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Special Intelligence Report

Domestic Marijuana Trafficking 1984

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE

SPECIAL REPORT

DOMESTIC MARIJUANA TRAFFICKING: 1984

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ACQUISITIONS

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I. INTRODUCTION

This report is designed to provide an assessment and overview of marijuana cultivation, trafficking, financing and eradication within the United States. The 28 states represented in this report are perceived to be those states responsible for the bulk of the marijuana produced within the United States.

The information contained in this report was collected by four intelligence analysts through personal interviews with Federal, state and local law enforcement officials within each of the 28 states examined. The officials were requested to provide estimates, assessments and/or opinions concerning the intelligence gathered relative to domestic marijuana activities in their respective states.

The overview on page 2 is based on a summary of all states visited and depicts the illicit marijuana situation for the entire nation. The attached summaries contain a state-by-state synopsis of the domestic marijuana situation. Such topics as cultivation, trafficking, detection, marketing and assets are addressed. In addition, the involvement of traditional organized crime in domestic marijuana trafficking is addressed.

II. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

According to local law enforcement officials, the most prevalent form of marijuana produced in the United States is commercial grade marijuana, followed by sinsemilla and Indian hemp which is generally referred to as "ditchweed". Commercial grade and sinsemilla are primarily grown on private land. An increase in the trend of utilizing public land (U.S. National Parks and Forests, Bureau of Land Management and Indian Reservations) has been noted due to greater enforcement and eradication efforts on private land. DEA sponsored eradication efforts resulted in the sightings of 21,075 plots, including 2,553 plots on U.S. Forest Service land. Producing marijuana on public land makes it difficult for enforcement officials to identify the grower because such techniques as tracing the proprietorship of the property cannot be used. Cannabis growers prefer to cultivate in national forests because much of the acreage is nearly inaccessible and seldom patrolled. An increase in the cultivation of marijuana on another person's property, without consent or knowledge, has also been noted.

The majority of the property on which domestic marijuana is grown is located in rural areas where law enforcement resources are diffused, concealment is provided by thick forests and lush vegetation, and protection is offered by the almost inaccessible mountain slopes. Because of the success of aerial eradication efforts, marijuana growers have continued the trend of

cultivating their cannabis crops on an increasing number of smaller plots (i.e., 100 or fewer plants). State officials have estimated that 80-95 percent of the marijuana plots are of this dimension. Growers are also dispersing their plants amid rows of corn and trees and along riverbeds and creeks. Cannabis is grown in spots cleared by logging crews and in spots where trees have been deliberately burned off to leave a small field hidden among tall trees surrounding it.

In addition to the use of smaller marijuana plots, growers are moving their operations indoors into greenhouses, barns, underground caves or caverns, chicken coops and other structures where their efforts are more difficult to detect and growing operations can be conducted year round regardless of weather conditions. These techniques enable growers not only to avoid detection, but also to increase the number of harvests.

Most marijuana growers finance their operations by cash from previous marijuana sales or by borrowing money from another trafficker. Collectively, these small-scale growers produce a large portion of the nation's marijuana. Some individuals are also financing operations by supplying lights, seedlings, fertilizer and expertise in return for a percentage of the profit.

Although most cannabis growing operations are financed by self-motivated entrepreneurs, various states have reported other methods of financing. These methods include:

a. investors from both within and outside the state who provide the money and/or land to cultivate marijuana, and

b. growers who pool their funds and form co-ops in order to share the cost, labor and profits.

Marijuana plots are generally planted from March to May and harvested during the months of August to October, depending on the climate. Almost all of this marijuana is processed on site, as opposed to processing facilities located away from the growing area.

Domestic marijuana is packaged in a similar manner throughout the country. Commercial grade marijuana is usually packaged for transport to distribution sites in large garbage bags or bricks that are compressed using a trash compactor. Sinsemilla is usually packaged loosely in zip-lock plastic bags, small plastic baggies, or mason fruit jars to avoid damage to the buds.

All types of individuals are involved in domestic marijuana cultivation, ranging from seasoned drug traffickers to white collar business executives. Farmers, who generally are economically hard pressed, are cultivating marijuana in addition

to corn or wheat to meet financial obligations and satisfy debts. Persons who are unemployed or senior citizens who can't live off retirement benefits are selling marijuana as an alternative source of income. Successful business executives are financing marijuana cultivation as another form of investment. Domestic marijuana cultivation has become an integral part of the economy in economically depressed areas of southeastern Oklahoma and northern California.

No instances of traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) involvement in domestic marijuana productions were uncovered. The reason for this most often given by state law enforcement officials was that domestic marijuana cultivation is too widely dispersed among various elements of society and regions throughout the country. Efforts to organize these elements would prove futile and too costly.

Although no single organization has been uncovered that controls domestic marijuana production nationally, state law enforcement officials agree that small, local, highly developed distribution structures exist in various regions throughout the United States. All law enforcement officials in the 28 states visited reported interstate distribution of marijuana products in their respective states.

There was general agreement among the officials in the 28 states that it is difficult to induce marijuana growers or traffickers to provide information about their distribution networks.

Marijuana trafficking is simply not perceived to be a serious offense as compared to the trafficking of other narcotics; consequently, judges are not handing down severe enough sentences to deter future violators. According to state law enforcement officials, such an attitude within the courts has made it virtually impossible to induce traffickers to talk about their operations by offering plea-bargaining arrangements.

Another deterrent to developing information on trafficking organizations is that most domestic marijuana cases are a result of search and destroy missions. In most instances, the growers are not present when a plot is eradicated.

Because marijuana cases are not treated as a number one priority in most states, resources to stake out a field and wait for the growers to arrive are not available.

Various states have reported that many of their marijuana traffickers are distributing their products through the use of United Parcel Service, Greyhound Bus Parcel Delivery and the U.S. Postal Service express mail service.

All states visited reported that marijuana growers are protecting their plots through the use of such methods as steel jaw traps concealed in the underbrush, guard dogs, and hired guns. It was

generally agreed that these methods were designed by growers to avoid loss of their crop through theft and violence by other poachers. Recent events in various states indicate that these methods are also designed to harm law enforcement officials and innocent citizens.

III. CULTIVATION

Law enforcement officials nationwide agree that the United States is on the leading edge of a horticultural revolution as it applies to illicit marijuana cultivation. Illicit marijuana growers are continually experimenting with techniques of producing more potent strains of marijuana in order to reap enormous profits from minuscule plots of land and reduce chances of detection.

This section will describe the cultivation of two types of marijuana: a commercial grade product and a sinsemilla product. The cultivation of a third type, Indian hemp (wild marijuana), will also be addressed.

A. Commercial Grade Cultivation

Commercial grade marijuana is produced from those cannabis plants that have been cultivated in a growing area where the male and female plants are allowed to grow at the same location and the

female plants have been fertilized. Generally, the whole commercial plant is harvested, stripped of its stems and marketed.

At maturity the plants are usually four to seven feet tall, but may grow up to 15 feet. The coarse, somewhat grooved stems can vary in diameter from about one-half to two inches and appear four sided. Normally, the plants are branched, but under crowded growing conditions they will usually be single stemmed with foliage primarily at the top. The upper leaves are smaller, have fewer leaflets and are arranged alternately on the stems. The compound leaves are made up of three to eleven leaflets, almost always an odd number, usually seven. The center leaflet is the largest and usually varies from two to six inches long. The leaflets are dark green on top and lighter on the bottom. The edge of the leaflets are saw-toothed and the surfaces are slightly sticky. The THC content of commercial grade marijuana averages 5.0 percent.

B. Sinsemilla

The trend toward the development of higher potency domestic marijuana (e.g., sinsemilla) has continued. The evolution of high potency sinsemilla plants has been promoted by marijuana farmers including horticultural specialists. Twenty-six percent of the 1983 U.S. marijuana crop was estimated to be sinsemilla.

Sinsemilla, which in Spanish means "without seed," is produced from unfertilized female cannabis plants in a growing area where all male cannabis plants are removed prior to pollination. Female sinsemilla plants allowed to grow in this fashion produce more flowers and resin in an attempt to attract male pollen. It is the resin and flowers which contain THC - the chemical in marijuana that produces the user's high. The THC content of sinsemilla averages 7.0 percent. The most valuable portion of the sinsemilla plant is its flowering buds, and, in many cases, only the buds are harvested and marketed.

In addition to increasing potency, sinsemilla growers strive to improve such factors as color, taste, smell, texture and stickiness since these factors determine the overall quality of the sinsemilla and how it will be judged by users. Growers select high potency seeds to produce sinsemilla; in some cases these seeds are obtained from Afghanistan, Thailand and Mexico, and range in price from \$1 to \$5 each.

One high grade strain of sinsemilla grown in the United States is the Cannabis indica which is imported from Afghanistan. The Afghani strain is often chosen because it grows into a short, squatty plant that produces 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of buds per plant which are high in THC content and matures within 4 to 5 months. Some growers will produce their own seeds for two generations and then purchase new seeds from their sources; this is done to prevent any genetic defects from developing in following

generations. To produce their own seeds, growers will select the largest and healthiest female plant in the garden. A Q-tip will be impregnated with pollen and placed on the largest buds of the plant. The Q-tip and bud are then covered with a plastic bag to protect the rest of the plants from the pollen. The buds will then produce seeds for the next growing season.

C. Indian Hemp

Indian hemp, which grows wild in many areas of the country, especially the Midwest, has a very low potency and very little marketable value. Indian hemp is usually found in uncultivated areas such as fields, ditch banks, fence rows and railroad tracks. The Indian hemp plant grows in many types of soil and reproduces itself each year by its own seed from the previous year's crop. These seeds can lay dormant for seven years. The physical characteristics of this plant are similar to commercial grade cannabis.

Because Indian hemp is not cultivated from potent seeds, its THC content is quite low compared to other types of marijuana and averages around 0.14 percent. Because of this low potency, marijuana traffickers mix Indian hemp with Colombian marijuana and pass it off as high grade Colombian.

D. Cultivation Techniques

Cloning - More knowledgeable growers in southern Oregon have perfected a process they call "cloning," whereby growers cultivate hybrid marijuana and select superior plants. This process is done by taking a cutting from the mother plants (cutting is done under water to prevent air from hitting exposed ends). The cutting is wrapped in paper towels and soaked in Rootone or a similar root stimulant product. Once the cutting develops roots, they are planted in pots. Halide lighting, where available, helps to accelerate the growing process.

The mother plant is allowed to grow and the above process is repeated. This process allows the grower to produce hundreds of plants from a few select plants. This also alleviates the time-consuming process of waiting for the seeds to germinate.

Hydroponics - Optimal conditions for growing marijuana can be created in a hydroponic greenhouse. Hydroponics, the science of growing plants in soil-free, mineral rich solutions, is commonly used for indoor cultivation of tomatoes and cucumbers. The first evidence of hydroponically produced marijuana was obtained in 1981 during a raid on a Novato, California warehouse. Police stated that the 200 plants under cultivation were "lush, bushy and potent" and "appeared to be growing faster than normal." The

hydroponically produced marijuana in this setup contained "at least twice as much THC as the best Colombian grass" according to DEA sources.

Initially, marijuana seedlings are taken to the hydroponic greenhouse and transferred into four inch pipes containing a liquid, hydroponic solution. This solution, along with proper lighting, provides an environment in which mature eight to ten foot sinsemilla plants can be grown in four to six weeks.

Seizures of hydroponic marijuana growing operations highlight this efficient and sophisticated method of production. In August, 1983, a hydroponic marijuana laboratory was seized in Cleveland, Ohio. The laboratory was housed on three floors of a commercial foundry building in an industrial area of the city. The facility consisted of three sinsemilla growing levels with a constant flowing nutrient system piped throughout from a 600 gallon nutrient tank. One floor was used as a starting area and equipped with fluorescent lighting. The remaining two levels were for maturing plants and contained about 50 high intensity lights. Seized at this facility were: two floors of marijuana totaling over 400 plants, dried marijuana from drying rooms, several trash bags of manicured marijuana and \$50,000 worth of equipment.

Current intelligence indicates that hydroponic marijuana laboratories with up to 1,000 square feet of space may exist. Reportedly, it takes only one square foot of space to grow a mature plant. A facility with only 400 square feet of hydroponic growing area can, under optimal conditions, cultivate cannabis on a year round basis, generating four to five million dollars a year. Experts in hydroponics reportedly are being recruited as consultants by other clandestine marijuana growers unfamiliar with hydroponic growing methods, which may result in increased use of hydroponic laboratories.

IV. TRANSPORTATION OF DOMESTIC MARIJUANA TO DISTRIBUTION SITES

The vast majority of domestic marijuana producers believe that stockpiling of marketable marijuana is a liability due to the greater potential for detection by law enforcement authorities and theft by marijuana thieves. Domestic marijuana is transported from fields to distribution sites by growers, people hired by growers, buyers, and/or marijuana trafficking organizations. The most commonly used mode of transportation is land vehicle (i.e., passenger vehicles, trucks, pickup trucks and rental vehicles). Pickup trucks with canopies and rented trailers are prevalent in Oregon. In a few cases, small boats have been used to transport marijuana to distribution sites in Oregon, Idaho and Montana. Alabama authorities have reported the use of commercial airlines to transport luggage containing marijuana.

Local and state law enforcement officials nationwide estimated that between 60 and 80 percent of all domestic marijuana is consumed within the state where it is cultivated.

V. MARKETING

Most large scale marijuana producers sell their product to wholesale buyers while most small scale producers attempt to develop their own distribution systems. Most law enforcement agencies surveyed perceived that growers know well in advance as to how and where their crop will be distributed. It was generally agreed that casual visitors to any state would find it difficult to purchase marijuana directly from the grower due to the "clannish" atmosphere prevailing in most rural communities. When no prior arrangements have been made between growers and buyer, the growers normally contact prospective buyers through contacts in the drug culture, social encounters and word of mouth.

VI. USE OF U.S. MAIL

Much marijuana grown in Hawaii is transported to the mainland principally through the U.S. Postal Service.

Commencing on October 17, 1983, a joint operation involving DEA, the U.S. Postal Service, Hawaii County Police Department and U.S. Attorney's Office was inaugurated and named Operation Pele.

This task force operation was designed to identify individuals using the mail to ship marijuana. Any packages fitting a particular profile would be screened by a drug detection dog and any positive reaction would become one of the bases necessary for the obtaining of a Federal Search Warrant. If drugs were uncovered in the package, investigators would document the shipper's activities to obtain a search warrant for the shipper's residence to seize records, drugs and appropriate assets.

A total of 405 Federal Search Warrants were obtained through the utilization of drug detection dogs. Eighty-four percent of the packages opened pursuant to warrants resulted in the seizure of approximately 292 kilograms of marijuana. The average parcel was approximately three pounds and the quality of the marijuana seized would command a price of approximately \$5,000 a kilogram on the mainland.

Operation Pele has generated a great deal of publicity in Hawaii resulting in radio announcers telling listeners not to utilize the mail to ship their marijuana to the mainland. One individual also printed a leaflet which was distributed on the big island warning marijuana producers to discontinue using the mail because of Operation Pele.

The success of Operation Pele is further noted in a price decline for marijuana from \$500 to \$300 a pound. The price drop is attributable to more marijuana being offered for sale in Hawaii inasmuch as producers are afraid to attempt to ship their product to the mainland.

DHL Worldwide Courier Express is the primary commercial shipper in Hawaii as Federal Express and United Parcel Service do not service the islands. The increased monitoring of the U.S. mail under Operation Pele has caused some traffickers to approach DHL to ship their packages. This utilization of DHL is not expected to materially increase, as DHL employees are cooperating with law enforcement efforts and inspecting packages that meet selected package profiles. Marijuana is also shipped by practically every other means used to ship any item from Hawaii, including commercial parcel services, commercial air and vessel carriers.

Marijuana growers in the continental U.S. have also reportedly used the U.S. Mail to deliver their product. The United Parcel Service (UPS) was designated in Idaho, Oregon, Alabama, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona as the most popular method for mailing marijuana. Authorities in New Mexico seized an 18 pound UPS package destined for Chicago, while officials in Arizona seized a 19 pound package destined for Illinois. Authorities in Oklahoma reported that small amounts of marijuana are shipped through UPS from California.

Oregon law enforcement officials report that many marijuana traffickers in that state are distributing their products through both UPS and the Greyhound Bus Parcel Delivery Service.

Authorities in Idaho and Texas have also reported the use of the Greyhound service. Idaho law enforcement officials too have indicated that express mail services are utilized to market marijuana.

Arizona law enforcement authorities revealed that traffickers will mail packages to themselves or associates in other states. If the packages do not arrive within a certain time frame, the traffickers assume that the package was intercepted by law enforcement authorities and refuse to pick up the package when it arrives at the intended destination.

VII. COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

A. U.S. Forest Service

In 1984, the U.S. Forest Service cooperated very closely with DEA and other agencies to minimize duplication of effort and to achieve maximum results from the \$2.5 million committed by them to state and local eradication efforts on National Forest lands. In those areas where a large percentage of the growing area was on U.S. Forest Service lands, an effort was made to apply increased resource support from the Forest Service, as opposed to those areas with greater private lands involved, where DEA

provided a greater share of the support. Additionally, a number of Forest Service personnel attended DEA's Marijuana Detection and Eradication Schools and orientation seminars, better preparing them for their field duties.

B. Department of Interior

In 1984, several bureaus within the Department of the Interior became more involved in the detection and eradication of cannabis cultivation on Federal public lands. Both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service were especially active in cooperating with DEA and other agencies on lands under their purview. The BLM also closely cooperated with DEA through their participation in the Federal Inter-Agency Cannabis Oversight Group and their continuing efforts and cooperation with other law enforcement agencies in the eradication program.

C. National Guard

The National Guard Bureau has recognized the significant contribution they can provide to the domestic eradication effort in the areas of intelligence production and sharing. During 1983 and 1984, definitive guidance was provided to all Guard units clarifying the terms and conditions under which they could properly support the eradication campaign.

Some of the resources available from the National Guard for use in the Domestic Marijuana Eradication/Suppression Program include:

1. Transportation:
 - Drug/law enforcement personnel
 - Equipment
 - Confiscated contraband

2. Loan of Equipment
 - Airplanes
 - Helicopters
 - Off-road vehicles, etc.

3. Maintenance of loaned equipment

4. Training of civilian authorities to use (DOD) loaned equipment

5. Furnishing of pertinent intelligence data and information collected during the normal course of military operations such as the location of marijuana plots sighted during training flights.

A number of states have extended Letters of Agreement for intelligence sharing and support for the eradication program. In 1982, Hawaii, Georgia, Florida, Arkansas and Oklahoma were

assisted by their state National Guard. Guard units in Hawaii and California have directly supported the program through the commitment of helicopters and other resources. Ten additional states in 1983 signed support agreements.

During June and July 1983, the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs conducted two training sessions with the National Guard on marijuana overflights.

Since May 1984, the Texas National Guard and Department of Public Safety (DPS) have been working together in an attempt to control illicit marijuana cultivation throughout the state. As part of the agreement, National Guard pilots conduct aerial surveillance during their routine missions, reporting suspicious sightings to the DPS narcotics division. Pilots have been trained in the techniques of spotting cultivated fields, greenhouses and other possible activities related to illicit production. Guard Units in San Antonio, Dallas, Houston and Austin are participating in the program.

D. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector
General

During 1984, the Department of Agriculture, Office of the Inspector General, cooperated with DEA in initiating a program to have the field personnel of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, with representatives in over 3,000 rural

counties in the United States, report suspected cannabis cultivation, detected during their normal duties, to the appropriate law enforcement agency. In 1984, this program was tested in three states and is anticipated to be implemented nationwide in 1985.

E. Federal Inter-Agency Cannabis Oversight Group

This year DEA joined with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Department of the Interior, and Department of Agriculture to form the Federal Inter-Agency Cannabis Oversight Group which acts to review and coordinate major actions by the member agencies relating to domestic cannabis eradication to minimize waste and duplication of effort.

VIII. RESOURCES UTILIZED BY STATE AGENCIES TO DETECT ILLICIT CULTIVATION

In an effort to further assist local and state narcotics officials in detecting illicit marijuana cultivation, various measures ranging from public awareness campaigns to training in the spotting of marijuana fields have been undertaken by the states.

The states of Missouri, Mississippi, Idaho, Washington, Oklahoma and Florida have established toll-free telephone numbers to receive information from the general public involving the

sighting of illicit cultivation. Oregon narcotics officials report that more information is being received from the public, including tips from rival growers who seek revenge on other growers.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service officials in Oregon are posting signs in public areas that request hunters and hikers to call a toll-free state police number if they observe signs of illegal marijuana growth on public land. BLM in Portland, Oregon has also prepared slide shows for its employees that warn of the dangers of stumbling upon marijuana patches.

Some states have enlisted the aid of farmers in reporting illicit marijuana cultivation. The Indiana State Police and the Indiana State Farm Bureau (ISFB) embarked on a program for farmers to locate and report on marijuana growing on their properties prior to harvest by drug dealers.

The ISFB membership consists of 250,000 persons located in every county of the state.

A large field seizure (1894 plants) in Washington County, Colorado resulted from information supplied by the farming community. Two area farmers informed the local sheriff's office that a 160 acre corn circle was purchased for a substantial amount over the market value. The owner paid to have the corn

crop planted and failed to maintain the crop in the normal fashion. This information led to aerial surveillance and the subsequent seizure of the marijuana crop which had been interspersed with the corn stalks.

Various states have utilized other methods to assist in the detection of marijuana. In addition to enlisting the aid of farmers, state narcotics enforcers in Pennsylvania have enlisted the aid of 4H clubs to help report unusual activity.

Idaho has embarked on a campaign to reeducate law enforcement officers and citizens on the potency of sinsemilla and current information about domestic marijuana. The state also offers rewards to citizens for reporting marijuana growers to the state police.

In Alabama and Georgia, marijuana growers use property owned by out-of-state businesses to cultivate marijuana. State enforcement agents reported that paper company businesses own acres of land on which pine trees are planted for paper. Alabama state enforcement officials have trained the pilots for the paper companies on how to spot marijuana during flights over their own land.

Texas law enforcement officials initiated a public awareness campaign by providing citizens with information concerning major indicators of illegal marijuana growing. Some of the indicators

include: individuals with no experience or knowledge about ranching or farming buying that type of land with large sums of money (cash) and indicating no visible means of support, and individuals buying land that could be utilized for farming or ranching and not utilizing it for that purpose.

IX. PROTECTION OF CROPS

Associated with the cultivation of domestic marijuana is the propensity of growers to employ various methods of deterrence to protect their crops from eradication or theft.

One method utilized by marijuana growers to deter eradication efforts is the deployment of booby-traps in the vicinity of their plots or on long trails leading to these areas. Types of booby-traps or protection measures encountered by law enforcement officials and private citizens include:

- o Camouflaged pits with sharpened sticks (punji sticks) planted in the around similar to those used by the Vietcong.
- o Shotgun devices or grenades triggered by almost invisible trip wires.
- o Branches filled with barbed fishhooks at eye level.

- o Land mines
- o Rattlesnakes
- o Guard dogs
- o Steel jaw traps concealed in the underbrush and
- o Firearms or hired guns

Booby-traps and other protective measures do not discriminate as to their victims and present a danger to all segments of society. According to a survey conducted by the California Attorney General's office, eighty (80) percent of cannabis growers are armed during the growing season and nearly all carry guns at harvest time.

Citizens who happen upon cultivation sites are often threatened by growers while assaults among growers and citizens alike are increasing. In eight northern California counties this year, four people have been killed in marijuana related incidents. In Mendocino County alone, the local

District Attorney is prosecuting three homicides and investigating a case in which a young man's leg had to be amputated after being hit by shotgun blasts in both knees.

During October 1984, three Oregon deer hunters stumbled on a marijuana field on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property in southern Oregon, approximately three miles north of the California border. All three hunters were assaulted by shotgun fire. Two of the three were shot and left for dead. The third one was physically and mentally abused.

Some states have reported the use of hired, professional guns by marijuana growers. In addition to California where professional guns have been hired over the past few years, state officials in Texas have reported the use of hired armed guards. One large field north of Austin, Texas was guarded by machine gun toting members of the Bandido Motorcycle gang. State officials in Oklahoma have also reported on the use of cycle gang members to guard cannabis fields during the harvest season.

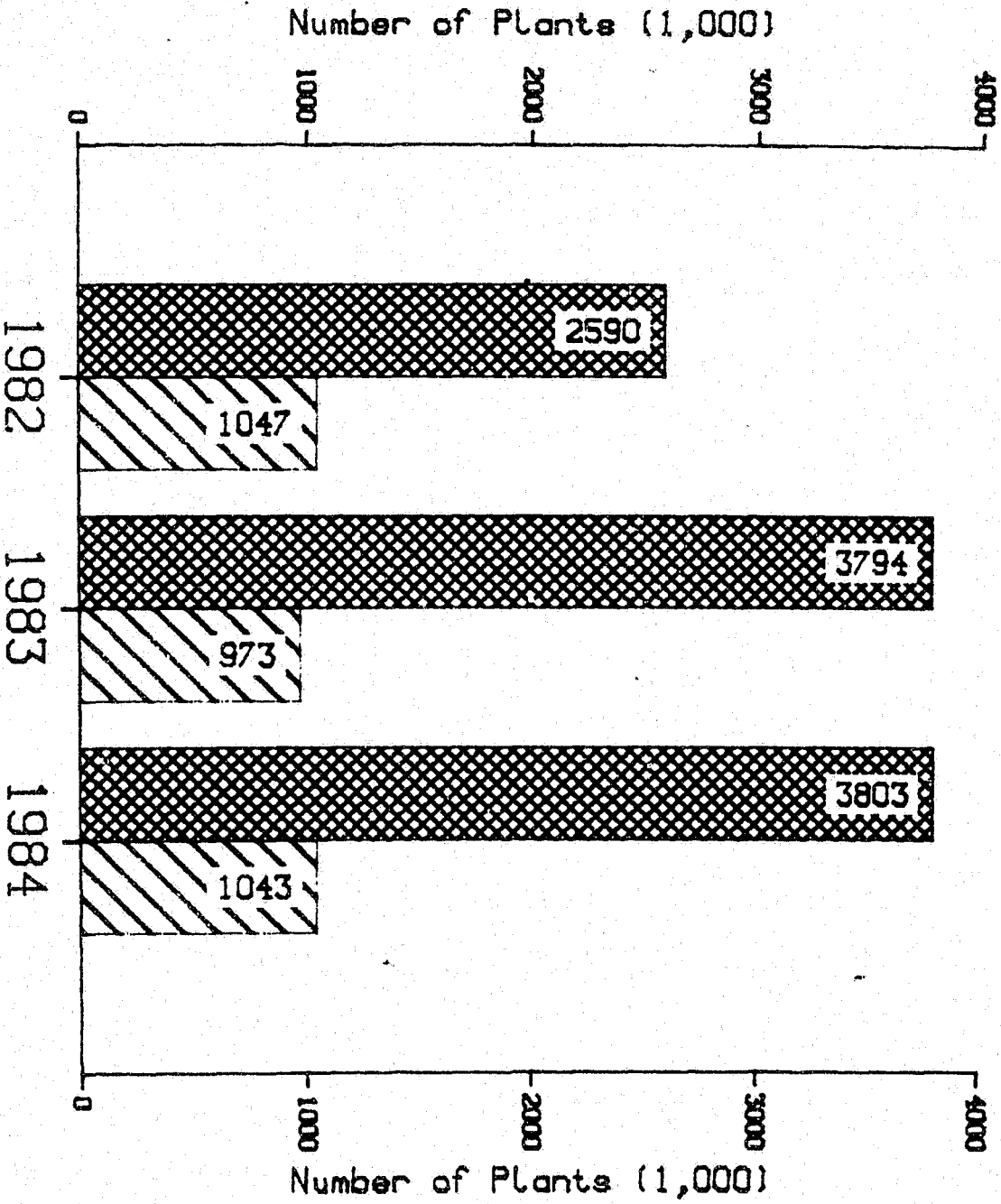
These incidents of violence can be anticipated to grow in proportion to increased eradication efforts, attempted theft of crops by rival growers, and by accidental encounters with growers by the general public.

X. ERADICATION STATISTICS*

The 1984 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program was

*Information contained in this section was derived from the 1984 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Final Report by the Cannabis Investigations Section.

Figure 1
Marijuana Plants Eradicated in the United States
Calendar Years 1983 - 1984



Legend
 [Cross-hatched box] TOTAL PLANTS
 [Diagonally striped box] SANSINIUM PLANTS

very successful as evidenced by an increase in the number of plants eradicated during 1984 compared to 1983 (see Figure 1). Eradication efforts resulted in the sightings of 21,075 plots in the United States. Of the 21,075 plots sighted, 19,199 were eradicated, resulting in a 91 percent eradication rate. The eradication rate in 1983 was 80 percent. This increase is attributed to an increase in eradication efforts (manpower/financial) as well as an increase in public awareness and public participation in the overall drug abuse prevention program.

Over nine (9) million of the plants reported destroyed nationwide were of the low-potency, fibre-type cannabis which grows wild in many states. The Indiana State Police, in conjunction with the Indiana Farm Bureau, instituted an intensive two month campaign designed to eradicate wildgrowing "ditch-weed" or "horseweed", as it is known locally. Over four (4) million plants were destroyed in this effort in the state of Indiana. The Minnesota Department of Agronomy destroyed nearly four (4) million fibre-type plants, while the state of Oklahoma eradicated over 600,000 of these plants.

The major marijuana growing states in 1984 according to eradication statistics for commercial type marijuana and sinsemilla included: Hawaii, Indiana, Oklahoma, Tennessee, California and

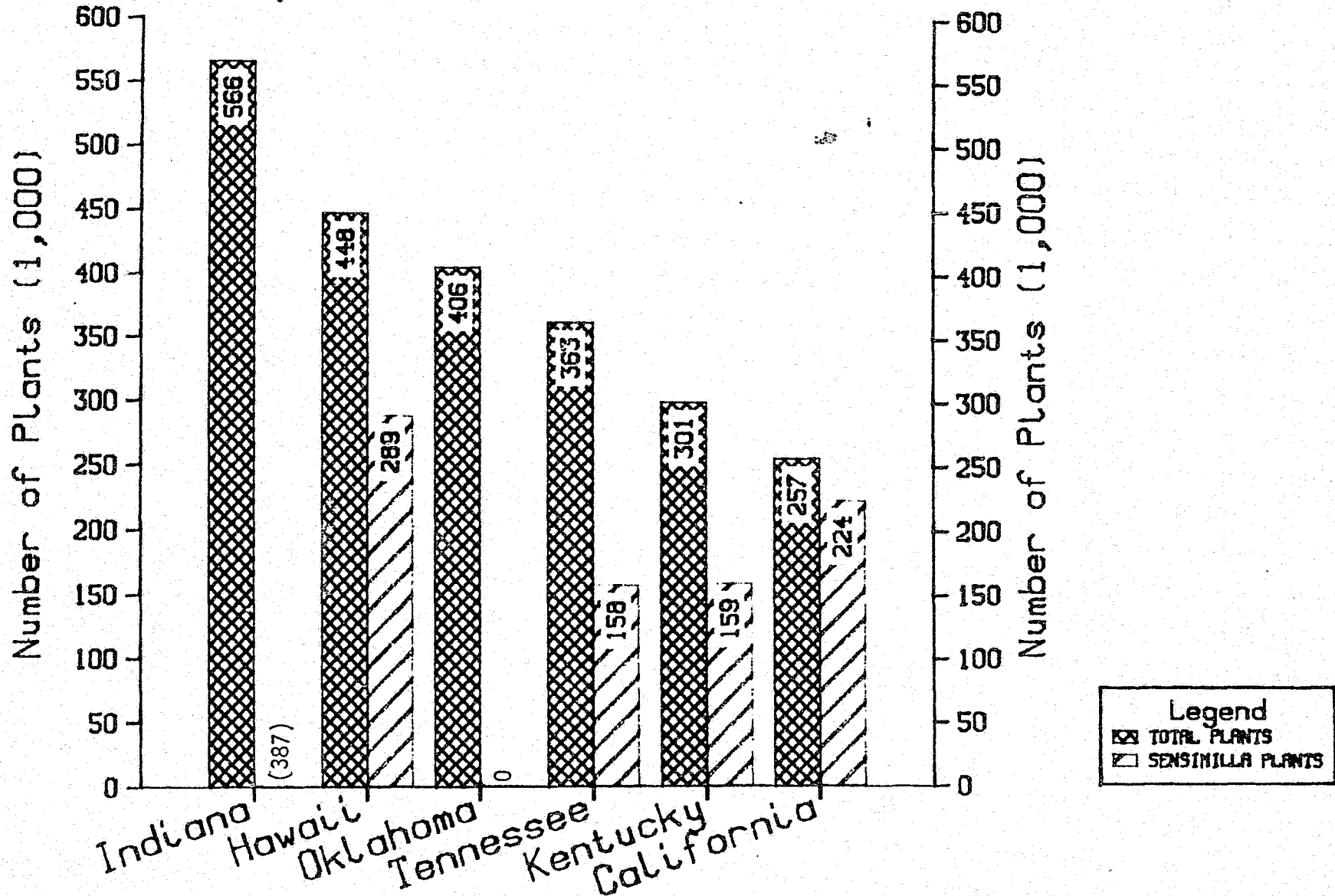
Kentucky (see Figure 2). The major marijuana cultivation states in 1983 were Hawaii, Oklahoma, Tennessee, California, Georgia and Kansas.

Of the cultivated plants eradicated in 1984, 27 percent were identified as sinsemilla, compared to 26 percent identified as sinsemilla the previous year. The production of sinsemilla, with its normally high THC content, is significant since cultivation of this plant requires a greater degree of sophistication relative to cultivation techniques.

The trend toward cultivating an increasing number of smaller plots was again noted during 1984. The median number of plants per plot declined to 128 in 1984, as opposed to 177 plants per plot reported for 1983. Eighteen (18) states reported less than 100 plants per plot during 1984. This shift to smaller dispersed plots is viewed as an attempt to deter aerial detection and eradication. Of the major cultivation states identified in Figure 2, Hawaii had the smallest average number of plants per plot (i.e., 64 plants) in 1984.

Eradication activities also resulted in the arrest of 4,941 individuals and the seizure of 1,424 weapons. This represents a 14 percent increase in arrests and a 45 percent increase in weapons seized compared to 1983.

Figure 2
Marijuana Plants Eradicated in the U.S.
Calendar Year 1984



Indoor growing operations accounted for an increased number of sightings and destructions in 22 states in 1984. Standard greenhouses, as well as converted residences, barns, basements, and attics were encountered. The northwestern United States reported a greater number of indoor growing operations. Even the southern states from Virginia to Florida reported indoor cultivation being utilized in efforts to evade aerial detection. In 1984, 649 greenhouse/indoor operations were reported seized.

XI. INDOOR GROWING OPERATIONS

Indoor growing operations accounted for an increased number of sightings and destructions in 22 states during 1984. Standard greenhouses, as well as converted residences, barns, basements, attics and chicken houses were encountered. The northwestern United States reported the greatest number of indoor growing operations. Over 80 percent of marijuana plants eradicated in the state of Washington were from indoor facilities.

Approximately 186 greenhouses were reported to be operational in this state in 1984.

The state of Oregon reported 133 greenhouses to be operational while California and Hawaii reported 62 and 54, respectively.

Intelligence from DEA's Cheyenne, Wyoming Resident Office indicated that greenhouses would become the main mode of production, due to the short growing season in the state. Thirty-five (35) greenhouses were detected in this state during the past year.

It should be noted that southern states from Virginia (8) to Florida (2) reported greenhouse cultivation being utilized in efforts to avoid aerial detection. Ten (10) greenhouses were seized in Alabama. Information from state and local law enforcement authorities revealed that marijuana growers are utilizing chicken houses in Alabama and Mississippi to grow marijuana. Some of these chicken houses were as big as football fields. Intelligence revealed that chicken houses were utilized because these structures are not unusual like greenhouses. These structures have been around for 25-30 years and it is estimated that over one (1) million chicken houses exist in the state of Alabama.

Indoor growing facilities seized during the past year varied in size and sophistication. One small greenhouse seized in San Diego, California contained 16 marijuana plants and was located in the rear yard of a residence. The greenhouse which was approximately 8' x 8' was sided with an opaque plastic sheeting. The roof of the greenhouse was covered with clear plastic siding.

Two large indoor growing facilities were seized during the summer of 1984 in the states of Missouri and Florida. The building in Barry County, Missouri consisted of several rooms where the growing, drying, manicuring, and packaging of the marijuana were accomplished. The building was double wall construction and well-insulated. Its exterior wall was constructed of corrugated sheet metal 12' high and its roof consisted of clear plastic sheets. A dark colored plastic sheet that opened and closed electronically was located under the clear plastic roof. This was designed to gauge the amount of sunlight striking the marijuana plants during cultivation. The facility was equipped with an automatic sprinkler system with several large water tanks within the building as well as fans, humidifiers, grow lights, a central air conditioner and a portable generator in case of electrical failure. It also contained a furnace for heat and a 500 gallon tank containing liquid fertilizer. Following the execution of a search warrant at this facility, 2,000 marijuana plants and 375 pounds of manicured and packaged marijuana were seized.

A two story barn located on a ranch in Keystone Heights, Florida was seized as it was in the final stages of remodeling to serve as a marijuana growing facility. Concealed on the second floor of the barn was an area 32 feet wide and 200 feet long. A gasoline generator had been installed to serve as a power supply for the growing operation. A sprinkler system was installed to facilitate watering the plants. In addition, four twenty-four

inch fans were installed to allow proper ventilation. Twenty high intensity lights (\$700 per unit) and four foot stainless steel panels were installed around the entire area to increase the growth rate of the plants. Approximately twelve hundred marijuana plants ranging in size from six inches to four feet were seized from a field in the immediate vicinity of the barn. The generator and lighting apparatus were also seized during the execution of the search warrant.

It was estimated that if this facility had been completed it would have been capable of producing three crops of marijuana per year at one (1) million dollars per crop.

XII. ORGANIZED CRIME

During 1984, there were no confirmed instances of traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) involvement in domestic marijuana cultivation and trafficking. Three states (Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma) have reported rumors of organized crime involvement; however, it should be noted that these reports have not been substantiated.

Although there is no direct evidence of a single, highly developed distribution structure in the United States, many local, intrastate, and interstate distribution organizations

exist and are responsible for the successful transportation and distribution of the large quantities of homegrown marijuana available in the market.

Law enforcement officials from Kentucky reported that many of the domestic marijuana operations in the state are highly organized into groups that include growers, brokers, distributors and financiers. The Vermont Resident Office of DEA reported that locally grown marijuana was readily available and of major impact on statewide trafficking. Trafficking groups are large, well organized, and dominated by middle to upper middle class Caucasians utilizing land and air transport for harvesting and distribution activities. DEA case reports have identified various, large-scale trafficking organizations in Kentucky, South Dakota, and Illinois.

The domestic marijuana conspiracy based in South Dakota also involved Iowa and Florida. The domestic marijuana was supplied in ton quantities to Miami, Florida importers of quality marijuana. The domestic marijuana was to be mixed on a 1 to 10 ratio with the quality marijuana. The conspiracy involved fifteen to twenty subjects in the three states mentioned above.

Interviews with various state and local narcotics enforcement agencies indicated that it would be impossible to organize domestic marijuana cultivation into one major nationwide syndicate because of the types and number of people involved in

its production. Information provided by Georgia, Arkansas, and Oklahoma sources revealed that the classic "moonshine" or "hillbilly" would not tolerate any outside person trying to control their operation. These people tend to keep to themselves and will get vicious with outsiders trying to control their operations.

Domestic marijuana does not have importation and financial problems connected with such substances as heroin and cocaine. The lack of this restriction makes it virtually impossible for one syndicate to control the source of supply.

ALABAMA

Law enforcement authorities in the state of Alabama estimate that commercial grade marijuana comprises most of the cannabis crop grown in that state. The heaviest concentrations of cannabis cultivation are located in rural parts of the state bordering on the Florida Panhandle. Marijuana plots are primarily grown in the southern part of the state because of the longer growing season in that region. The average growing season is 265 days long in the South as opposed to a 175 day growing season in the North. Soil conditions in Alabama are excellent, especially in National Forests where marijuana growers have planted their crops in March and harvested them in September without having tended the field. Some plants have averaged 18 to 20 feet in height.

During September 1984, an Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) pilot, while flying on a routine domestic marijuana eradication detail, located several plots of growing marijuana plants in Wilcox County, Alabama. Ground units responded and seized a total of 4,835 plants ranging in size from 5 feet to 20 feet tall.

The average marijuana plot contains between 50 to 100 plants. A considerable number of these plots are located on National Forest property and remote timberland owned by lumber companies from out-of-state. These lumber companies plant pine trees for the paper industry.

All types of individuals are involved in cannabis cultivation in the state of Alabama. White collar professionals, blue collar workers and people associated with illegal whiskey operations have been arrested for cannabis cultivation.

Most Alabama marijuana producers finance their own operations.

Small scale growers attempt to sell their marijuana directly to street-level dealers, while larger growers normally sell their product through wholesale distributors.

Most marijuana is grown for local consumption. It has been estimated that 90 percent of the cannabis crop is sold in large cities such as Montgomery and Birmingham. State police report that the produce from larger fields is transported to Atlanta, Georgia. In 1984, one large 5,000 plant field near the Florida border was financed by a cannabis trafficking organization located in Florida. It is very common for marijuana producers to trade domestic marijuana for cocaine and stolen goods.

Outdoor cultivators usually start fires to clear an area (i.e., fire break) for cannabis plants in National Forests. Forest personnel extinguish the fires and marijuana planters move in to cultivate their crops.

Alabama law enforcement authorities have conducted training classes in cannabis detection and eradication for National Guard fliers and pilots of lumber companies. These pilots help alleviate the burden on local law enforcement authorities of patrolling thousands of acres of remote timberland.

After marijuana has been harvested, it is taken to drying and cleaning sites. Once cleaned, the product is packaged for transport to distribution site in large plastic garbage bags or occasionally into compacted (using a trash compactor) bricks. Marijuana is reportedly transported to distribution sites in cars, although other types of vehicles may be used. Most growers prefer to transport their marijuana to distribution sites themselves rather than hire others.

Booby-traps utilized to protect marijuana plots have become more prevalent in 1984. Law enforcement officials reported the use of pungi sticks, bear traps and fishhooks. The use of armed guards to protect marijuana shipments enroute to buyers has not been reported.

Law enforcement officials have reported the use of United Parcel Service (UPS) to ship marijuana outside the state. Marijuana has also been transported on commercial aircraft to areas outside the state.

To date, there have been no instances of traditional (la Cosa Nostra) organized crime activity connected to domestic marijuana trafficking in the state of Alabama. A majority of marijuana cultivation cases are prosecuted in Federal court.

ARIZONA

According to Arizona law enforcement officials, the majority of marijuana grown in the state is now sinsemilla. Forty-six (46) percent of all plants eradicated in 1984 were sinsemilla compared to twelve (12) percent in 1983.

Domestic marijuana is grown on both public and private lands in all areas of the state. State police estimate that only one out of every ten marijuana fields contains 500 or more plants. The vast majority of fields eradicated in 1984 averaged over 100 plants compared to 200 plants in 1983.

Marijuana fields in Arizona are usually planted in April after the last frost. Harvesting starts in September and continues through October. Most marijuana cultivators produce their own seeds. Some marijuana growers, however, have acquired a variety of Afghan, Thai and Hawaiian cannabis plants in their efforts to improve the quality of their sinsemilla.

Arizona grown sinsemilla is allegedly smaller, grows lower to the ground, has some resistance to cold temperatures, and matures earlier than most sinsemilla. Intelligence information concerning the operation of a major cannabis trafficking organization in Arizona revealed that the organization specializes in cultivating Cannabis Indica. Cannabis Indica

is a high grade sinsemilla that is imported to the United States from Afghanistan. The Afghanistan strain was chosen because it grows into a short, squatty plant that produces 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of buds per plant which are high in THC content because they mature in 4 to 5 months. The organization will then produce its own seeds for two generations before purchasing new seeds from its sources. This is done to prevent any genetic defects from developing in following generations.

After the sinsemilla is harvested it is transported to drying houses in Tucson. The sinsemilla is dried for 2 to 3 weeks at a constant 72 degrees. If the temperature is allowed to exceed 72 degrees, the sinsemilla will have a lower THC content. When the drying process is completed, the sinsemilla is packaged loosely in garbage bags. After packaging, the sinsemilla is stored at stash houses located around Tucson. The sinsemilla is normally hidden in specially constructed piles of two by fours and plywood. The centers of the piles will be hollowed out to hold the sinsemilla. Several layers of whole boards will be placed on top to conceal the sinsemilla. The sinsemilla is then transported to buyers who contracted for it prior to the growing season. The buyers are in Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, El Paso, Texas, Denver, Colorado, and

Detroit and Flint, Michigan. The sinsemilla is transported via camper trucks, camp trailers and cars with specially modified trunks. The sinsemilla grown in this organization wholesales for \$1,500 to \$2,000 a pound and retails for \$2,200 to \$2,500 a pound.

There is little intelligence available related to the extent that domestic marijuana producers finance their own operations, as opposed to financing by outside organizations. In the cannabis trafficking organization mentioned above, a grower was to receive \$20,000, a mobile home and a lot in Tucson as payment for cultivating sinsemilla.

After the marijuana has been harvested, it is taken to drying and cleaning sites. Once cleaned, the product is packaged for transport to distribution sites. Commercial grade marijuana is compacted (using trash compactors) into 50 and 100 pound bales, and sinsemilla is packaged loosely in large plastic garbage bags. Some Arizona growing areas are so remote that pack animals (mules) are used to transport marijuana to a point accessible to vehicles. Although most growers prefer to transport their marijuana to distribution sites, some allow buyers a discount price if they (the buyer) pick the product up at the growing area. Marijuana is normally transported to distribution sites in a variety of vehicles such as cars, pickup trucks, recreational

vehicles, 4-wheel-drive vehicles, rental trucks, and so forth. Arizona marijuana, not consumed within the state, is distributed to California, Texas, Colorado, Michigan and Illinois.

All types of individuals have been found to be involved in marijuana growing in Arizona. Most growers are indigenous to the state and include businessmen, farmers, students and drug culture types. Recent intelligence indicates, however, that more California growers are relocating their operations to Arizona due to intensive enforcement efforts in that state.

Marijuana fields in Arizona are sometimes protected by armed guards and booby-traps. Individuals armed with military assault rifles, home-made cannons, bazookas and rockets have been discovered. Explosive devices have been found in gardens in addition to punji boards and shotguns tied to tree stumps. State law enforcement officials have also encountered vicious guard dogs when raiding marijuana fields.

Marijuana growers have utilized the U.S. mail to ship marijuana parcels out of state. Growers frequently utilize United Parcel Service in Tucson. During 1984, a nineteen (19) pound package destined for the state of Illinois was seized. Marijuana purchasers have been known to utilize

express mail delivery. A common technique is to purchase marijuana in Arizona and have it mailed to oneself at another location. If the package does not arrive within 24 hours, the sender assumes that the package may have been temporarily delayed because it was intercepted by law enforcement authorities. The package is subsequently not picked up.

ARKANSAS

Law enforcement officials in the state of Arkansas estimate that commercial grade marijuana comprises 60 percent of the cannabis crop grown in the state with the other 40 percent being sinsemilla.

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Most of the marijuana is being grown in rural areas on public (U.S. or state-owned) lands very close to fence lines of private property.

Most growers are considered small-scale growers who produce less than 500 plants. Lately, the growers have started banding together in loosely formed groups or co-ops to purchase seeds and seedlings. There is no current information available on the cost of marijuana seeds in Arkansas; however, they were known to have cost as much as \$100 per pound three to four years ago. No information is available on where the seeds or seedlings are being purchased.

Field planting of marijuana in Arkansas usually takes place in March or April with harvest commencing in August and continuing through October.

The Arkansas Marijuana Eradication program has put pressure on the growers and has forced them to start using new tactics to avoid detection, such as (1) the trend of planting many smaller gardens of 15 to 20 plants instead of large fields; (2) the use of greenhouses and other structures for the cultivation of sinsemilla; and (3) the use of growlights in barns and houses.

Marijuana growing areas in Arkansas are most commonly protected by dogs, barbed wire fences and flood lights that can be turned on by trip wires. Other security measures include armed guards, booby-traps and surveillance. Growers also frequently use CB radios, hand-free communication radios and police scanners to alert each other and avoid detection.

Harvested marijuana generally is removed from the growing site before it is cleaned and trimmed, although on occasions it is cleaned, trimmed and processed at or very near the growing area. Commercial grade marijuana is packed in trash bags or cardboard boxes for shipment and for sale. The most common packaging for sinsemilla is also cardboard boxes. When the marijuana is ready for transportation to distribution sites, it usually is transported by various land vehicles such as cars,

trucks and trailers. Sophisticated hiding and camouflaging of marijuana sometimes is used during transportation to avoid detection.

Arkansas State Police believe that most of the marijuana produced in the state is shipped to areas outside of Arkansas. Rental type storage units are being used to store and facilitate the movement of the marijuana without detection.

Currently in Arkansas, a grower/distributor receives \$500 to \$800 per pound for commercial grade marijuana and \$1,000 to \$2,200 per pound for sinsemilla. They usually are paid in cash, but have been known to accept cocaine as payment. The grower/distributor sometimes will "front" a small portion of marijuana as a sample in order to complete a sale. It is believed that most crops have been sold or negotiated for before harvest time. By the time the marijuana gets from the wholesaler to the street level dealer, commercial marijuana sells for \$50 to \$120 per ounce, while sinsemilla brings \$150 to \$200 per ounce.

All types of persons have been found to be involved in marijuana growing/trafficking in Arkansas. These include clean-cut educated lawyers, farmers, students, ex-felons and bootleggers. Most of the growers appear to be permanent residents

of Arkansas; however, there have been occasions when growers come in from out-of-state and stay in Arkansas just during the growing season.

Investors from inside and outside Arkansas are known to be involved in the production of marijuana, but most growers appear to be self-motivated entrepreneurs who own or rent land near U.S. or state-owned property where their marijuana is being grown. These growers generally use cash from previous marijuana crops to finance their operation. They also have been known to borrow money to start up a growing operation. The loosely formed co-operatives also give themselves protection against monetary losses from poachers and law enforcement eradication activities.

Some marijuana growers in Arkansas have been known to invest their illicit profits in farm land and real estate both inside and outside the state. No information has been received concerning the movement of illicit profits to off-shore havens or into legitimate businesses. Marijuana traffickers in Arkansas definitely interact with other traffickers dealing in all types of narcotics and dangerous drugs, especially cocaine.

Arkansas has an asset seizure law which has enabled law enforcement authorities to seize vehicles, tractors, houses and land, when it has been proven that these items were used in connection with illegal marijuana operations. —

During the last couple of years, there have been many rumors that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) has been involved in marijuana growing operations in Arkansas; however, no firm evidence has been received and the rumors have not been proven fact.

According to law enforcement authorities in Arkansas, a casual visitor can come into the state and after a short period of time make enough contacts to purchase marijuana even on a wholesale level.

Once domestic marijuana enters the distribution channel, it is basically handled by the same traffickers who smuggle marijuana into the U.S. from abroad.

Finally, Arkansas law enforcement authorities believe that marijuana is now the number one drug of abuse in the state and the problem is still growing.

Marijuana cultivation is also a major problem that is growing and will continue to grow unless more resources are found to combat the problem. A lack of aircraft for aerial spotting and surveillance of marijuana gardens, coupled with limited personnel and funds available for eradication efforts will certainly make it much more difficult for law enforcement in Arkansas to cope with this growing problem in the future.

CALIFORNIA

Marijuana growing operations in California are somewhat diverse. This report will be in two parts, the first covering northern California and the second southern California.

Northern California

The predominant cannabis crop in northern California is sinsemilla. It is grown mainly in rural areas on private or leased property. It is also grown extensively on U.S. Government lands.

Police estimate that approximately 60 percent of the growers are large-scale producing more than 500 plants per growing season. The other 40 percent are small-scale growers. Most of the growers produce their own seeds or seedlings. Marijuana fields are usually planted in March or April and harvested in October. This past growing season there has been a definite trend to the use of more greenhouses in growing operations. This tactic aids the grower in avoiding detection by the police.

Marijuana growing areas in northern California have been found to be protected in various ways such as armed guards, booby-traps and dogs. For additional security, growers have contacts in local radio stations who alert them on the air to any possible police action in their areas. Another common security device used by growers is the walkie-talkie which they use to alert each other of pending police actions.

When the marijuana is harvested it is generally removed from the growing area for cleaning and trimming. When the product is ready for packaging and shipping, commercial grade marijuana is put into large plastic garbage or leaf bags. Sinsemilla is packaged in a variety of ways such as small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags or mason fruit jars to protect and display the buds. The marijuana is then transported to storage or distribution sites using aircraft or rental trucks. It is not known if these shipments are protected enroute by armed guards or other means.

Of the marijuana produced in northern California police estimate that approximately 50 percent is consumed within the state while the other 50 percent is shipped to interstate

markets. Homes are usually used for storage until the marijuana is disposed of.

Marijuana growers in northern California are currently receiving 100 to 200 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and approximately 1,000 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. Some of the growers will "front" a portion of their product in order to make a sale. Although most demand cash for their product, some growers will accept other commodities or drugs such as cocaine.

All types of persons have been involved in marijuana growing operations in northern California, but mostly the growers are the counter-culture type person. Approximately 70 percent of the growers are California residents while the other 30 percent come to California specifically to grow marijuana.

Northern California marijuana growing operations are financed in a variety of ways such as investors from within and outside the state, growers combining into co-ops and land owners employing marijuana growers. Most growers are self-motivated entrepreneurs. They generally use cash from previous illicit growing operations to finance their growing operations.

Police have no information as to whether any northern California growers have moved their profits into off-shore havens. It is known that the illicit profits of domestic marijuana growers have been used to buy real estate, vehicles, and also have been invested into legitimate businesses. Based on investigations it has been ascertained that northern California marijuana growers do interact with other types of drug traffickers, mainly cocaine dealers.

California does have an asset seizure law which police have used on several occasions to confiscate vehicles and land from domestic marijuana growers.

No information has been obtained that indicates traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) is involved in domestic marijuana growing operations. There have been no proven instances of official corruption occurring in connection with domestic marijuana growing operations. Police believe that a casual visitor coming into northern California cannot obtain marijuana in bulk quantities unless he has a contact through a middleman. Police do not know if the distribution channels used for domestic marijuana are the same as those used for marijuana being smuggled into the United States.

Finally, domestic marijuana growing is close to being, if not, the number one drug problem in northern California. Police believe that although the state Bureau of Narcotics has teamed with other jurisdictions and the federal government in massive eradication efforts, the lure of big money with practically no threat of going to jail will cause domestic marijuana growing to continue as a major problem.

Southern California

The majority of the cannabis grown in southern California is commercial grade marijuana. The marijuana is mostly grown on private land in rural areas without the land owners consent or knowledge.

Most growers are small-scale growers who produce less than 500 plants per growing season. Most growers obtain their seeds easily from Mexico.

Marijuana fields are planted in May or June and harvested in September and October. Up to this time very few greenhouses have been found to be used by growers in southern California.

Marijuana growing areas in southern California have generally not been found to be protected by armed guards or other devices.

After the marijuana is harvested it is usually cleaned and trimmed at the growing site. When ready for shipment, commercial grade marijuana is packaged in large plastic garbage or leaf bags. Sinsemilla is packaged in small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. The growers will then transport the marijuana to storage or distribution sites using land vehicles. These shipments are generally not guarded during the transportation phase of the operation. Of the marijuana grown in southern California, the majority is consumed within the state. Some is shipped to interstate markets. The marijuana is generally stored in sheds or garages until it is disposed of.

In southern California the marijuana grower receives approximately 500 to 600 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and 1,200 to 1,400 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. On occasions, a grower will "front" part of his product in order to make a sale. Most growers want cash at the time of delivery. All types of persons have been found to be involved in domestic

marijuana growing/trafficking operations in southern California. Most are self-motivated entrepreneurs who use cash from previous marijuana profits to finance their growing operations.

No information has been received indicating that growers have moved their profits into off-shore havens. Most growers seem to invest their profits into new automobiles. Some vehicles have been confiscated by police using California's asset seizure law.

There is no evidence indicating that marijuana growing operations in southern California are connected with traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra). Authorities do not believe a casual visitor can come into southern California and buy marijuana directly from a grower unless they have a middleman contact. No evidence of official corruption has surfaced in connection with domestic marijuana growing operations. Once domestic marijuana enters the distribution channel in southern California, it has been found that the top echelon people are definitely different people from those traffickers who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, domestic marijuana growing operations in southern California are low on the priority list for law enforcement because there are other drug problems considered to be more serious.

The residents of southern California have easy access to and from Mexico where marijuana can be bought cheaper and at much less risk than attempting to grow one's own. Therefore, much of the law enforcement effort against marijuana in southern California is aimed at stemming the large flow of marijuana coming into the United States across the border.

COLORADO

According to Colorado law enforcement authorities, commercial grade marijuana and sinsemilla products are grown in the state. Outdoor marijuana plots are located mostly in rural areas while indoor operations (i.e., greenhouses) are located in suburban and metropolitan areas. Greenhouse operations have expanded at a rapid rate in Colorado. Eighteen facilities were seized in 1984 compared to 4 in 1983.

Most Colorado marijuana producers finance their own operations from previous marijuana cultivation profits. Investors from within and outside the state and cannabis trafficking organizations have also been known to finance operations.

After marijuana has been harvested, it is taken to drying and cleaning sites. Once cleaned, commercial grade cannabis is packaged for movement in large plastic garbage bags. Sinsemilla is packed in zip-lock type bags, mason fruit jars and brown paper bags. Marijuana is normally transported to distribution sites in a variety of land vehicles such as cars, pickup trucks and rental trucks.

Colorado marijuana producers sell their commercial grade product for between \$350 and \$500 per pound and sinsemilla for between \$1,000 and \$2,500 per pound. State law enforcement officials estimate that 40 percent of the marijuana is shipped to Georgia.

Armed guards have been used by growers to protect marijuana during transport to distribution sites. Booby-traps consisting of tripwires, smoke grenades, steel leg-hold traps, monofilament fishing line with fishhooks attached and covered pitfalls have been discovered in Colorado. To date, there have been no instances of traditional organized crime activity connected to domestic marijuana cultivation or trafficking.

FLORIDA

Law enforcement officials in Florida state that sinsemilla is the most predominant marijuana crop produced within the state. Sinsemilla is grown mainly on privately owned land by the owner or renter. This property is mostly in the rural areas of the state.

Most growers are considered to be small-scale growers who produce less than 500 plants per year. From information received by the police the growers generally grow their own seed plants and produce their own seeds. However, when they are bought, the price generally runs 3 dollars per seed and 15 dollars per seedling.

Marijuana fields in Florida are generally planted near mid-April and harvesting starts in July, but this can vary greatly because of the Florida climate. Greenhouses have not been much of a problem in the past, but there are indications this year that they are increasing in popularity with many growers and probably will constitute a bigger problem in the future.

Marijuana fields in Florida have been found to be protected by armed guards and all sorts of booby-traps such as nails driven through wood and placed in trails, rat traps, spikes welded to steel bars and even rattle snakes tied in the trails leading to the fields.

After marijuana is harvested it is usually cleaned, stripped and trimmed right on the same property or in the immediate vicinity where it was grown. When the product is ready for packaging and shipping, commercial grade marijuana is usually put into large plastic garbage or leaf bags and sinsemilla is put into small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. It is then generally moved by land vehicles to distribution points. No information has been received that indicates marijuana shipments are guarded by armed guards or in any other matter during the transport phase of the operation.

Florida authorities believe that a lot of the marijuana grown there is also consumed within the state, but some is being shipped into interstate markets. After the marijuana is shipped to distribution points, it is usually stored in house trailers, small sheds and other like places until sales are made.

In Florida, marijuana growers/traffickers are receiving 300 to 600 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and approximately 2,000 per pound for sinsemilla. Most growers/traffickers receive cash for their product at the time of delivery. They will not usually "front" any of their marijuana.

Florida authorities have found that most of the growers/traffickers in the state are blue collar type workers from the Vietnam Era. There has been a marked trend to growing smaller gardens or plots of marijuana making detection much more difficult. It is believed that most growers/traffickers are Florida residents and not outsiders. Most of these people are self-motivated entrepreneurs who use cash from previous marijuana crops to finance their operations. Information received by Florida authorities indicate that marijuana traffickers are re-investing their profits into legitimate businesses and buying land and vehicles. No information has been received indicating money is being moved to off-shore havens. There is also no indication that Florida marijuana growers/traffickers are interacting with other traffickers dealing in other types of narcotics or dangerous drugs.

The state of Florida does have an asset seizure law that allows them to seize certain items and properties when connected with illegal narcotics operations. They have in the past seized farms and acreage on the average of one or two times per year.

No evidence has been obtained indicating that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) is involved in marijuana growing/trafficking operations in Florida. No known instances of official corruption in connection with domestic marijuana growing/trafficking have been substantiated during the past couple of years.

A casual visitor coming into Florida must have a "contact" before he can make marijuana purchases directly from a grower/trafficker. Once domestic marijuana enters the distribution channels in Florida officials believe that they are entirely different people and organizations from those who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, Florida authorities believe that their domestic marijuana growing problem is at least equal to, if not worse than, their other narcotic problems. They feel to effectively cope with this growing problem in the future they will need more money, aircraft, four-wheeled vehicles and personnel.

GEORGIA

According to Georgia law enforcement authorities, domestic marijuana cultivation ranks second to the importation of cocaine in terms of the importance of the drug abuse problem in their state. Of the marijuana eradicated in 1984, approximately 29 percent was sinsemilla compared to 4 percent in 1983. The trend of dispersing fewer plants among more plots was noted in 1984. A typical marijuana plot eradicated in 1984 contained nearly 400 plants compared to almost 800 plants in 1983.

Marijuana has been discovered in all areas of the state; however, the majority of the commercially grown marijuana has been discovered in rural settings. Marijuana has been cultivated on state and Federally owned lands. Some plots have been discovered on the land of commercial enterprises (i.e., lumber, pulpwood, cattle and farming organizations).

It is not known to what extent structures are being utilized to grow marijuana. There have been some very elaborate indoor systems discovered that include underground growing areas. It is believed that more commercial growers are

changing over to greenhouse type operations due to the pressure being applied by aerial surveillance and detection methods by state and local authorities.

Small-scale domestic marijuana producers (less than 500 plants) are believed to finance their own operations which include acquisition of seeds or seedlings, planting, harvesting, drying, packaging and distribution to street-level dealers or users. Some of the large-scale producers receive outside backing, and sell their product to middlemen or wholesalers who distribute it to street-level dealers. In one case, a cannabis trafficking organization financed a marijuana growing operation.

Based on past arrests for the manufacture of marijuana, all types of individuals are involved in cannabis cultivation. In many cases though, the marijuana grower will have a prior record for drug and narcotics violation and/or for the illegal manufacture of distilled spirits (i.e., bootlegging moonshine whiskey). Most traffickers are indigenous to the state of Georgia except in those areas that border on Florida, Alabama, Tennessee and North Carolina. In those areas, there seems to be some infringement into Georgia by out of state violators.

It is unknown to what extent, if any, the traditional organized crime element is involved in the cultivation of cannabis in this state. There are, however, documented organizations involved in the cultivation and importation of marijuana within the state of Georgia.

After marijuana has been harvested, it is taken to drying and cleaning sites. After it has been cleaned, the marijuana is usually packaged in large garbage or leaf bags for movement to distribution sites. Marijuana is normally transported to distribution sites in a variety of vehicles such as cars, pickup trucks and rental vans.

Georgia marijuana producers sell their commercial grade product for between \$350 and \$500 per pound and sinsemilla for between \$1,500 and \$2,500 per pound. Most marijuana is transported to distribution sites by growers and most growers deal with buyers on a cash and carry basis. Domestic marijuana packaging for street sale in Georgia has been in plastic baggies or plastic zip-lock bags.

There are documented cases of armed guards stationed in and around fields. The precise number of guards, however, is unknown due to a lack of reporting practices on the part of some local agencies. Booby-traps are not uncommon in the state of Georgia, however, there hasn't been a significant number detected to date. Tripwires, smoke grenades, steel

leg hold traps, monofilament fishing line with fishhooks attached and covered pit falls have also been encountered. In addition, there was one unverified report of rattlesnakes with the rattles removed tied to marijuana plants.

The state of Georgia is making a concentrated effort to stem the increase of marijuana production through the formation of the Governor's Strike Force, a subdivision of the Governor's Task Force on Drug Suppression. Six state agencies have combined forces in an attempt to stem the problem of marijuana cultivation through the use of aerial detection.

Given the resources, Georgia law enforcement authorities believe that a domestic marijuana intelligence network could be established to identify and locate known and/or potential marijuana growers and/or traffickers.

HAWAII

Marijuana growing operations in Hawaii are somewhat different from island to island. This report will encompass the island of Oahu and the big island of Hawaii.

island of Oahu

Law enforcement officials in Oahu state that most of the marijuana grown on that island is sinsemilla grown in the backyards of private residences. The sinsemilla is grown in all areas of the island from rural to metropolitan. Only a small portion of the marijuana is grown on Federal and state lands. Police in Oahu very rarely see greenhouses being used by the growers.

Almost all of the growers are small-scale growers who produce only a few plants per year. Most of these growers produce their own seeds.

Marijuana is grown all year round in Oahu, but the best production seems to be in the summertime. In some of the more rural areas of Oahu, marijuana plots have been found to be protected by armed guards and booby-traps; however, in most

instances the backyard plots are just protected by surveillance by the owner of the property. When the marijuana is harvested, if it has been grown in a backyard, it is cleaned and trimmed right on the property. If it has been grown away from the growers house, it is cut and brought back to the house for the cleaning and trimming process. Plastic garbage or leaf bags are used to package commercial grade marijuana. Sinsemilla is packed in small baggies or zip-lock type bags. The majority of the marijuana is kept at the growers home site until it is ready for shipment or sale. Most marijuana leaving Oahu is believed to be shipped out by U.S. mail to the mainland. Police believe that approximately 50 percent of the marijuana grown on the island of Oahu is consumed there and the other 50 percent shipped to the mainland. Oahu growers receive approximately 1,000 to 1,500 dollars per pound for their sinsemilla. They generally will not "front" any of the product. Cash is demanded at the time of delivery or sometimes even before delivery.

All types of persons have been found to be involved in marijuana growing operations in Oahu including businessmen, farmers and students. Almost all of the growers are residents of Oahu. Most marijuana growers there are self-motivated

entrepreneurs who use profits from previous illicit marijuana crops to finance their growing operations.

Oahu authorities are not aware of any illicitly gained profits being moved to off-shore havens or into legitimate businesses. The majority of the growers purchase real estate or vehicles with their profits. The growers in Oahu do not interact with traffickers dealing in other types of narcotics or dangerous drugs.

Oahu has an asset seizure law similar to the Federal RICO statute but not as effective. Using this law, some assets have been seized from growers. There has been no evidence found that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) is involved in growing operations in anyway. Up to this time there has been no known instances of official corruption involving marijuana growing operations.

Oahu police believe that a visitor to that island can easily make a contact to buy as much marijuana as he or she desires. Once domestic marijuana from Oahu enters the distribution channels, it is handled by the same people who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Oahu law enforcement authorities believe that domestic marijuana production is one of their major drug problems. To effectively combat this problem they believe that more resources will be necessary. They specifically need funds for additional vehicles and helicopters for use in the rural sections of the island.

Island of Hawaii

Police on the big island of Hawaii state that sinsemilla is the predominant marijuana crop grown on that island. The majority, approximately 60 to 65 percent, is being grown on rural public property by poachers and trespassers.

Most growers on Hawaii are larger-scale growers who produce over 500 plants per growing season. Most also grow their own seeds or seedlings. Growers have also produced a marijuana plant that can grow to maturity in 90 days. They call it "the 90 day wonder." Seeds for this strain of marijuana sell for approximately 25 dollars per seed.

Marijuana can be grown year round on the island of Hawaii; however, the best marijuana plants are planted in March and

Police authorities state that growers are currently receiving 1,800 to 2,000 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. Growers will only "front" their product if they know the buyer. If the product is not "fronted" then the grower will demand cash at the time of delivery. Some growers will also take cocaine as payment for the marijuana.

Although most of the growers are Hawaii residents, a large share of them come to Hawaii from California for the express purpose of growing marijuana. When they have made what they consider enough profits, they move back to the mainland and are replaced in the cycle by someone else.

All types of persons are involved in marijuana growing operations in Hawaii from businessmen to people that are on welfare. Most growers are self-motivated entrepreneurs who use profits from previous marijuana crops to finance their operations.

No evidence is available that indicates profits from illegal marijuana growing operations are being moved to off-shore havens. Most growers are re-investing profits in real estate. Most

domestic marijuana growers on the island of Hawaii interact with known cocaine traffickers.

Using the asset seizure law available to them, Hawaii Police have seized several vehicles related to domestic marijuana growing operations.

There has been no evidence found indicating domestic marijuana growers are involved with traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra). No evidence of official corruption concerning domestic marijuana growing operations have surfaced to date. Police believe that casual visitors to the island can make contacts to buy all of the marijuana they want.

Finally, authorities on the island of Hawaii believe that domestic marijuana growing/trafficking is their number one drug problem. To effectively combat this problem in the future they are going to need additional resources such as helicopters, manpower and money.

IDAHO

According to Idaho law enforcement authorities, the marijuana produced in the state is evenly divided between commercial grade and sinsemilla. Most marijuana production is concentrated in rural areas in the northern part of the state. Some marijuana is cultivated on public lands. Most Idaho-produced marijuana is exported to California, Oregon, Washington and Canada.

Most local Idaho growers finance their own marijuana operations. In addition, a recent trend involves California buyers purchasing land in Idaho because law enforcement resources are limited. Outside growers have also paid local farmers to let them construct large metal buildings on their property with no questions asked.

All types of individuals are involved in domestic marijuana cultivation. Most of these traffickers have relocated to Idaho from other states. Law enforcement authorities report that an increasing number of older people, ranging in age from 30 to 50, are becoming involved in cannabis cultivation. One woman, who was over 70 years old, ran an indoor operation in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and distributed her marijuana in the Lewiston area. Because of economic necessity, more old-line, conservative citizens are becoming

involved in marijuana cultivation. Sharecroppers have also been known to grow marijuana for California traffickers.

Law enforcement authorities report that most growing operations (i.e., 60-70 percent) are conducted indoors. Twenty-nine (29) greenhouses were seized in 1984, a thirty-three (33) percent increase over 1983. Growers are also reducing the number of plants per plot in an effort to avoid areial detection. Some growers have placed plants in openings of rotted-out trees as a concealment effort.

Law enforcement officials have also discovered advanced cultivation methods which indicates outside influence on Idaho marijuana cultivation. Enforcement agents have seized some Afghan plants which are strong and hardy, and can survive in cold temperatures. Potent "pygmy" type plants (2-3 feet long) have also been seized with increased frequency. Authorities have also reported the use of cloning whereby growers use plant clippings to grow additional plants.

After the marijuana has been harvested, it is taken to drying and cleaning sites. Once cleaned, the product is packaged in one pound plastic zip-lock bags, then placed into cardboard boxes or larger plastic bags for transport to buyers.

Marijuana is normally transported to distribution sites by various types of motor vehicles; however, boats have been used to transport marijuana down the Snake River to Lewiston, Idaho and Charleston, Washington. In addition, some marijuana has been shipped via parcel delivery, express mail and Greyhound services.

Local Idaho marijuana producers sell their sinsemilla for between \$1,800 and \$2,000 per pound. Commercial-grade marijuana sells for between \$500 and \$1,200 per pound. Growers are paid for their marijuana in cash or in an equally valuable quantity of another type of controlled substance such as cocaine. Some growers may front all or a portion of their marijuana to buyers.

Growers have been known to protect their cultivation sites with shotguns and machine guns. Law enforcement officials have also reported the use of fishhooks tied to strings in cannabis fields.

INDIANA

According to Indiana state law enforcement officials, most of the marijuana produced there grows wild. Wild marijuana, referred to as Indian hemp or ditch weed, grows abundantly in the rural areas of northern Indiana.

Commercial grade marijuana accounts for the remainder and is cultivated throughout the state. Sinsemilla was rarely found prior to 1984, but is now being detected with increasing frequency. Over 95 percent of all cannabis grows in rural counties. Most of the cannabis is cultivated on privately owned land while lesser amounts are cultivated on U.S. and state owned land.

Marijuana growers often rent the land on which the cannabis is cultivated from a farmer who is usually unaware of their intent. Marijuana is often grown in cornfields that slope downward from the roadside which makes detection difficult. Small-scale growers (fewer than 500 plants) account for most of the marijuana crop; however, fields yielding over 500 plants are occasionally found. The cannabis fields are planted once a year beginning in April or May and are harvested from late August through October.

Outdoor cannabis growing areas are sometimes protected by security devices, and policy scanners are used occasionally within marijuana growing areas to alert growers to police presence or other dangers. Growers may protect their land with arms; however, no firearms have been used to date against authorities.

Wild plants are normally stripped on the farm by the harvesters. The leaves are then compressed into bales or put in large plastic bags and taken elsewhere for further processing. Marijuana is generally hauled to the distribution site by truck, camper or van. The marijuana is subsequently stored in barns, semi-trailers, sheds, or houses.

Much of the marijuana produced in Indiana is consumed within the state. However, large quantities are shipped to other states, especially Florida, where the wild marijuana is blended with Colombian marijuana and is passed off as 100 percent Colombian to enhance profits.

Wholesalers make contact with street-level consumers mainly through prior arrangements, although casual visitors to Indiana could obtain marijuana directly from growers through trusted intermediaries. Traffickers include persons from many walks of life. Some become involved in the marijuana business because they are unemployed or to save their

failing businesses or farms, although the majority are pursuing fast money. People may travel from contiguous states to harvest the wild marijuana and state police have arrested people from as far away as Alaska. The majority of Indiana marijuana traffickers deal exclusively in marijuana. There has been no evidence thus far that marijuana growers are connected in any way to traditional organized crime. Many loosely-defined trafficking groups abound, but are not as highly organized as those groups who traffic in marijuana on an international basis.

Marijuana growers finance their cannabis growing operations primarily by utilizing cash from previous marijuana profits. Cannabis growing operations are also financed by investors from within and outside the state who will generally provide down payments on future crops. Consignment sales by growers is commonplace. Cash, drugs, and guns have been used to purchase marijuana. There have been two instances where marijuana growers were caught stockpiling marijuana for the purpose of converting it into hashish. Local law enforcement officials do not believe that arrangements are usually made by small-scale growers to sell their marijuana prior to planting and harvesting, although large-scale growers may do so. A few successful traffickers own out-of-state condominiums, especially in Florida. High-level violators

have been known to invest their money in off-shore safe havens. Houses, cars, boats, computers, guns, and cash have been seized from marijuana traffickers.

Domestic commercial grade marijuana of good quality is passed off as imported Colombian and sold for \$600 to \$800 per pound and \$100 per ounce. Multi-pound purchases of over 100 pounds are uncommon as is discounting for buying volume. Sinsemilla sells for \$1,200 to \$1,300 per pound and \$250 to \$300 per ounce. Wild marijuana is categorized as either wet or dry. Wet wild marijuana sells for \$10 to \$20 per pound, and dry wild marijuana sells for between \$50 to \$100 per pound.

IOWA

According to law enforcement officials in Iowa, commercial grade marijuana comprises almost all of the cannabis crop grown in that state. The majority of this crop is being grown on rental property usually without the knowledge of the land owner. The growing areas are mainly in the rural parts of the state. A small percentage of growing land is owned by the state or Federal governments.

The ratio of large-scale marijuana growers (over 500 plants) versus small-scale marijuana growers (under 500 plants) in Iowa seems to be evenly split. Authorities are not sure where the seeds or seedlings are being obtained, but suspect that many growers produce their own.

The marijuana fields in Iowa are generally planted once a year, usually in May and are harvested during July, August and September. Authorities have no knowledge as to whether greenhouses, barns or like structures are being used in marijuana growing operations.

Marijuana growing areas in the state have not been found to be protected by any type of booby-traps or armed guards or even security devices.

On most occasions the marijuana is harvested, cleaned, trimmed and dried right on the property that it was grown on. When the product is ready for shipping it is usually packaged in large plastic garbage or leaf bags. Sinsemilla is packaged in small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. The marijuana is then transported to distribution sites by land vehicles such as cars, trucks and rental vehicles. Sometimes small aircraft are used for marijuana transportation. The growers themselves usually transport their own products. No cases are known where armed guards or any other type of protection were used during the transportation phase of an operation.

Iowa authorities believe that of the marijuana produced within the state, 10 to 15 percent is consumed within the state, while 85 to 90 percent is shipped to interstate markets. The marijuana is usually stored in silos, barns, trailers or dwelling places until shipment is made.

Iowa marijuana growers are currently receiving 800 to 900 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and 1,300 to 2,000 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. According to information available at this time, growers will not "front" their products and will demand cash on delivery.

All types of persons in Iowa have been found to be involved in marijuana growing/trafficking operations. Most of these people are permanent residents of Iowa. The majority are self-motivated entrepreneurs who rent their property and use cash from previous marijuana profits to finance their operations.

Iowa authorities have no information concerning the use of profits from illicit marijuana operations. Investigations have shown that the Iowa growers/traffickers definitely interact with other traffickers in the state who deal with other types of illegal narcotics and dangerous drugs.

There has been no evidence found that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) has been involved in marijuana growing/trafficking operations in Iowa. No cases of official corruption concerning marijuana operations have come to light.

Most prospective buyers in Iowa make contact with growers through a middle man. It is unlikely a stranger or casual visitor could come into the state and make a contact to buy directly from a grower. Authorities in Iowa believe that once domestic marijuana enters into the distribution channels, these channels are separate and apart from those that are used by the traffickers who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, Iowa authorities believe that marijuana is becoming a major problem in the state along with cocaine, but they do not have resources to cope with the problem. Iowa has 99 counties, and recently, when letters were sent to law enforcement authorities in each county requesting information on marijuana growing operations, only 27 responses were received.

State law enforcement authorities do not sponsor training for other law enforcement personnel in the state regarding marijuana detection and eradication. The state has no program for the detection of marijuana by aircraft surveillance. Aircraft is used only to confirm the existence of marijuana fields when information has been received from confidential sources.

The Division of Criminal Investigation in the state of Iowa does not have a drug unit that specifically handles narcotic cases. Agents work any type of case that is assigned to them.

KANSAS

Law enforcement officials in the state of Kansas state that although commercial grade marijuana is by far the most predominant type of marijuana found growing in their state they also find a lot of sinsemilla. Most marijuana is grown in rural areas on privately owned property. Some of the marijuana has been found growing on Federal land such as Fort Riley and Federal reservoirs.

Most growers are considered small-scale growers who produce under 500 plants per year. Information has been received that many of the growers have been pooling resources and buying seeds from growers in Arkansas usually at one dollar per seed.

There is one marijuana growing season in Kansas and the seedlings or seeds are planted in the ground before the end of May. Harvesting generally starts around October 1. Growers are using more greenhouses in 1984 than they did in 1983 and authorities consider this trend to be a serious problem that will get worse in the future.

Marijuana fields in Kansas have been found to be protected by several means such as armed guards, placing snakes on trails leading to fields, various types of booby-traps, surveillance by

guards stationed in trees, dogs and many others. In addition, security growers have been found to use CB-radios to alert each other of possible action from police or poachers.

After marijuana is harvested some growers remove it from the immediate area for cleaning, stripping and trimming while others do the job right in the growing areas. When the product is ready for shipping, the commercial grade marijuana is packaged in large plastic garbage or leaf bags, and sinsemilla is packed in mason fruit type jars to protect and display the buds. The marijuana is then transported to distribution sites by various types of land vehicles. It is believe that on most occasions the growers transport their own product and sometimes use armed guards in the process.

Kansas authorities state that of the marijuana being grown in their state, some is being shipped to interstate markets, but they do not even have a good estimate as to how much. Abandoned farms are generally used as distribution points and for storing the marijuana until it is removed by the buyers.

Marijuana growers in Kansas receive approximately 500 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and 1,000 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. Authorities do not know if

growers will "front" any of their product prior to selling it or if they will accept other commodities besides cash when the product is sold.

Kansas authorities have found all types of persons involved in marijuana growing/trafficking operations within the state such as businessmen, some farmers and sometimes students, who are hired to work in the fields. Kansas has growers/traffickers that are residents of the state and some that just come into the state for the purpose of conducting their marijuana business.

Investors from within and outside Kansas have been known to be involved in marijuana growing activities. The greatest majority are self-motivated entrepreneurs. On occasion a marijuana trafficking organization will form a co-op with other growers. This is generally done to provide each other protection from poachers as well as police. Most growers finance their operations by using profits from previous marijuana sales.

Marijuana growers in Kansas have been known to invest their illegal profits into legitimate businesses, farms and other real property. It is not known if any of this money has been moved into off-shore havens. Based on investigations, authorities

believe that most of the marijuana growers/traffickers in Kansas do not interact with other traffickers who deal in other types of drugs.

The state of Kansas presently has no asset seizure law; however, law enforcement authorities are pushing their legislators in order to get one passed.

No evidence has been found to date indicating a traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) involvement in marijuana growing/trafficking operations in Kansas. Up to this time there have been a few allegations made that marijuana growers/traffickers are being protected by official corruption but none have been confirmed. It is unlikely that a casual visitor can come into the state and make direct purchases of marijuana from a grower. Authorities believe that although growers sell to some of the small dealers, they also provide large quantities of their marijuana to the larger buyers. Once marijuana enters the distribution channels in Kansas, it has generally been found that people who are at the top of the organization are definitely different people than other traffickers who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, Kansas law enforcement authorities are just getting their feet on the ground learning about marijuana growing operations. Their program is relatively new and they have been amazed at the amount of marijuana being found. There are 105 counties in Kansas and no central reporting requirements on marijuana. Therefore, State Police do not have a firm hand on what is being done about the problem on a local level. As far as resources are concerned state authorities do have a fixed-wing aircraft they use for aerial spotting of marijuana fields. However, they were only able to cover approximately 3/4 of the state by using just one aircraft. Marijuana production is the number one drug problem in Kansas during the growing season and it is currently the number two cash crop in the state, second only to wheat.

KENTUCKY

Law enforcement officials in the state of Kentucky believe that the majority of the marijuana grown in their state is now sinsemilla. Commercial grade marijuana is running a close second. Eighty-five to ninety percent is being grown in rural areas on private property, while the rest is being grown on Federal or state lands. In 1983, the majority of the fields eradicated contained more than 500 plants but this fact seems to have reversed itself in 1984 with a trend to much smaller plots. Authorities do not know where the growers are purchasing their seeds or seedlings at this time.

Marijuana fields in Kentucky are usually planted in April. Harvesting starts in August and continues thru October. The grower will generally start his plants in seed beds. These seed beds are usually grown in home-made greenhouses or warehouses with plastic covers.

Marijuana growing areas in Kentucky have on occasion been found to be protected by guards armed with machine guns, high powered rifles, shotguns and handguns. Booby-traps have also

been found, usually in the form of a shotgun shells with blasting cap and trip wires. Animal traps have also been placed in trails leading into marijuana fields.

Sometimes a grower will use a security device comprised of white thread strung out to completely encircle the marijuana plot. They will then check to see if the thread has been broken to ascertain if anyone has been in the growing area. Growers have also been known to use walkie-talkie's and CB-radios to alert each other about possible poachers or police action.

After the marijuana is harvested it is sometimes cleaned and trimmed right on the property. On other occasions it is removed from the property, even to out-of-state areas for this process. When the marijuana is ready for packaging, the commercial grade is generally put into brick form with the use of a trash compactor or baled with a tobacco presser. Sometimes plastic trash or leaf bags or brown paper bags are used for packaging. Sinsemilla is packaged in small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. The marijuana is then transported to distribution sites, usually by land vehicle such as cars or rental trucks. Information has also been received that marijuana is sometimes transported by aircraft and even by barge on the Mississippi

River, but this information has not been confirmed. During the transportation period it is not unusual for armed guards to be used for protecting the marijuana.

Kentucky State Police believed that the biggest majority of the marijuana produced within the state is shipped to areas outside the state. While stored within the state, marijuana is usually hidden in tobacco barns, mainly because there is a tobacco barn on almost every farm in the state.

Marijuana growers in Kentucky receive approximately 250 to 300 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and 1,500 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. If the grower knows the buyer well, he may "front" part of the shipment to the buyer, but the deal is generally cash on delivery.

All types of persons have been found to be involved in marijuana growing/trafficking operations in Kentucky. Moonshiners seem to be shifting their emphasis away from making whiskey to growing marijuana. Most of the growers are Kentucky residents, but many of them sell their product to out-of-state buyers.

Many of the growers in the state are self-motivated entrepreneurs who use cash from previous illicit marijuana profits to finance their growing operations. A large share of growers have also been known to finance their operations through theft or borrowing from financial institutions.

Kentucky authorities have no information as to whether domestic marijuana growers/traffickers have moved any of their illicit profits to off-shore havens. Investigations have shown that some of the illicit profits are being re-invested in legitimate businesses such as motels, restaurants, pizza parlors and real estate. Most of the marijuana growers/traffickers interact with dealers who traffic in other types of drugs, especially cocaine.

The state of Kentucky has recently passed a new asset seizure law which law enforcement authorities hope to use effectively on domestic marijuana growers/traffickers. This new law has not been tested.

Kentucky authorities do not believe that any of the domestic marijuana growing/trafficking operations are connected to traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra). There are strong indications that many operations in the state are highly

organized into groups that include growers, brokers, distributors and financiers. Police believe that as a rule, casual visitors cannot come into the state of Kentucky and make a quick contact to make large buys of domestic marijuana. They must make a contact with someone who is close to the hierarchy of an operation before a large purchase can be made.

Finally, Kentucky authorities believe that domestic marijuana growing/trafficking is now the number one drug problem in the state and still growing. They are going to continue to put pressure on the growers and suppliers of domestic marijuana, but feel they need more resources to do the job effectively. Authorities definitely need more aircraft for aerial surveillance, but do not have the money to purchase and operate them at this time. Kentucky authorities believe that regardless of the amount of pressure put on the growers by police, unless something is done to alleviate the demand for the product, the problem will continue to exist and grow.

MAINE

Law enforcement officials in the state of Maine state that commercial grade marijuana comprises almost totally the type of marijuana grown within that state. The majority of this commercial marijuana is being grown by land-owners on their own property. A small amount is grown on state lands. The growing areas are all in rural parts of the state.

Most growers are considered to be small-scale growers who produce less than five hundred plants. Information obtained by the Maine State Police indicate that growers are producing seedlings for their own use.

Cannabis fields in Maine are planted one time a year, usually during June or July, and are harvested in September and October. Law enforcement authorities in Maine state that more greenhouses are being used this year by growers. They have also found warehouses and barns converted to greenhouses and used to grow marijuana.

Marijuana growing areas in Maine have been found on occasion to be protected by guards armed with handguns or rifles. Up to this time no booby-traps have been found by

authorities. One of the more common security devices used by marijuana growers is the employment of dogs in or around the growing areas. For additional security, marijuana growers also use walkie-talkie's and police scanners to alert themselves and each other of possible police action or intrusion by poachers.

After the marijuana is harvested it is taken by the growers to cleaning, stripping and trimming sites which are generally located within the geographic boundaries of the growing areas. When the marijuana is ready for packaging and shipment, commercial grade marijuana is put into large plastic garbage or leaf bags. Sinsemilla is packed in small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. The marijuana is then transported to distribution sites usually by land vehicles such as cars or rental trucks. Marijuana is transported to the distribution sites mainly by the growers who use armed guards to protect their product during this transportation period.

Maine State Police believe that of the marijuana produced in their state, approximately 75 percent is consumed within the state, while 25 percent is shipped to out-of-state markets. Until it is disposed of the marijuana is stored in barns, attics, and rurally located rental property.

Maine law enforcement authorities believe that marijuana producers are currently receiving 500-800 hundred dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana. They are not sure of the price of sinsemilla at this time. Sometimes growers will "front" part of their product in order to consummate a sale. Sales are primarily in cash. All types of persons have been found to be involved in marijuana growing/trafficking in the state of Maine, but it seems that most growers are persons that have been involved in the "drug scene" for quite sometime. Most of the marijuana growers, specifically the smaller growers, appear to be indigenous to the state of Maine; however, some of the larger fields that have been found belong to people who reside outside the state.

Investors from within and outside the state of Maine have been known to be involved in the production of marijuana. The greatest majority of these people are self-motivated entrepreneurs. They generally rent property for growing and use cash from previous marijuana profits to finance their operations.

Authorities have no information as to whether domestic marijuana producers/traffickers have moved their illicit profits into off-shore havens. Investigations by Maine Police indicate that marijuana traffickers and growers have invested illicit

profits into legitimate businesses. The growers/traffickers definitely interact with other traffickers in the state of Maine dealing in other types of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

The state of Maine has an asset seizure law which enables law enforcement authorities to seize such items as trucks, cars, campers, weapons, and electronic equipment when they have been used in illegal marijuana operations. The asset seizure law does not allow law enforcement authorities to seize houses or real estate.

There has been no evidence found that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) has been involved in marijuana growing operations in Maine. Officials believe that a casual visitor cannot come into the state of Maine and obtain marijuana products directly from the grower. The same officials also believe that the small five to fifty pound dealer probably buys most of the marijuana from the growers in the state. Once domestic marijuana enters the distribution channels in Maine, it has been found that the people who are at the top echelon of the organizations are definitely different people than those traffickers who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, Maine law enforcement authorities believe that the growing of marijuana in their state is now a big problem, but is not addressed as the number one drug problem. However, if it keeps growing as it has in the past, it could be the number one drug problem within the near future.

MISSISSIPPI

Law enforcement officials in the state of Mississippi state that commercial grade marijuana is the most abundant type grown in their state. Most of the marijuana is grown in rural areas on rented property or on privately owned land. Much of the private land used for growing are larger tracts owned by lumber companies.

Most growers are considered to be small-scale growers who produce less than 500 plants. No information is available as to where the growers obtain their seeds or seedlings.

Marijuana fields in Mississippi are usually planted once a year starting in April. The fields are harvested in September and October. The use of greenhouses does not seem to be a major problem in Mississippi. Instead, the growers use large chicken houses and barns to escape detection.

Marijuana fields in Mississippi have been found to be protected by armed guards, booby-traps such as wired shotguns, nails in boards, and security devices such as alarms and dogs.

CB-radios are also used by growers/traffickers to alert each other of impending police action or trespass by poachers.

No information is available as to the location of cleaning/trimming sites used after harvest.. When the product is ready for packaging or shipment the commercial grade marijuana is packaged in large plastic garbage or leaf bags. Sinsemilla is packed in small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. No information is available on the method used to move the marijuana from the growing area to distribution sites; however, it is assumed that this is done by land vehicles. These shipments have on occasion been protected by official corruption usually at the lower level.

Of the marijuana produced in Mississippi authorities estimate that 30 to 40 percent is consumed within the state and the rest is shipped to interstate markets. Once at the distribution sites, the marijuana is stored in barns, abandoned houses, and house trailers until sales are consummated.

Marijuana growers/traffickers in Mississippi are currently receiving approximately 700 dollars per pound for their commercial grade marijuana and 1,300 to 1,400 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. They demand cash at the time of sale. It is not

known if any of the marijuana will be "fronted" before a sale is made. About 50 percent of the growers/traffickers in Mississippi are state residents while the rest enter the state basically to grow marijuana. A large majority of the growers/traffickers are self-motivated entrepreneurs who use profits from previous marijuana production or borrow money from financial institutions to finance their growing operations. Investigations indicate that the type of people in Mississippi involved in marijuana operations are mostly old time moonshiners, older "hippie" type persons and also career criminals.

Authorities have no information as to whether growers/traffickers in Mississippi are moving profits into off-shore havens. Investigations have shown that profits from illicit domestic marijuana trafficking have been invested in restaurants, farming operations and real estate. Domestic marijuana growers/traffickers definitely interact with traffickers who deal in other types of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

Mississippi does not have a suitable asset seizure law. This is a major handicap to law enforcement.

There has been no evidence that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) is involved in any way with marijuana growers/traffickers in Mississippi.

Officials feel that a casual visitor can probably come into Mississippi and make the necessary contacts needed to buy marijuana directly from a grower. It is further believed that small-scale dealers probably buy the bulk of the marijuana grown in the state directly from the growers.

Once domestic marijuana enters the distribution channel, it appears that the people who are at the top of the organizations are the same people who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, domestic marijuana production has become a tremendous problem in the state of Mississippi and is increasing yearly. It is close to being the number one drug problem in the state and will be in the near future. There are 82 counties within the state and only one aircraft available for spotting and surveillance. Officials believe they eradicate approximately 25 percent of the marijuana being grown.

Resources such as manpower, money and aircraft are always in short supply. Mississippi officials believe that to make any headway against marijuana growing operations, during harvest time, they need a minimum of 30 to 40 men, 3 aircraft and approximately 1,000,000 dollars.

MISSOURI

Law enforcement officials in the state of Missouri believe that commercial grade marijuana comprises approximately 70 percent of the marijuana crop grown in the state. Sinsemilla comprises the other 30 percent. Marijuana is mostly grown in rural isolated areas with 50 percent grown on federal or state owned land and 50 percent on private property or rented farm land.

This year smaller fields of marijuana were found than in the past. About 75 percent of the growers are considered to be small-scale (those growing under 500 plants). The rest are larger-scale growers who grow over 500 plants. It is not known where or how the growers obtain their seeds or seedlings.

In Missouri, marijuana plots are usually planted during late May and harvested in September and October. On a few occasions, greenhouses, warehouses, barns and other like structures have been used for growing operations.

Marijuana growing operations in Missouri are often protected by guards armed with rifles or pistols. Booby-traps have also been found in the marijuana fields. Marijuana growers also use CB-radios and police scanners to protect themselves and each other from police action and poachers.

During harvest time marijuana growers clean and trim their products close to where it is grown. When the product is ready for packaging and shipment, the commercial grade marijuana is packed in large plastic leaf or garbage bags or compressed into bricks using a trash compactor. The sinsemilla is packed in small baggies or zip-lock types bags or mason fruit jars to protect and display the buds. It is then transported to various distribution or storage sites by land vehicles such as cars, trucks, rental trucks, recreational vehicles, etc. The marijuana is transported to distribution sites by growers who often use armed guards at this stage of their operation.

Missouri State Police believe that at least half of the marijuana grown in the state is also consumed within the state while the rest is shipped to interstate markets. Although they have no hard figures to support this estimate, they believe it to

be fairly accurate. After shipment to distribution sites, the marijuana is stored in rural houses or barns until it is picked up by the buyers.

In Missouri, growers/traffickers are currently receiving 650 to 1,250 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and 1,000 to 4,000 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. It is not known whether growers will "front" any of their product. Most growers demand cash at the time they make a sale.

All types of persons have been found to be involved in marijuana growing operations in Missouri. Approximately 70 percent of the growers are Missourians who are self-motivated entrepreneurs using cash from previous marijuana crops to finance their operations.

No information has been received indicating that growers/traffickers are moving profits into off-shore havens or into legitimate businesses. Investigations indicate that marijuana growers/traffickers in Missouri interact with others traffickers in the state who deal in other types of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

Missouri has an asset seizure law that was just recently passed by the state legislature; however, as of now it has not been used or tested.

Although law enforcement authorities believe that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) has been connected with the financing, growing, and trafficking of marijuana in Missouri, they have no proof to support their belief.

Authorities believe that a casual visitor cannot come into the state and buy marijuana from a grower/trafficker unless he has made a previous contact. Police believe that out-of-state buyers purchase on a larger scale than in-state buyers, although there are no facts to backup this statement. Once domestic marijuana enters the distribution channels about 50 percent is handled by the same persons who smuggle marijuana into the United States. The other 50 percent has no connection at all with the smuggler type.

Finally, Missouri law enforcement officials believe that between May and October domestic marijuana growing is their

number one drug problem. They have put a tremendous amount of resources into combatting marijuana growing and have had some effect. However, with 114 counties to cover and these being mostly rural areas, police do not have the resources needed to bring the problem under control and do not see the resources being available in the near future.

NORTH CAROLINA

Law enforcement officials in North Carolina believe that commercial grade marijuana constitutes the major portion of the crop in their state; however, some sinsemilla is also grown. The majority of the marijuana is grown by "poachers" using and trespassing on someone else's land. Some Federal and state lands are also used for growing marijuana. Most of the crop is grown in rural areas of the state.

Most growers are small-scale growers who produce less than 500 plants per year. Many of these growers produce their own seeds and seedlings. It is not known if some are purchased from other areas.

Marijuana fields are usually planted in May and harvested between late July and October. Authorities have noted that more growers are using greenhouses this year than they did in the last year.

To protect their growing areas, the growers/traffickers have resorted to various types of security such as armed guards, booby-traps, surveillance and other security devices including dogs. CB-radios are also used to alert each other against possible action by police or poachers.

After the marijuana is harvested the grower generally cleans and trims the product in the vicinity of the growing area. When it is ready for shipment, commercial grade marijuana is packaged in large plastic garbage or leaf bags. Sinsemilla is packaged in mason fruit jars or small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. It is then transported by land vehicles to distribution sites. It is not known if these shipments are protected while enroute.

North Carolina authorities estimate approximately 70 percent of the marijuana produced in their state is consumed within the state, while the other 30 percent is being shipped into inter-state markets. The marijuana is usually stored in tobacco barns until sales are made.

Marijuana growers/traffickers in North Carolina are currently receiving approximately 1,000 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and 1,600 to 2,000 dollars per pound

There has been no evidence that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) has been involved in marijuana growing/trafficking operations in North Carolina. No information is available concerning instances of official corruption occurring in connection with domestic marijuana growing operations.

Officials believe that a casual visitor can come into the state of North Carolina and make a contact to purchase marijuana directly from a grower if he has the money to pay for his purchase.

Once domestic marijuana enters the distribution channels in North Carolina, these tend to be the same channels that are used and the same people who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, North Carolina officials believe that marijuana growing/trafficking is one of their top three drug problems. There are 100 counties in the state and because of the lack of resources (aircraft, manpower, money) they are unable to cover the entire state. The domestic marijuana problem seems to be staying about the same for now but, without additional resources, the problem is destined to get worse.

for sinsemilla. Some growers/traffickers will "front" a portion of their product in order to make a sale. When the sale is consummated the grower/trafficker receives cash on delivery.

Although there are investors from within and outside the state who have a stake in domestic marijuana growing operations, most are North Carolina residents who are self-motivated entrepreneurs and use cash from previous marijuana crops to finance their operations.

Investigations by North Carolina authorities indicate that most growers/traffickers use their illegal profits to buy land and to support their own drug habits. There is no indication that any of the money is being moved to off-shore havens. It is believed that marijuana growers/traffickers definitely interact with other types of narcotics traffickers in that state.

North Carolina has an asset seizure law that allows authorities to seize money and vehicles if they are found to be involved with illegal drug operations.

NEW MEXICO

Law enforcement authorities in New Mexico believe that commercial grade marijuana constitutes the major portion of the cannabis crop in their state; however, some sinsemilla is also grown. The majority of marijuana is cultivated by trespassers utilizing someone else's land. Federal and state land is rarely used to cultivate marijuana, although some plots have been detected in Hilo National Forest. The marijuana crop is grown in all regions of the state, with most of the crop located in rural areas.

Most growers are small-scale, local operators who produce around 100 plants per year. Some California growers have relocated their operations into New Mexico because of the intensive enforcement and eradication efforts in that state. State police officials have noticed an increase in sophisticated cultivation methods introduced by the California growers. Although most of the production is believed to be consumed within the state, some marijuana is being transported to California. Local police officials assume that trafficking to other states is being done by the transplanted California growers.

Most marijuana operators finance their own cultivation operations. The marijuana fields are usually planted in late March and harvested between late July and October.

Authorities have noted the increased use of greenhouses by growers during the past year. Some novel cultivation methods include tying marijuana plants to full-grown trees to decrease the risk of detection. These plants are watered by a sophisticated network of hoses running up the trees. Authorities have also noted that local growers are paying California growers cultivation fees for information on new cultivation techniques.

Large-scale growers generally sell their marijuana to wholesale buyers, and small-scale growers attempt to sell their marijuana directly to street-level dealers. Officials believe that a casual visitor to New Mexico can purchase marijuana directly from the grower. New Mexico law enforcement authorities indicated that marijuana producers sell their commercial grade product for \$500 per pound and sinsemilla for \$1,500 per pound.

After marijuana has been harvested, it is taken to drying and cleaning sites. Once cleaned, the product is packaged for transport to distribution sites in five pound bricks using a trash compactor. Marijuana is normally transported to distribution sites in a variety of vehicles such as cars,

pickup trucks, campers, and other types of recreational vehicles. Most marijuana producers transport their own product to distribution sites. Local authorities have reported some cases where growers shipped marijuana through the United Parcel Service (UPS). A parcel containing 18 pounds of marijuana destined for Chicago, Illinois was seized in 1984.

OHIO

According to Ohio state law enforcement officials, most of the marijuana produced in the state is commercial grade marijuana while sinsemilla accounts for most of the remainder. There is thought to have been an overall increase in the amount of marijuana grown this year.

Most cannabis is cultivated in rural counties in southern Ohio on privately owned property while a small amount is cultivated on Federal and state owned land.

Some marijuana growers obtain their seeds from previous crops or from horticultural specialists who develop superior seeds, while others obtain their seeds from Jamaica. In some cases, an individual will arrange for a farmer to plant and tend the marijuana. When the marijuana is sold, the farmer receives a share of the profits.

Small-scale growers (fewer than 500 plants) account for most of the marijuana crop. The cannabis is planted on farmland once a year beginning in May or June and is harvested in August and September. However, some growers harvest their crop at the end of July in order to dupe police. Local police report that cannabis growing areas have been

protected by armed guards, booby-traps, surveillance, and dogs. CB's and police scanners are the primary types of equipment used by traffickers to coordinate protection of their marijuana growing areas. Barns have been used to dry the marijuana and greenhouses have been used to store it. Most of the storage facilities are not protected.

Most of the marijuana removed from the field is sent to the distribution site in large plastic garbage bags while most sinsemilla is packaged in small plastic baggies. The marijuana is then generally transported by the growers to the distribution site by land vehicles and are protected enroute by armed guards.

Most of the marijuana produced in Ohio is consumed within the state. Wholesalers sell to retail buyers primarily through street-level contacts who occasionally front a portion of their product to the retail buyer. A portion of the crop is consumed by the growers. Buyers normally make contact with growers through friends or by word-of-mouth.

Marijuana growers include unemployed moonshiners, drug traffickers, former tobacco farmers, and former students, most of whom come from Ohio.

Marijuana growers finance their crops primarily by utilizing cash from previous marijuana profits or by borrowing cash from other traffickers. Investors, most of whom are living in the state, sometimes pool their money. There have been reported cases of stockpiling marijuana. Traffickers own or occupy farms and land and spend their illicit profits on airplanes and boats. There is no evidence that traffickers invest their profits in off-shore safe havens. Some traffickers invest their illicit profits in legitimate businesses. It is suspected that marijuana traffickers also deal in other types of drugs to enhance their profits, particularly cocaine. Vehicles and cultivation equipment were the primary types of assets seized from traffickers last year. Although traditional organized crime was reported to be connected to marijuana growing operations about three years ago, there is no evidence of current involvement.

Casual visitors cannot usually obtain marijuana directly from growers.

Commercial grade marijuana sells for about \$300 per pound and \$80-\$100 per ounce, while sinsemilla goes for about \$2,000 per pound and \$100-\$125 per ounce.

OKLAHOMA

Domestic marijuana cultivation and trafficking represent the number one problem in the state of Oklahoma according to law enforcement authorities. Due to vigorous state law enforcement efforts, Oklahoma has been one of the top five states in terms of marijuana eradication over the last two years. Marijuana production is predominant in the eastern part of the state near the Ozark Mountains. This area is economically depressed with high unemployment rates, sparsely populated, and contains rough mountainous terrain with an abundant supply of water.

Law enforcement authorities in eastern Oklahoma are small in number and poorly equipped. Combined with the good soil conditions and cheap land, this area is attractive to out-of-state growers from California and Texas where illicit cannabis detection efforts are intensive.

Domestic marijuana producers and traffickers are generally prosecuted by the U.S. Attorneys or state prosecutors. Enforcement efforts are hampered by the clannish nature of small towns in Oklahoma. Because everyone knows each other, it is hard to utilize confidential informants in this area.

Most small-scale marijuana producers finance their own growing operations. Many large-scale growers are receiving financial backing from investors in Oklahoma, California and Texas or are working for land managers on a sharecrop basis. Large-scale growers generally sell their cannabis through wholesale distributors while smaller growers attempt to sell their product to local customers.

After the marijuana has been harvested, it is taken to drying and cleaning sites. After cleaning, the product is packaged for transportation to distribution sites in a variety of garbage or leaf bags, in 2 to 5 pound blocks (through the use of trash compactors), and even in hay-type bales. As opposed to the trend observed in other states, most Oklahoma marijuana appears to be high quality (high THC content) commercial grade marijuana rather than sinsemilla. Marijuana is normally transported to distribution sites in a variety of vehicles including cars, planes, vans, and pickup trucks. Use of the United Parcel Service (UPS) to ship marijuana from Oklahoma to California has been reported.

Armed guards are utilized by most growers during the transportation of marijuana to distribution sites. In addition, a number of automatic weapons and booby-traps have

been seized. Growers in the Ozark Mountains defend their plots with shotguns. There have also been a number of unsolved homicides connected to domestic marijuana cultivation. Two informants were murdered for providing information during a conspiracy trial of 37 people. Growers have killed one another over marijuana plots and people not involved in cannabis cultivation have been executed for stealing marijuana plants.

Growers continue to disperse their crops among an increasing number of smaller fields. Greenhouses have been utilized to avoid aerial detection. Some indoor growing operations have been discovered which consist of trenches covered with logs.

State officials have received information from a confidential informant that people with mob (La Cosa Nostra) connections in Philadelphia tried to purchase 160 acres of land in eastern Oklahoma to grow marijuana. This information has not been substantiated. State law enforcement officials report that a number of highly developed trafficking organizations exist in Oklahoma. These organizations, although not connected to traditional organized crime, have conducted a multi-million dollar business that distributes marijuana to all parts of the United States. Significant amounts of violence associated with traditional organized crime (i.e., murdering of witnesses) has been associated with these groups.

WASHINGTON

Domestic marijuana is readily available in all parts of Washington. It is either grown locally or comes from Oregon and California. According to Washington state law enforcement authorities, over 50 percent of all marijuana produced in this state is sinsemilla while the remainder is commercial grade marijuana. State law enforcement authorities perceive an overall increase in the amount and quality of marijuana grown, 85 percent of which is believed to be cultivated indoors in urban, suburban, and rural areas.

Only a small amount of cannabis, approximately 15 percent, is grown outdoors, chiefly in rural and suburban areas of the state. This can be attributed to the concerted aerial eradication enforcement efforts of federal, state and county police agencies. Most marijuana growers obtain their seed and seedlings used to start their cannabis crop from other marijuana growers, some of whom specialize in cultivating starter plants. This has resulted in a decreasing demand for imported marijuana seeds.

Domestic marijuana is normally packaged for shipment to distribution areas in large plastic bags while sinsemilla is normally packaged in small plastic baggies. Growers

transport the marijuana from the growing sites in cars and trucks which are generally unguarded.

While most of the marijuana produced in Washington is consumed within the state, an estimated 20 to 40 percent is exported to other western states and Canada. Wholesale brokers and distributors sell to retailers primarily within the drug culture. Wholesalers sometimes front some of their marijuana to retailers and they occasionally sell directly to street-level buyers. Local entrepreneurs are the main type of individuals involved in marijuana cultivation and trafficking. Very few traffickers are from out-of-state.

According to marijuana seizure reports filed by law enforcement officials within the Western States Information Network, there has been a shift from growing marijuana outdoors to growing marijuana indoors. Approximately 85 percent of cannabis within urban, suburban, and rural areas is being grown indoors. Indoor cultivation of marijuana is increasing due to successful police aerial detection efforts against outdoor plants. Growers usually prefer to use rental property because, under state law, if growers use their own residences for growing marijuana, the house or other property could be seized. However, if the marijuana is being grown on rental property without the knowledge of the owner, the asset cannot be seized.

Indoor plants are planted and harvested year-round and can produce three or four crops a year. Nearly all of the indoor growing operations utilize automated watering, lighting, heating, and ventilating systems. There has also been an increase in hydroponic growing facilities. A 90-day variety of marijuana which is short and bushy has become the most popular variety of marijuana grown indoors. Growers usually have 30-40 plants. Security devices such as commercial and homemade alarm systems and guard dogs are the major methods used to guard the marijuana in both growing and storage facilities.

Most of the cannabis grown out-of-doors is cultivated on privately owned land. Cannabis is also grown on U.S. and state owned land. The cannabis fields are planted once a year beginning in April or May in western Washington and during June in eastern Washington. Outdoor cannabis fields in both regions are normally harvested in August and September.

Outdoor cannabis growing areas are protected by dogs, booby-traps, and other security devices. CB's, police scanners, and telephone networks are the primary communications equipment used by growers within marijuana growing areas to alert each other to police presence or other danger.

There have been unconfirmed reports of individuals who are franchising growing operations by supplying lights, starter plants, and expertise in exchange for a percentage of the profits. Most marijuana growers finance their cannabis growing operations by using cash from previous marijuana production profits. Very little stockpiling has occurred because marijuana growers know well in advance how and to whom their crops are to be distributed and they sell all of their crop. Domestic marijuana growers, buyers and retailers spend their illicit profits on personal and real property and vacations. There is no evidence that marijuana traffickers from Washington move their money to off-shore safe havens although some traffickers do invest their illicit profits in legitimate businesses.

The price range for marijuana seeds varies from \$1 to \$5. Seedlings sell for \$25 to \$100 each. Commercial grade marijuana is top grade and sells for \$1,000 to \$2,000 per pound and \$50 to \$100 per ounce. Sinsemilla goes for \$2,000 to \$3,000 per pound and \$150 to \$300 per ounce.

Marijuana growers make their own contacts with distributors and retailers. Casual visitors to Washington find it difficult to obtain marijuana products directly from the grower. Small-scale growers sell marijuana primarily to

associates and friends. There has been no evidence thus far that marijuana growers are connected in any to traditional organized crime.

WEST VIRGINIA

Law enforcement officials in the state of West Virginia state that of the marijuana being grown within the state 20 percent is commercial grade marijuana and 80 percent is sinsemilla. Most of the marijuana is grown on private land in rural counties; however, some is grown on U.S. national forest land.

The large majority of growers are considered to be small-scale growers who grow under 500 plants per season. They produce their own seeds and seedlings instead of purchasing them.

Marijuana fields are generally planted once a year usually during April and are harvested in October. Some greenhouses have been found but they are used mostly for seedlings.

Marijuana growing areas in West Virginia have been found on occasion to be protected with some type of alarm, mainly dogs. Up until now there has been no problem with armed guards or booby-traps in the growing areas.

After the marijuana has been harvested it is generally taken to another place away from the growing areas where it is cleaned and trimmed. When the product is ready for packaging and shipping, the commercial grade marijuana is packaged in plastic garbage or leaf bags. Growers have also used trash compacters to compress the marijuana into bricks. Sinsemilla is generally put into mason type fruit jars for shipment so that the buds can be protected and displayed at the same time.

After packaging, the marijuana is moved to distribution sites by land vehicles such as trucks or station wagons. No armed guards are used as protection during this phase of the operation. There have been some minor problems with official corruption on the lower level concerning the protection of these shipments.

West Virginia State Police believe that of the domestic marijuana produced in their state approximately 15 percent is consumed within and the other 85 percent is shipped to interstate markets. Buyers, brokers or distributors will generally store their marijuana in barns, houses and trailers until it is sold.

In West Virginia growers are receiving approximately 800 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and between 2,000 and 3,000 per pound for sinsemilla. For the most part growers will not "front" any of their product, but will demand cash on delivery.

All types of persons have been found to be involved in marijuana growing/trafficking organizations from the businessman to the counter-culture "hippie" type to the farmer. Most of the growers/distributors are West Virginia natives. The largest concentration of these people is in Monroe County, West Virginia. There are some investors from outside the state who become involved in marijuana operations in West Virginia, but because of the lack of reliable sources, information about these people is very sketchy. It is generally felt that cash from previous marijuana operations is used to finance current growing operations.

Some information has been received indicating that growers have invested their illicit profits into legitimate businesses, land and other types of real estate, but no evidence has been found that money is being moved to off-shore havens. Investigations have shown that marijuana growers/traffickers in West Virginia

definitely interact with traffickers of other types of narcotics, especially cocaine traffickers.

The asset seizure law in West Virginia is generally very weak and only allows police to confiscate vehicles when it can be proved they were used for illegal drug purposes.

Although rumors arise from time to time, there has been no definite link between traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) and marijuana growing operations in the state.

Authorities believe that casual visitors can come into the state and easily make a contact to buy marijuana directly from a grower. These same authorities believe that small marijuana dealers purchase most of their marijuana directly from growers. Once domestic marijuana enters distribution channels, it is found that top organizational people are definitely different from those traffickers who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, West Virginia law enforcement officials believe that domestic marijuana growing is now the number one problem in the state and is growing yearly. They do not have the resources, manpower or money to effectively combat the marijuana growers.

To add to the problem, wild marijuana (ditch weed) also grows in abundance in the water-shed areas in the state.

WISCONSIN

Law enforcement officials in Wisconsin state that the predominant cannabis crop in their state is commercial grade marijuana. Some sinsemilla is also grown. The majority of the marijuana is being grown on private property in rural areas of the state. About five percent is being grown on Federal or state lands. Most of the growers are small-scale growers producing less than 500 plants per growing season. Police do not know where the growers obtain their seeds or seedlings.

Marijuana in Wisconsin is usually planted sometime in May and harvested in September and October. Many growers are beginning to use greenhouses for growing smaller plants. Marijuana in greenhouses is also more difficult for police to detect.

Marijuana growing areas in Wisconsin have been found to be protected in many cases by armed guards, dogs and surveillance by the growers. The growers also use CB-radios to alert each other of possible police action or poachers.

After the marijuana is harvested it is usually cleaned and trimmed right on the property where it was grown. When the product is ready for packaging the commercial grade marijuana is put into large plastic garbage or leaf bags. Sinsemilla is put into small plastic baggies or zip-lock type bags. The grower then transports the marijuana to storage or distribution areas in pick-up trucks or rental trucks. Police have also received information that marijuana is being transported by river barge, but this has not been confirmed. For protection during transportation, armed guards have been used on occasion.

Wisconsin State Police believe that of the marijuana produced in their state, 75 percent is consumed within the state and 25 percent is shipped to interstate markets. The marijuana is then stored in barns and metal sheds until it is sold and shipped out.

In Wisconsin, growers receive approximately 300 to 600 dollars per pound for commercial grade marijuana and 800 to 1,000 dollars per pound for sinsemilla. A grower will seldom "front" any of his product and will usually demand cash at the time of delivery. Authorities have found that businessmen make-up the

largest group of growers, with farmers second. The majority of the growers are Wisconsin state residents.

Marijuana growing operations in Wisconsin are financed by many diverse people. This includes the grower himself as a self-motivated entrepreneur, land owners employing growers, investors from within and outside the state and even by some small marijuana trafficking organizations. The majority of these people use cash from previous marijuana production profits to finance their operations.

Based on investigations it appears that some of the growers have invested their illicit profits in off-shore havens such as the Cayman Islands. Growers are also using their illicit profits to buy real estate and vehicles. It has been rumored that some of the money is being invested into legitimate business, but this has not been proven by authorities. The grower/traffickers in Wisconsin definitely interact with traffickers dealing in other types of narcotics and drugs, mainly cocaine. They have also been known to interact with firearm traffickers. Using the state asset seizure law, police have been able to confiscate currency and vehicles in some of their domestic marijuana cases.

There has been no evidence found that traditional organized crime (La Cosa Nostra) is involved in domestic marijuana growing/trafficking operations. Up to this point no instances of official corruption concerning domestic marijuana growing/trafficking operations have surfaced. Once domestic marijuana enters distribution channels, the people involved are definitely different than those persons who smuggle marijuana into the United States.

Finally, Wisconsin authorities believe that marijuana is the number one drug of abuse in their state and domestic marijuana growing is a much larger problem than they first suspected. At this point, domestic marijuana production has a relatively low priority as far as the state is concerned. Law enforcement officials believe that to effectively combat the problem, they are going to need more support such as equipment and manpower and also more realistic support from prosecutors.