people who don't have the same moral standards and respect for life that the general public does." "There are people out there who will put a plant before your life," he said. "If you're in the woods, be careful where you're going."

<http://www.eurekareporter.com/article/080815-federal-raids-net-approximately-5000-marijuana-plants>

7 arrested in forest marijuana plantations

The Associated Press / 08/18/2008

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif.—Authorities arrested seven people and seized about \$20 million worth of marijuana in a series of raids on marijuana plantations in the San Bernardino National Forest, officials said Monday. The raids were conducted over the last two weeks and yielded more than 60,000 marijuana plants, the U.S. Forest Service said. More than 40,000 marijuana plants were removed from the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto mountains, another 5,000 were taken from a canyon northwest of Lake Arrowhead, and 15,000 plants were confiscated in a drainage area west of Big Bear Lake. The seven arrested face charges of cultivating more than 1,000 marijuana plants and

conspiracy to cultivate. Two of those arrested face additional firearms charges. The U.S. Forest Service did not release the names of the suspects. Agency spokesman John Miller said they face up to 10 years in federal prison if convicted.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10238523

Pot gardens destroyed

The Fresno Bee / 08/19/08

Fresno County sheriff's deputies took out several marijuana growing operations in the past five days, spokesman Chris Curtice said. Investigators from the Campaign Against Marijuana Production, the U.S. Forest Service and the California Department of Justice also took part in the eradications. The team destroyed 8,582 plants in the Blue Canyon area of eastern Fresno County, 4,965 plants from two sites, one near Tollhouse and the other near Ross Crossing in eastern Fresno County and 13,954 plants from an area near Highway 180 and Dunlap. No arrests were made.

<http://www.fresnobee.com/263/story/809221.html>

\$20 million in marijuana seized near Silverwood Lake

[BEATRIZ E. VALENZUELA Staff Writer](#) / August 19, 2008

SILVERWOOD LAKES — Investigators seized more than \$20.4 million worth of marijuana and arrested two Apple Valley men after discovering an outdoor pot farm in the San Bernardino National Forest, authorities announced on Tuesday. Officials seized 5,843 plants in Grass Valley east of Silverwood Lake on Aug. 13 valued at \$20,450,500, according to authorities.....The two men were living at a campsite at the cultivation location. They were wearing camouflage clothing in an effort to hide from authorities, according to officials. Investigators also located two firearms at the campsite — a .22 caliber rifle and a 8mm rifle, according to authorities.....

http://www.vvdailynews.com/news/silverwood_8113_article.html/lake_lakes.html

Marijuana Eradicated Near Marble Mountain

BJ Hansen / MML News Reporter / August 22, 2008

Sonora, Ca -- 4,407 marijuana plants were eradicated in the Marble Mountain area of the Stanislaus National Forest today. The eradication effort was carried out by the Tuolumne Narcotics Team, California Department of Justice Camp Team and the U.S. Forest Service. "The plants were located during an aerial observation mission," says Deputy Paul Tualla with the Sheriff's Office.....There have been 93,899 marijuana plants eradicated this summer by the Tuolumne Narcotics Team.

<http://www.mymotherlode.com/News/article/kvml/1219446435>

Alameda finds record number of pot plants

[Sophia Kazmi / Valley Times](#) 08/24/2008

It's a record year for pot in Alameda County. Sheriff's deputies have eradicated more marijuana plants grown in the county's rural areas than ever before. The Sheriff's Office has destroyed more than 23,000 plants so far this year — that's more than twice the annual average, and the marijuana growing season still has another month to go. At the current rate, Sgt. Shawn Peterson, who heads the sheriff's special investigations unit, said

the number could rise to more than 30,000 plants by the end of September. In addition to an alarming increase in plants, investigators say the growers are increasingly brazen, planting increasingly closer to areas where people live and recreate.....Contra Costa deputies have focused on grows found inside houses, Lee said, adding that in the past 12 months, deputies have seized more than 15,000 marijuana plants from indoor operations. Peterson estimated that each plant can produce about \$2,500 worth of marijuana.....Many of those who guard the gardens are armed, such as one man who sheriff's deputies believe was guarding a 7,000-plant grow near the Santa Clara County border. The armed man was arrested at the grow site Aug. 12, Peterson said. "Growers have always been armed — some of them have had no qualms in picking up a gun," Peterson said. Peterson said the marijuana growers can also create environmental problems. Creeks have been dammed up, water from other sources has been diverted to the gardens, and fertilizer and pesticides find their way into the waterways. "This is a major environmental problem that is rearing its head now," Peterson said.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/trivalleyherald/localnews/ci_10286101

Two arrested on marijuana cultivation and sale

Ukiah Daily Journal Staff / 08/27/2008 / The Daily Journal

In the second bust of its kind this week, Mendocino County sheriff's deputies arrested Redwood Valley residents.....A search of the property revealed 149 growing marijuana plants and 13 pounds of processed marijuana. Some of the plants were 14 feet tall, according to sheriff's reports.....On Friday, sheriff's deputies arrested Jackie and Katherine Wake on similar charges after sheriff's deputies seized 420 marijuana plants from two pieces of property on Ellen Lynn Road.

http://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/ci_10313798

Another marijuana field found in Riverside County

The Press-Enterprise / By JOHN ASBURY / Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Riverside County sheriff's deputies busted another growing operation, recovering more than \$150 million worth of pot growing in the hills around Sage, south of Hemet.....As investigators began to search the area Monday, a variety of the marijuana plants were found, nearly ready for harvest. Police did find one gun at the site, but no one was found near the camp, Sedgwick said. No arrests have been made. A sheriff's narcotics team continued to clear the brush today, where it will be taken to be examined as evidence and eventually buried and destroyed. The total value of the crop is unclear, but preliminary estimates by sheriff's officials put the haul at \$150 million if sold.....This marks another of several sweeps made in the eastern hillsides this summer, nearing the marijuana harvest season from the end of August to October. Sheriff's officials last made busts south east of Hemet along Batista Canyon Road and conducted a joint sweep the U.S. Forest Service in seizing a combined \$210 million worth of pot during separate raids in Twin Pines and Pinyon Pines near Idyllwild. Last week, Forest Service and San Bernardino County narcotics officers seized another \$35 million of the plants and arrested seven people in the San Bernardino National Forest, east of Big Bear. http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_webpot.3318fdb.html

Carmel Valley pot farm uprooted, destroyed

Associated Press / 08/27/2008

CARMEL VALLEY — Some 6,500 marijuana plants have been uprooted and destroyed in a Carmel Valley pot garden on U.S. Forest Service land. Members of Monterey County's Marijuana Eradication Team, the sheriff's narcotics unit and the California Department of Justice destroyed the crop on Monday. Sheriff's Sgt. Daniel Karamitis says there was no one at the garden when authorities arrived. Last month, another marijuana garden was discovered in the same remote area and 32,000 plants were destroyed

http://www.mercurynews.com/breakingnews/ci_10315669?nclick_check=1

Marijuana garden found in hills south of Hemet

The Associated Press / 08/27/2008

HEMET, Calif.—A sheriff's helicopter patrol guided Riverside deputies to a \$150 million marijuana garden in remote hills south of Hemet..... the marijuana was in various stages of growth and a substantial amount of the pot was ready for distribution. There are no arrests. Last week, the U.S. Forest Service and San Bernardino County narcotics officers seized an estimated \$35 million in marijuana plants and arrested seven people east of the Big Bear Lake.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10315297

Six marijuana gardens eradicated in Los Padres National Forest

By Times Staff

Six marijuana gardens in Santa Barbara County containing 23,262 marijuana plants with a total estimated street value of about \$58.2 million were eradicated during a weeklong operation this month, reported the county sheriff's department. In addition, 312 pounds of processed marijuana were found in the gardens. The processed marijuana has an estimated street value of about \$1.1 million, said sheriff's officials.....

<http://www.santamariatimes.com/articles/2008/08/28/news/breaking/breaking14.txt>

Deputies returning to marijuana grow hear gun shots

Staff and Wire Reports • August 28, 2008

Riverside County Sheriff's Department officials who returned to eradicate a marijuana grow south of Hemet were met with gunfire today.....The deputies heard gunshots "from a close proximity" while they were working at the isolated camp off Red Mountain Road, she said. No one was injured and officers did not return fire. Officials are still working to determine who is responsible for a large marijuana grow with an estimated street value of \$40 million that was discovered by deputies aboard a sheriff's department helicopter yesterday.....No suspects were located, but a loaded shotgun and a large amount of bagged marijuana was recovered, Sedgwick said.

<http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/>

[NEWS08/80828003/1006/NEWS01](http://www.mydesert.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080828/NEWS08/80828003/1006/NEWS01)

Marijuana farm found near Onyx Summit

Friday, August 29, 2008

The Campaign Against Marijuana Planting combined law enforcement team discovered a campsite with more than a tent and camp stove. The site at Deadman's Canyon yielded 3,208 mature, budding marijuana plants and two arrests.....This is the second major marijuana farm discovered in as many weeks in the San Bernardino National Forest. Several acres of pot plants were found off Highway 18 near Glory Ridge on Aug. 14.
http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/articles/2008/08/29/news/latest_news/tpotfarm.txt

Another Marijuana Eradication in Tuolumne County...This Time in Lily Creek Area above Strawberry

Posted by: Kim_Hamilton on 08/29/2008

Strawberry, CA: Tuolumne Narcotics Team, the California Department of Justice CAMP Team and the U.S. Forest Service eradicated 3,383 plants from the Lily Creek area above Strawberry.....Evidence at the scene indicates this was a Mexican Drug Trafficking Organization Grow. No suspects or firearms were located.....A special area of concern for this marijuana grow was the severe resource damage done to the area. The suspects cut down over 200 trees in an approximately 3 acre plot. The trees were cut in order for the marijuana plants to receive more sunlight and have a bigger growing area. Total number of plants eradicated in Tuolumne County this year is 104,780 (one hundred four thousand, seven hundred and eighty).

http://thepinetree.net/index.php?module=announce&ANN_user_op=view&ANN_id=8264

Inter-agency marijuana raid nets 15,113 plants

September 04, 2008 / Jill Brackett

Law enforcement agents chop marijuana plants with machetes in the hottest part of the day near Central Camp. The garden yielded 1,170 budding plants. Another in a series of multiagency marijuana raids in Madera County late last week brought this year's plant eradication up to 116,802, an unprecedented season total for the county. By comparison, last year's total was 54,683. Sheriff John Anderson, a prominent voice against marijuana growth in the area, continues to call upon the local community.....Agents, forming two teams, were lowered by helicopter or hiked into areas of dense forest to gardens where 15,113 plants were cut down with machetes and other hand tools and hauled off in bundles by helicopter.....According to Mayer, the number of gardens is increasing at such a rapid rate that an estimated 1,000 square acres are essentially bulldozed in California per year. "Every year it gets worse," he said, frustrated. He has also seen an increase in new variations of the plant that grow at higher elevations. "I get sick of it. I don't mind when the winter comes" (which marks the end of the season). Despite the exhaustion, teams of committed agents continue to deal a heavy blow to growers with estimated \$45 million worth of marijuana eradicated in just two days last week.

<http://www.sierrastar.com/103/story/46367.html>

Sheriff's deputies report pot busts

SHEEP RANCH - The Calaveras County Sheriff's Department on Thursday announced that this week it took down two unrelated marijuana growing operations and arrested three people on marijuana cultivation charges. The Department reported that it served a search warrant Tuesday on the 8300 block of Sheep Ranch Road in Sheep Ranch and discovered 301 marijuana plants growing on the property. During the search, property owner Jack Strange, 42, of Galt arrived at the property. Strange was arrested on suspicion of marijuana possession and cultivation and booked into the Calaveras County Jail. His bail was set at \$2.5 million. Later that same day, deputies seized 1,500 marijuana plants in a remote area off Camp Nine Road in Vallecito. Deputies conducting surveillance of the site observed two people bringing supplies there.....Their bail was set at \$50,000 each, but the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service also placed a hold on both men in the event they are released. Both men are Mexican citizens, Calaveras County sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Dave Seawell said.

http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080905/A_NEWS02/809050318/-1/A_NEWS

More than 10,000 marijuana plants seized in remote areas of San Luis Obispo County

Reported by: [Colin Seiler](#) / Tuesday, September 9, 2008

San Luis Obispo County sheriff's deputies bring in more than 10,000 marijuana plants after aerial raids. The first grow was found on Running deer Ranch near Lake Nacimiento Monday. Deputies seized more than 9,000 plants there. Narcotics Task Force members discovered another grow with more than 1,600 plants Tuesday morning in the Los Padres National Forest off of East Pozo Road. No suspects were found at either site.

<http://www.ksby.com/Global/story.asp?S=8980947>

Sheriff's Department seizes marijuana grow

BY: Josh Petray -- September 12, 2008

The San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department's Narcotics Unit detectives netted more than 10,000 marijuana plants in three separate illegal growing areas in North County. Detectives recently conducted several aerial raids on two suspected marijuana grow fields earlier this week.....The bust is part of an ongoing effort of the sheriff's department to crack down on growers during the harvest season. "We try our best to eradicate as much of the crop as we possibly can," said SLO Sheriff's spokesman Rob Bryn. The investigation into the grow sites is ongoing.

http://www.atascaderonews.com/V2_news_articles.php?heading=0&page=72&story_id=1196

Six arrested during marijuana garden bust west of Paskenta

Thursday, Sep 11 2008, 7:31 pm / [By Julie R. Johnson/Staff Writer](#)

During a raid on an illegal marijuana garden bust located in the Mendocino National Forest Slate Creek drainage, 12 miles west of Paskenta, law enforcement arrested six men on suspicion of cultivation of marijuana and possession of marijuana for sale. The raid took place on Wednesday as personnel from the Tehama and Glenn sheriff's departments, United States Forest Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game, entered

the site, said the Tehama County Sheriff's Department. While eradicating the garden of 4,231 marijuana plants, the suspects were apprehended and taken into custody. Found with the suspects were assault rifles and handguns. Along with the marijuana plants, law enforcement seized 500 pounds of processed marijuana.....As the marijuana growing season continues law enforcement cautions the public to be extra cautious when using or traveling on public and national forest lands.....

http://www.corning-observer.com/news/marijuana_3595_article.html/garden_arrested.html

Police discover marijuana farm

By Amanda Baumfeld, Staff Writer / 09/10/2008

AZUSA - Police investigating a robbery discovered a marijuana farm growing in a warehouse Wednesday morning, officials said. Around 9 a.m. police responded to 235 Irwindale Ave. to check reports that the gate was cut open and bolts on the door appeared to have been melted with a torch, said Azusa Police Department Lt. Frank Chavez. But when officers entered the 9,000-square-foot building to look for suspects, they found an elaborate set-up of hydroponic marijuana being grown, Chavez said. "We didn't find any suspects but what we did find was a relatively sophisticated marijuana grow operation.....Inside, about 300 pot plants in different stages of growth were discovered in three rooms. The various rooms provide an appropriate environment of lighting and water for the plants to grow, Chavez said. Police did not know if the operation was gang related. "There is no way to tell right now," Chavez said. "One thing is certain its a sophisticated setup; this is not just a few plants in someone's backyard." Police do not yet know the street value of the drugs as the investigation is ongoing. Chavez did say if the operation was kept up it could have produced hundreds of thousands of dollars. Workers at an area business were surprised to hear about the bust.

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_10432468

80 Percent of Pot Crop Invades National Parks, Public Land

JUDY KEEN / USA TODAY / Friday, September 12, 2008

CHICAGO -- Mexican drug cartels are stepping up marijuana cultivation in U.S. national parks and on other public land, endangering visitors and damaging the environment, law enforcement and [National Park](#) Service officials say. John Walters, director of the [Office](#) of National Drug Control Policy, says 75%-80% of marijuana grown outdoors is on state or federal land. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) says there were more than 4.8million marijuana-plant seizures at outdoor sites in 2006.....The number of marijuana plants confiscated on public land in California grew from 40% to 75% of total seizures between 2001-2007, says the state's Campaign Against Marijuana Planting task force. Hunting and cleaning up after pot growers diverts resources at a time when parks face chronic funding shortfalls, says Laine Hendricks of the non-profit National Parks Conservation Association.....A site with 16,742 marijuana plants was raided last month in North Cascades National Park in Washington state. It was operated by a Mexican organization, says park Superintendent Chip Jenkins. People living at the site downed trees, dammed creeks and left 1,000 pounds of trash, he says. Thousands of marijuana plants were seized last month in Utah's Dixie National Forest. Ignacio Rodriguez was

charged with drug and [immigration](#) offenses, says Michael Root, a DEA special agent. The problem is worst on the West Coast, but law-enforcement pressure on growers, Root says, "has pushed them out this way." *Last month, officials burned thousands of marijuana plants seized in Cook County, Ill., forest preserves. Drug organizations use the Chicago area as a base for distributing marijuana across the Midwest, says DEA special agent Joanna Zoltay. *In July and August, officials seized more than 340,000 plants, some from Sequoia National Forest and Kings Canyon and Sequoia national parks. Ranger Alexandra Picavet says Mexican cartels are responsible for many sites in those parks. They leave behind car batteries and propane tanks and poach deer and birds, she says. Visitors to wilderness areas are at risk, says Shasta County, Calif., Sheriff Tom Bosenko. "We have found marijuana within a half-mile of public beaches and very short distances from campgrounds and highways," he says. "It's a shame."

[http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/80-Percent-of-Pot-Crop-Invades-National-Parks--Public-Land/1\\$43190](http://www.officer.com/web/online/Top-News-Stories/80-Percent-of-Pot-Crop-Invades-National-Parks--Public-Land/1$43190)

Forest marijuana bust nets 1,000 pounds

Stacia Glenn, Staff Writer / 09/15/2008

A pot farm spread across a mountainside was eradicated Monday, marking it as the 33rd such farm discovered this year in the San Bernardino National Forest. That is a record amount for the forest, especially considering that marijuana growing season doesn't end until late October.....After serving two search warrants, authorities arrested three illegal immigrants from Mexico on suspicion of drug charges.....More than 9,000 plants, with an estimated street value of nearly \$28 million, were seized. Officials estimated there was at least 1,000 pounds of marijuana, but they were still plucking the plants out in the late afternoon. Most of the crop had already been harvested, officials said.....In addition to busting 33 pot farms in the forest this year, the U.S. Forest Service and Sheriff's Department have arrested 13 people for cultivating them. About 200,000 marijuana plants have been discovered on pot farms in the San Bernardino National Forest this year, officials said.....

http://www.redlandsdailyfacts.com/sanbernardinocounty/ci_10473775

Authorities destroy \$64 million in marijuana off Carmel Valley Road

Staff report • September 16, 2008

Monterey County authorities are looking for suspects connected to a large marijuana field found off Carmel Valley Road. County sheriff's deputies and federal officers from the Department of Justice and the Forest Service destroyed a field of 16,000 marijuana plants with an estimated street value of \$64 million.....

<http://www.thecalifornian.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080916/NEWS01/80916028>

Marijuana eradication efforts net 100,000 plants

Yreka, Calif.: Siskiyou County Sheriff Rick Riggins said that approximately 100,000 marijuana plants were discovered at various garden locations in western Siskiyou County last week.....Riggins stated that this time of year is the harvesting point for marijuana, which is generally planted soon after the final frost. He added that harvest time is also

one of the most dangerous times of the year because of the close temporal proximity to the actual sale of the finished product. The value of the seized plants on the market would have been about \$49 million, according to Riggins, who explained that each plant is assumed to yield about one pound of finished product, drawing a street value of about \$5,000.....According to Riggins, the importance of stopping these operations is that they generally fuel the production and dissemination of other drugs, including methamphetamine. Riggins stressed the importance of hunter awareness of the dangers surrounding marijuana operations, advising any hunters going out for the buck season starting next week to call the Sheriff's Office if they find anything suspicious in the forest.....

<http://www.mtshastanews.com/news/x1366184587/Marijuana-eradication-efforts-net-100-000-plants>

Raid nets 4,000 marijuana plants, two arrests in El Dorado County

From David Richie / September 18, 2008

More than 4,000 marijuana plants were hauled out of an illegal marijuana garden Wednesday morning.....Two Mexican nationals, armed with loaded guns, were arrested, Chovanec said.....Pot gardens also have been raided this summer in the Latrobe area and in the Eldorado National Forest near Ice House Reservoir. Federal agents led a strike force earlier this week that attacked indoor growing operations in El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park and Placerville.

<http://www.sacbee.com/static/weblogs/crime/archives/015494.html>

24 arrested in marijuana raids in Mendocino County

The Associated Press / 09/20/2008

COVELO, Calif.—State and federal authorities have arrested 24 people in a three-day raid of marijuana gardens in Mendocino County.....drug agents seized nearly 4,500 pot plants, processed marijuana and about a dozen firearms during the sweep near the town of Covelo.....Officials say the nine people arrested on the final day of the three-day sweep were connected with four gardens ranging from 65 to more than 700 plants.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_10518059

Temecula couple known for medical-marijuana activism arrested, charged with possession, cultivation

By SARAH BURGE / The Press-Enterprise September 22, 2008

TEMECULA - Police seized dozens of marijuana plants and about five pounds of dried marijuana Friday from the Temecula home of a medical user well known in Riverside County for his activism on the issue.....Collins said the operation was not in compliance with new guidelines on medical marijuana issued last month by the state attorney general's office. The Victors were not collecting sales tax, he said, and they did not have a nonprofit business license. Collins also suggested Victor was making a profit from marijuana sales. "I can't see how they could not have," Collins said, explaining that police seized about 70 marijuana plants, five pounds of dried marijuana and a small amount of concentrated marijuana hash, along with surveillance cameras and other

equipment. "I don't know where they're coming from in terms of that number of patients and that amount of marijuana.".....

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_E_pot23.1d86d57.html

http://www.sbsun.com/sanbernardino/ci_10534023

Police bust pot growers and dealers

By GEOFF JOHNSON -DN Staff Writer / 09/12/2008

MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST It took the Tehama County Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the Glenn County Sheriff's Department and the California Department of Fish and Game to put a stop to a 4,231-plant marijuana operation Wednesday morning near Slate Creek, more than an hour before sunrise. On scene officers found about 500 pounds of processed marijuana along with assault rifles and handguns, according to a press release from TCSD Lt. David Greer.....Suspected dealers arrested during an unrelated traffic stop led to the arrest of two Red Bluff men and the discovery of 43 pounds of marijuana Wednesday night.....officers then conducted a search of a nearby residence....There officers found another 11 pounds of processed marijuana.

http://www.redbluffdailynews.com/rds_home/ci_10446522?IADID=Search-www.redbluffdailynews.com-www.redbluffdailynews.com

Deep-forest marijuana farms can damage ecosystem after raids, officials say

By JESSICA LOGAN / The Press-Enterprise / September 28, 2008

Officials have dismantled more than 30 marijuana farms growing in the San Bernardino National Forest this year, but scientists say the effects on the forest's delicate ecosystem could last for years. Scientists who study forests say it can take years for an area formerly inhabited by a marijuana farm to return to its natural state, if it ever will.....Special agents are on track this year to bust more illegal marijuana growing operations in California than they did last year, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman John Heil. He said 1.2 million marijuana plants were pulled from U.S. Forest Service land in 2006 in California, 1.7 million in 2007 and 1.3 million so far this year.....In the San Bernardino National Forest, more than 200,000 marijuana plants were removed from 33 sites from August to mid-September, said John Miller, forest spokesman.....Growers use chemicals to kill animals because they might damage the marijuana, Stokes said.....The San Bernardino National Forest is home to more than 150 protected animal and plant species, according to the Forest Service's Web site. The land might never recover if fertilizers and other chemicals are added, Scott said. "It's not something that will cleanse itself or heal itself quickly....."

http://www.pe.com/localnews/inland/stories/PE_News_Local_S_forest29.2140c5e.html

Search warrants net six arrests, 3,100 pounds of marijuana

By GREG WELTER - Staff Writer / 09/30/2008

Six men were arrested Monday night in various locations around Butte County for allegedly taking part in an illegal marijuana cultivation cooperative.....Butte County Sheriff's Special Enforcement unit confiscated more than 3,100 pounds of unprocessed pot. Officials estimated the street value at \$400,000.....*All six men allegedly know each*

other and are reportedly part of a cooperative claiming to grow pot for medicinal use under Proposition 215. Officials said the amount of pot taken in Monday's action far exceeds that allowed for medicinal purposes, and added that multiple copies of doctor recommendations were found at some of the search-warrant locations. Some locations reportedly had evidence of indoor grows that had already been harvested or removed as well as having outdoor plantations of marijuana.....

http://www.chicoer.com/news/oroville/ci_10603774

Record-Breaking Marijuana Bust in Shasta

Reported by: Britt Carlson / Last Update: 9/11 9:10 am

It's a record-breaking year for marijuana eradication efforts in Shasta County.....Commander of the operation Lt. Jeff Foster says, "We brought in just about 52,000 plants in one day. That put our total over the year over 383, 000, which is another record for Shasta." On Tuesday, Shasta County Sheriff's Deputies confiscated over \$200-million worth of marijuana from three plantations near Oak Run and Shingletown. Wednesday the netted n another 30,000 plants. Foster says, "This year we're going to break over 400,000 plants, that's good we're getting it out of these areas, but it's pretty poor that they're coming to our backyard to grow it in our parks." *According to the Shasta County Sheriff's Office, these illegal gardens also spur a growth in potential violence. Several reports have come in from hikers and hunters who've had encounters with these drug trafficking organizations, but so far no one's been injured.* ".....

http://www.khsltv.com/content/topstories/story.aspx?content_id=319ACCF9-DB69-4F2A-99F6-C03CD2957360&gsa=true

Seizures

San Francisco: Wrong shipment-Wrong Place

In May 2008, Napa Special Investigations Bureau assisted the Saint Helena Police Department with a marijuana investigation. The investigation started when a food service supplier inadvertently dropped a box off with his scheduled delivery. *Inside the box were 532.5 grams of marijuana and \$25,020.00 in cash. The investigation later led to the seizure of another 2,703 grams of marijuana, \$15,542.00 in cash, a handgun and five tables of MDMA and a vehicle. The suspect contended "that the marijuana was medicinal but declined to say where he got it or whom it was for.* He also said the seized money represented medical marijuana monies."

The California Narcotic Officer Fall 08 Vol24, No3

Marijuana-filled trash bags discovered behind business

By Amanda Baumfeld, Staff Writer / 08/14/2008

BALDWIN PARK - A man found seven garbage bags filled with marijuana stems and roots in the trash bin outside of his termite business Thursday morning.....Police also found packaging, bases that held the plants and boxes from indoor lighting. "It appears to be from an indoor cultivator," said Lt. Kevin Gauthier. "It was all scraps; nothing of any

real value." Gauthier was unsure how many roots were found but said it appeared to be a low-grade operation.....

http://www.whittierdailynews.com/news/ci_10209008

During this period, four more medical studies were discussed which indicate the negative medical impacts of consuming marijuana. When you consider the concept of using marijuana as a medicine, should the side effects be worse than the condition you are seeking to cure?

Pittsburgh researchers link schizophrenia to dysfunction activated by marijuana

July 9, 2008 / Writer: Debra Smit

The latest finding by [University of Pittsburgh](#) researchers shows that heavy marijuana use activates alterations in a molecular brain pathway that may contribute to the cognitive symptoms of schizophrenia.....The study, funded in part by the [National Institute of Health](#), comes at a time when researchers are revisiting the controversial and damaging effects of marijuana on the brain due to the more potent pot circulating today. While medicinal uses of marijuana have been cited—for glaucoma or pain relief—the dangers of the drug on the brain outweigh the benefits, many researchers say....."Just because there are potential benefits for individuals with certain illnesses doesn't mean if you're an adolescent you can use it without potential adverse effects.....

<http://www.popcitymedia.com/timnews/marijuana0709.aspx>

Articles of Health: The Use of Marijuana Can Lead To Mental Illness

By admin + August 2nd, 2008

Depression, teens and marijuana are a dangerous mix that can lead to dependency, mental illness or suicidal thoughts, according to a White House report being released Friday. A teen who has been depressed at some point in the past year is more than twice as likely to have used marijuana as teens who have not reported being depressed.....For example, using marijuana increases the risk of developing mental disorders by 40 percent, the report said. And teens who smoke pot at least once a month over a yearlong period are three times more likely to have suicidal thoughts than nonusers, it said.....According to Dr. Robert O. Young, a research scientist at the pH Miracle Center, "marijuana and the major chemical contained in marijuana, THC, is highly acidic and may damage body cells including brain cells.....

<http://www.all-healthtalk.com/articles-of-health-the-use-of-marijuana-can-lead-to-mental-illness-2.html>

Marijuana impairs thinking in MS patients

August 3, 2008

Patients with multiple sclerosis who smoke marijuana show impaired thinking compared with patients who do not smoke marijuana, according to findings in the journal

Neurology. "The use of cannabis as a therapeutic agent in multiple sclerosis is controversial," Drs. Omar Ghaffar and Anthony Feinstein, from the University of Toronto, write. Unequivocal evidence that the drug improves symptoms is lacking....In addition, on a number of intellectual tests, cannabis users were slower than non-users.Disturbances in thinking or "cognition," such as "slowness of thought and memory disturbance, affect about one half of multiple sclerosis patients as it is," he explained. "Patients also have high rates of psychological difficulties such as major depression, which at the extreme end of the spectrum may lead to suicidality," he added. "The finding that regular use of street cannabis by multiple sclerosis patients is associated with yet further cognitive and psychiatric problems is therefore of particular concern."
<http://healthyfuturelife.wordpress.com/2008/08/03/marijuana-impairs-thinking-in-ms-patients/>

Parents and pot

08-04-2008 | DailyHerald.Com | Sarah Baldauf

The recent flurry of findings on marijuana's health risks may have baby boomers wondering, "How can that be?" Chances of getting into legal trouble aside, is it possible their kids might be in danger of heart or mental health issues when they themselves turned out just fine? Researchers have learned plenty about pot in recent years, though there's much that is still not known and plenty that's hotly debated. Parents may just want to listen up: The most recent National Survey on Drug Use and Health found that among marijuana users over age 12, almost 35 percent used marijuana 20 or more days in the past month.So, says Nora Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, still-developing brains, which are "more plastic, more sensitive to being modified," are exposed to higher doses of THC, the psychoactive ingredient in cannabis. Teens' tendency toward experimentation is in part because of the fact that the frontal cortex, which helps drive judgment, isn't fully developed until the early 20s. And peer pressure to smoke doesn't help. The greater a person's exposure to THC, the greater the hit to brain metabolism, a reflection of brain function. Volkow used brain imaging to detect marijuana-related changes in activity in adults. She saw declines more severe in daily users than in people who smoked marijuana once or twice a month and more pronounced in occasional users than in nonusers.A big unknown, but an exciting new area of research, says Volkow, is how the interplay between genes and a person's environment - like doing drugs during childhood - affects a person's risk of abusing drugs or developing a psychiatric disorder. A small, preliminary study that she finds "really fascinating" found that people with a certain gene variant who did marijuana as adolescents were several times more likely to develop schizophrenia.Still, some research suggests that regular use is associated with chronic cough, bronchitis, and emphysema, and a greater risk of cancer of the head and neck. Heart risks may increase with pot, too. A recent study showed higher levels of a protein that raises triglyceride levels, which are linked to cardiovascular disease, in the blood of chronic smokers. Pot also increases blood pressure and heart rate and causes a reduction in the blood's ability to carry oxygen. One study found that risk of heart attack increased fourfold in the hour after toking up. And that seemingly benign plant of yesteryear can, in fact, be addictive: Fifteen percent of people

entering a drug-abuse program reported marijuana as their primary drug of abuse in a 2002 survey.....

<http://www.marijuana.com/drug-war-headline-news/104576-usa-parents-pot.html>

Outside of California, we see many of the same issues that have caused us concern with the advocacy of the use of marijuana for medical purposes. Other states and Canada have seen many of the same collateral issues arise.

Marijuana bust sets record

Valley plantation proves extent of problem in Ontario, Canada: police
Graham Hughes, The Ottawa Citizen / September 23, 2008

Ontario Provincial Police say they shut down the largest marijuana grow operation in Canadian history with the discovery last week of plants worth as much as \$40 million at a farm near Pembroke.....This is the largest marijuana grow operation seen by the OPP since the former Barrie brewery plant operation in 2003," said Supt. Frank Elbers, director of the force's drug enforcement section.....In the past four years, they have uncovered 2,486 marijuana grow-ops, indoor and outdoor, and have destroyed 997,622 plants. According to police, the vast majority of marijuana produced in Ontario is destined for the U.S. in exchange for cocaine and cash. This has resulted in an increase in cocaine use, especially crack cocaine, and led to seizures in excess of 355 kilograms in the past four years.....Yesterday, the OPP urged people who come across any kind of marijuana grow operation to be cautious. Sgt. Rae said the best course of action is to stay away from the plants and call police.

<http://www.canada.com/ottawacitizen/news/city/story.html?id=ab7edb53-389d-4baf-82dd-5a8503a3e44d>

Pot Crop Infiltrates Vineyards

By BOBBY WHITE / September 15, 2008; Page A4

Antidrug officials in the Northwest have discovered that marijuana growers are cultivating and concealing illegal crops on a large scale among grapevines in Washington state. Since July 8, law-enforcement agencies in Washington's Yakima Valley have seized from the region's vineyards more than 200,000 marijuana plants, with an estimated street value of more than \$165 million.....This year, law-enforcement agencies have raided 13 vineyard operations and arrested 33 suspects.....Vineyards are the latest battlefield in a long-running war between law enforcement and drug-trafficking organizations in the Pacific Northwest.....Authorities have found a few such stashes in other Western states. The DEA and local police seized about 10,000 marijuana plants from a Selma, Calif., vineyard in June, for example.....About 300,000 marijuana plants were seized in Washington in 2007, according to a DEA spokeswoman. Lt. Wiley and Sgt. Beghtol say they expect the number to swell to nearly 500,000 this year, with nearly half that coming from vineyards.....

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB122145024251835201.html?mod=googlenews_wsj

Pot smoking linked to crash

Prosecutors say Highway Patrol sergeant drove after smoking marijuana

By ANTONIO PLANAS / REVIEW-JOURNAL

.....Prosecutors accuse Lattin of smoking marijuana hours before a three-vehicle crash that killed a woman. An off-duty Nevada Highway Patrol sergeant who caused a three-car crash with one fatality smoked marijuana a maximum of four hours before the accident, prosecutors said Thursday.....Prosecutors said the 20-year Highway Patrol veteran, who supervised a unit that investigated fatal car wrecks, had enough marijuana in his system to be impaired during the accident.....Watkins also defended Jessica Williams, who in a March 2000 crash struck and killed six teenagers collecting trash in the median of Interstate 15. Watkins said both Lattin and Williams had similar amounts of marijuana in their systems during their accidents. A jury determined that Williams was not impaired at the time of her crash, but convicted her of driving with prohibited substances in her blood. She is serving a prison sentence of 18 to 48 years. The Nevada Supreme Court upheld her conviction.....Tests showed Lattin had 5.6 nanograms per milliliter of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, in his system before it was metabolized, and 26 nanograms per milliliter of THC in his blood after it was metabolized.....

<http://www.lvrj.com/news/25610594.html>

Canada's spreading cannabis crop

Tuesday, 22 July 2008

As we walk into John's basement, the smell is so overwhelming it almost knocks me off my feet. In front of me stand 120 marijuana plants whose thick bushy leaves cover the strong stems.....very two to three months, John harvests some 8lbs (3.6kg) of his crop, worth about \$20,000. So even if he didn't work at other jobs, that nets him a tidy salary (untaxed of course) of about \$80,000 a year.

'BC Bud': Inspector Brian Cantera of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Vancouver believes that John's small grow-op is one of 20,000 to be found in residential houses around the province.....Inspector Cantera walked me around a cavernous warehouse somewhere east of Vancouver where the RCMP lock up goods confiscated from people involved in the drugs trade. The most spectacular items are the cars, speedboats and even helicopters which the traffickers use to send the marijuana down to its biggest market across the 49th parallel in the US. These busts net goods worth millions of dollars but it still isn't enough to dent the extraordinary profits of the drug runners.....Many Canadians believe that the widespread use of marijuana is having a devastating impact on young people in particular.....

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/7519178.stm>

Ont. restaurateur may take medical marijuana feud to court

Jordana Huber , Canwest News Service / July 28, 2008

TORONTO - A Burlington Ont. restaurant owner facing a human rights complaint for refusing to allow a patron with a medical marijuana license to smoke outside his

establishment said he plans to take the dispute to court. Ted Kindos, owner of Gator Ted's Tap and Grill, said he will seek a declaration from the Ontario Superior Court that the provincial laws - prohibiting marijuana possession or consumption in licensed establishments - trump former patron Steve Gibson's right to light up....The federal government's Marijuana Medical Access Regulations do not specify where marijuana can be consumed for medical purposes. But anyone who has an exemption is advised in an information package not to consume controlled substances in a public place and not to expose others to any effects related to the inhalation of secondary smoke, a spokesman for Health Canada said. Two other Ontario men federally licensed to use marijuana for medical purposes have also filed human rights complaints claiming that Liquor License Act provisions prohibiting controlled substances where alcohol is served are discriminatory and should be amended. Young said the issue of "where" has been divisive in the medical marijuana community. "There are lots of patients that want to assert their right to smoke in public places and others think it is actually undercutting respectability of this growing movement because it looks like medical marijuana users are trying to acquire greater rights than ordinary citizens," Young said.

<http://www.canada.com/topics/news/national/story.html?id=b5372636-5ffb-48f2-b6d3-e240bdc758ac>

OREGON'S HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (HIDTA) PROGRAM RELEASES ANNUAL DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT AND COUNTER-DRUG STRATEGY

Marijuana abuse, production and trafficking are also widespread and increasing in scale in Oregon, today's report noted. Large indoor and outdoor marijuana growing operations have been discovered on both public and private forest lands and Bureau of Land Management areas. The discovered plants often number in the tens of thousands and the harvested product is distributed both locally and nationally....*A growing threat, previously found in California and spreading into Oregon, concerns sophisticated indoor marijuana grows located in upscale suburban neighborhoods and operated by Asian organized crime. The Oregon Medical Marijuana Law, which allows for small quantities of marijuana to be grown for use by physician-approved patients for pain suppression, has been consistently violated and has become a major barrier to effective marijuana cultivation enforcement and prosecution efforts.*

http://www.co.washington.or.us/cgi/sheriff/docs/or_hidta2.pdf

Soros behind effort in Mass. to decriminalize marijuana

Associated Press / September 7, 2008

BOSTON - A measure that would decriminalize minor marijuana-possession cases is on the ballot in Massachusetts largely because of one man: billionaire financier and liberal activist [George Soros](#). Of the \$429,000 collected last year by the group advancing the measure, \$400,000 came from Soros, who has championed similar efforts in several states and spent \$24 million to fight [President Bush](#)'s 2004 re-election bid. The Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy needed about \$315,000 of that just to collect the more than 100,000 signatures that secured a spot on the ballot, according to campaign finance reports reviewed by the Associated Press. *"All of us owe George Soros a great*

deal of gratitude," said Keith Stroup, founder of NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. If the measure is approved in November, Massachusetts would become the 13th state to lift or ease criminal penalties on marijuana possession. The proposal would make having an ounce or less of the drug a civil offense punishable by a \$100 fine.....Critics say marijuana decriminalization sends the wrong message to young people - that using drugs carries few consequences. Not only are there health risks associated with marijuana, they say, but users often end up moving on to more dangerous illegal drugs. Middlesex District Attorney Gerard Leone said the marijuana being sold on the street these days is more potent than that sold three decades ago. "Decriminalizing marijuana is a slippery slope and sends the wrong message," he said. "Compounding this is the fact that users of marijuana are 10 times more likely to be injured, or injure others, in automobile crashes." Leone said marijuana possession is already treated less stringently in the courts than other drugs. The question has been criticized by others in law enforcement and drug education groups like DARE-Massachusetts - but according to the secretary of state's office, opponents haven't created a group to raise money to fight the question.

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/nation/bal-te.pot07sep07,0,2851367.story>

Officer shot on site of alleged grow op

The Canadian Press / September 22, 2008

Montreal -- More than 450 marijuana plants were found on the property where a Quebec provincial police officer was shot during a drug raid Saturday. Police said the plants were found with drug production material in a building annexed to the property in the town of St-Lin-Laurentides. Police had a search warrant for a house that was the site of an alleged pot-growing operation. A shot was fired when they entered the home and one officer was hit in the abdomen. He was taken to hospital and was expected to survive. A 30-year-old suspect from Repentigny faces possible attempted-murder and drug-related charges.

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20080922.NATS22-4/TPStory/National>