

ISSUE #5 - JULY 2022

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With the help of these industry authorities, High! Europe offers timely and accurate information about cannabis and natural health, news information and education as it applies to cannabis.

The board members lend their expertise to our process of developing and commissioning or editorial lineup, and they're post-publication review of each issue is an invaluable in maintaining our more than eight year, global reputation as a trusted cannabis health and wellness resource.

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HIGH! EUROPE MAGAZINE

I S S U E # 5

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All material presented is intended for a mature 19+ audience and is intended for entertainment, educational and informational purposes only.

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**EUROPE'S LEGAL CANNABIS
CULTURE MAGAZINE**

2022 - THE SUMMER OF CHANGE



It is my pleasure to bring you an all new issue of High! Europe Magazine to assist in furthering the de-semination of all information and education about hemp and cannabis into the European market.

Some countries, such as Spain and Portugal, have decriminalized cannabis for personal use but have not yet legalized it for recreational purposes. So far, the only European country that has effectively reached a turning point in the European cannabis space is Malta.

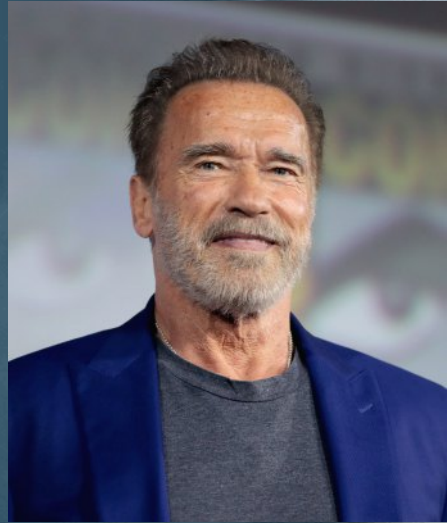
That said, Germany has been hosting a number of medical cannabis events and is steadily emerging as a leader within the European market. More than half of Europeans favor legalizing cannabis, a new study shows -- a bullish sign for entrepreneurs and investors seeking to capitalize on the industry's growth. The steady expansion of Europe's medical-

cannabis market and the explosion of wellness-focused CBD products have helped shift perceptions after decades of opposition, according to Alastair Moore, the founder of Hanway Associates, a research firm focused on marijuana.

The narrative around cannabis is now less about scare-mongering," he said. "This move away from resistance to acceptance is a good sign for entrepreneurs and investors entering the market."

It is promising and hopeful to hear this and expect nothing but growth and change to come out of Europe's blossoming medical cannabis markets as we move into the second half of 2022 and beyond. To my friends in Russia, it disheartens me to see that so many

voices are being silenced and that your leaders are leaving you in the dark. I want to take this opportunity to reprint a letter to the Russian people by Arnold Schwarzenegger that was written earlier this year and Mr. Schwarzenegger sums up my own feelings so well. Mr. Schwarzenegger was the 38th governor of California.



He wrote:

I Have a Message for My Russian Friends.

The strength and the heart of the Russian people have always inspired me. That is why I hope that you will let me tell you the truth about the war in Ukraine. I have a message for my Russian friends, and for the Russian soldiers serving in Ukraine: There are things going on in the world that have been kept from you, terrible things that you should know about. But before I tell you about the harsh realities, let me tell you about the Russian who became my hero.

In 1961, when I was 14 years old, I had the chance to attend the World Weightlifting

Championships in Vienna. Yury Petrovich Vlasov won the world-championship title, becoming the first human being to lift 200 kilograms over his head. Somehow, a friend of mine got me backstage. All of a sudden a 14-year-old boy was standing in front of the strongest man in the world. I couldn't believe it. He reached out to shake my hand. I still had a boy's hand. He had this powerful man's hand that swallowed mine, but he was kind. And he smiled at me.

I never forgot that day. I went home and put his photo above my bed. It inspired me when I started lifting weights, but it angered my

my father. He didn't like Russians, because of his experience in the Second World War, when he was injured in Leningrad. (The Nazi army that he was part of did vicious harm to that great city and to its brave people.) My father told me to take Petrovich's picture down, and to find a German or Austrian hero. But I did not take the photograph down, because it didn't matter to me what flag he carried.

Years later, I was in Moscow to film Red Heat, the first American movie allowed to film in Red Square. Yury and I spent the whole day together. He was so thoughtful, so kind, so smart, and very giving. He gave me a blue coffee cup that I still use every morning.

The reason I'm telling you all of this is that ever since I was 14 years old, I've had nothing but affection and respect for the people of Russia. The strength and the heart of the Russian people have always inspired me. That is why I hope that you will let me tell you the truth about the war in Ukraine. No

one likes to hear something critical of their government. I understand that. But as a longtime friend of the Russian people, I hope that you will hear what I have to say.

I spoke to the American people this way last year on January 6, when a wild crowd was storming the U.S. Capitol trying to overthrow our government. There are moments that are so wrong that we have to speak up.

I know that your government has told you this is a war to de-Nazify Ukraine. This is not true. De-Nazify Ukraine? It is a country with a Jewish president—a Jewish president, I might add, whose grandfather's three brothers were all murdered by the Nazis. Ukraine did not start this war. Neither did nationalists or Nazis. Those in power in the Kremlin started this war; this is not the Russian people's war.

Let me tell you what you should know. One hundred forty-one nations at the United Nations voted that Russia was the aggressor and called for it to remove its troops immediately. Only four countries in the entire

world voted with Russia. That is a fact. The world has turned against Russia because of its actions in Ukraine. Whole city blocks have been flattened by Russian artillery and bombs, including a children's hospital and a maternity hospital. Three million Ukrainian refugees, mainly women, children, and the elderly, have already fled the country, and many more now seek to get out. It is a humanitarian crisis. Russia, because of its brutality, is now isolated from the society of nations.

You're also not being told the truth about the consequences of this war for Russia itself. I regret to tell you that thousands of Russian soldiers have been killed. They've been caught between Ukrainians fighting for their homeland and the Russian leadership fighting for conquest. Massive amounts of Russian equipment have been destroyed or abandoned. The destruction that Russian bombs are raining down upon innocent civilians has so outraged the world that the strongest global economic sanctions ever enacted have been imposed on the country. Those who don't deserve it on both sides of the war will suffer.

The Russian government has lied not only to its citizens, but also to its soldiers. Some of the soldiers were told they were going to fight the Nazis. Some were told that the Ukrainian people would greet them like heroes. Some were told that they were simply going on exercises—they didn't even know that they were going into war. And some were told that they were there to protect ethnic Russians in Ukraine. None of this was true. Russian soldiers have faced fierce resistance from the Ukrainians who want to protect their families.

When I see babies being pulled out of ruins, I feel like I'm watching a documentary about the horrors of the Second World War, not the news of today. When my father arrived in Leningrad, he was all pumped up on the lies of his government. When he left Leningrad, he was broken physically and mentally. He spent the rest of his life in pain: pain from a broken back, pain from the

shrapnel that always reminded him of those terrible years, pain from the guilt that he felt.

Russian soldiers already know much of this truth. You've seen it with your own eyes. I don't want you to be broken like my father. This is not a war to defend Russia like your grandfathers and your great-grandfathers fought. This is an illegal war. Your lives, your limbs, and your futures are being sacrificed for a senseless war, condemned by the entire world. Remember that 11 million Russians have family connections to Ukraine. With every bullet that you shoot, you shoot a brother or a sister. Every bomb and every shell that falls is falling not on an enemy, but on a school or a hospital or a home.

I don't think the Russian people are aware that such things are happening. So I urge the Russian people and the Russian soldiers in Ukraine to understand the propaganda and the

disinformation that you are being told. I ask you to help me spread the truth so that your fellow Russians will know the human catastrophe that is happening in Ukraine. To President Putin, I say: You started this war. You're leading this war. You can stop this war now.

And to the Russians who have been protesting on the streets against the invasion of Ukraine: The world has seen your bravery. We know that you have suffered the consequences of your courage. You have been arrested. You have been jailed and you've been beaten. You are my new heroes. You have the strength of Yury Petrovich Vlasov. You have the true heart of Russia.

...

Arnold Schwarzenegger is an Austrian-American actor, film producer, businessman, former bodybuilder and politician who served as the 38th governor of California between 2003 and 2011. Time Magazine named Schwarzenegger one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2004 and 2007.

...

Thank you Arnold - I could not have said it better myself. I encourage Russians everywhere to take a closer look. President Putin, I urge you to end this war with Ukraine.

Cy Williams - Editor
High! Europe Magazine



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COULD MEDICAL CANNABIS BRING RELIEF TO THE UKRAINE??

**RUSSIA'S RELATIONSHIP
WITH CANNABIS EXPLORED**



The Russian Federation is far from a marijuana free-for-all, and both medical and recreational cannabis are illegal in the country. In 2004, Russia revised its drug laws to make possession of up to 20 grams of cannabis an administrative offense, and not subject to incarceration. The country took a step back in February 2006, when the government cancelled RF Government Decree No. 231 of May, 2004, thus scaling the amount back down to 6 grams.

Since then, 6 grams or more of cannabis is considered a “large amount,” and more than 100 grams is considered an “exceptionally large amount.” Both can result in a years-long prison sentence. Anything less than 6 grams of cannabis can result in a fine or “corrective labor.”

As of June, 2019, The Moscow Times reported that Russia has the highest per capita number of people imprisoned for drug crimes in Europe.

CANNABIS IN RUSSIA IS ILLEGAL. POSSESSION OF UP TO 6 GRAMS (OR TWO GRAMS OF HASHISH) IS AN ADMINISTRATIVE OFFENSE, PUNISHABLE BY A FINE OR DETENTION OF 15 DAYS. POSSESSION OF LARGER AMOUNTS IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE.

In November, 2019, the Russian news agency Interfax quoted Yevgeny Bryun of the Russian Health Ministry as saying that “medical marijuana uses are being researched in Russia,” but that cannabis will not be legalized “unless a variety that does not cause psychosis is found.”

Bryun also stated that 1-3% of people smoking cannabis develop severe psychosis, including schizophrenia



(an assertion not supported by science) and thus “legalization is out of the question in this case.” Two years earlier, the head of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs’ anti-drug administration stated that the ministry does not support marijuana legalization, including for medical purposes. A 2003 country profile by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime found that cannabis “remains the most abused drug,” and that Russian authorities estimate that cannabis grows wild in the country over a million hectares.

In 2018, a telephone survey of around 1,600 people found that 89% of Russians are opposed to the legalization of soft drugs like cannabis and only 8% are in favor. The survey also found that only 17% of 18-24 year olds and 13% of 25-34 year olds support legalization. Official Russian perceptions of cannabis are quite conservative, as can be seen in statements by Russian political leaders, such as those mentioned above. In addition, when Canada legalized recreational marijuana in 2018, the Russian Foreign Ministry

criticized the move, calling it a breach of Canada’s “international legal obligations.”

The conservative approach to cannabis can also be seen in highly-publicized cases of draconian measures taken against people arrested for cannabis use. These include a story reported in the Moscow Times in 2019, which detailed how police used Tinder to lure a 19-year-old man into an arrest for less than 7 grams of marijuana.

Rallies for cannabis legalization have been the subject of police repression, including a 2004 march in Moscow, in which police detained 65 out of 200 participants.

WHAT RUSSIAN LAW PERMITS MEDICAL PATIENTS?

The country does not allow medical marijuana and it is unlikely that this will change anytime soon. A 2017 article reported that Russia’s Deputy Health Minister Dmitry Kostennikov

has stated that cannabis is a highly dangerous drug and that “the harm which this drug causes is evident. In spite of the fact that it’s presented as a ‘light’ drug, it proves to be the first step on the way to harder drugs, and nurtures and fuels the drug culture.”

Visiting Russia – can you buy or bring marijuana products?

While Russia’s criminal code has technically decriminalized the possession of up to 6 grams of cannabis, tourists would probably be ill-advised to put too much trust in the letter of the law. Anyone detained by police with cannabis – including less than 6 grams – could face abuse, a demand for a bribe, and all types of other legal hassles until they are released. There’s also no assurance that the police won’t say that the amount is more than 6 grams if they are so inclined.

In addition, consuming cannabis or trying to purchase it in public could be a risky endeavor that may not only draw the ire of the police, but also everyday Russian civilians.

Interestingly enough though, when Russia hosted the FIFA World Cup in 2018, the country allowed World Cup fans to bring medicinal marijuana (and medicinal cocaine and heroin) into the country as long as they had a prescription.

In addition, Russia’s Federal Customs Service – in keeping with a decision made by the Eurasian Economic Commission – allows the entrance of “narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, except limited amounts of narcotics and psychotropic substances in the form of medical agents for personal administration on medical indications

in case of presence of the supporting medical documents with specification and amount of the product.”

However, it would be extremely unwise to attempt to bring cannabis in any form into Russia.

RUSSIA SENTENCES U.S. CITIZEN TO 14 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MARIJUANA HE SAYS WAS PRESCRIBED

Here are a few examples of how this can go very wrong, very fast. A former employee of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow Mark Fogel was detained in August 2021 upon his arrival with his wife in Moscow from New York.

He has been handed a 14-year prison term in Russia for illegal drug trafficking after he was caught entering the country with medical marijuana he says was prescribed to him after back surgery.

A court in the town of Khimki near Moscow said on June 17 that U.S. citizen Marc Fogel, who works as a teacher at the Anglo-American School in the Russian capital, was sentenced the day before.

According to the court statement, Fogel, who was detained in August last year upon his arrival with his wife in Moscow from New York, pleaded guilty.

Fogel says he had medical papers explicitly showing the marijuana was prescribed by doctors and that it was solely for medical use.

Fogel was quoted at the time as saying that he had not known that medical marijuana was illegal in Russia. His lawyers said then that Russian authorities had found 17 grams of marijuana in his possession.

U.S. officials have yet to comment on Fogel's sentencing.

Fogel is one of several Americans incarcerated in Russia in recent years on charges that their families, supporters, and in some cases the U.S. government, have said appear trumped up.

Another American whose detention by Russian authorities has drawn criticism is basketball star Brittney Griner. She was arrested in February at a Moscow airport after the authorities said a scan of her luggage revealed vape cartridges containing hash oil.

Griner, who played for a Russian professional basketball team, could face up to 10 years in prison if convicted on illegal drug charges. She has pleaded not guilty and the United States has designated her as "wrongfully detained." U.S. President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken have said they are doing all they could to win her release.



UKRAINE LOOKS AT LEGALIZED MEDICAL CANNABIS

In stark contrast to Russia's overall views on cannabis - Ukraine's Health Minister Viktor Liashko announced on June 7 that the government had backed the bill that would legalize medical cannabis amid the war with Russia. "We understand the negative effects of war on mental health. We understand the number of people who will need medical treatment due to this exposure. And we understand that there is no time to wait," he wrote in a recent Facebook post.

He also stressed those who campaign against the legalization of medical cannabis in Ukraine deliberately compare cannabis-based medicines with illegal cannabis to negate its




medical value as a medicine and to discredit the idea of its use for medical purposes. The bill aims to improve the quality of medical services for the population that undergoes palliative medicine and encourage medical research on cannabis and would expand patients' access to the necessary treatment for more than 50 conditions, including cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), neurological diseases, and chronic pain of neuropathic origin.

At the same time, it would provide strict control over the cultivation, production, and sale of medical cannabis products, including authorizations and licenses for the economic activities for the cultivation of cannabis strains for medical purposes and scientific research, as well as a medical cannabis tracking system in order to provide information for all the stages of products' circulation. Patients will be able to get medical cannabis products

through a prescription from a doctor accordingly to indications provided on the electronic prescription.

According to the bill, a central executive body determines the percentage of THC in medical cannabis products through laboratory tests conducted by enterprises, institutions, and organizations. This bill was initially introduced in June 2021. But a month later, the Ukrainian Parliament (also known as the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine) failed to approve it.

The government legalized the use of dronabinol, nabilone, synthetic THC-based drugs, and nabiximols, a cannabis extract developed by the UK company GW Pharmaceuticals in April 2021, two months before lawmakers introduced the medical cannabis bill. According to the Ukrainian daily Kyiv Post, the results of a national poll done in October 2020 by then-candidate President Volodymyr Zelenskyy



showed that most Ukrainians support medical cannabis legalization. Asked whether they support the legalization of medical cannabis, 64.88% of respondents said "yes," while 29.53% said "no." It would appear that the Russia-Ukraine war has sped up the process of legalizing medical cannabis. He highlighted how the bill would create 'create conditions for expanding patients' access to the necessary treatment of cancer and post-traumatic stress disorder resulting from the war.

Ukrainians are being exposed to huge distress as a result of the conflict. Experts warn that the war has already caused enormous trauma, especially

among children, young people, and the elderly. Add in the mental health crisis that the war has generated, medical cannabis may just represent an feasible option for people's healing process.

As a press statement of Ukraine's Ministry of Health reported, preliminary evidence shows the use of drugs based on medical cannabis is effective in the case of mental disorders resulting from the use of psychoactive substances with a stimulating effect on the human body, as well as to overcome anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and sleep disorders.

The Ministry of Health expects the Parliament to support the bill further, noting that medical cannabis can prevent patients from suffering and improve their treatment.

Recreational cannabis in Ukraine will remain illegal. Its production, sale, purchase, and other illicit activities trigger administrative or penal offenses.

When the country was part of the Soviet Union, Ukraine was one of the biggest hemp producers in the world. Before the 1950s, it had hundreds of thousands of hectares dedicated to hemp cultivation for industrial purposes.

Cannabis legalization activists with the Freedom March campaign in Ukraine are now actively calling on the global cannabis industry for donations to help the Ukrainian people in their fight to defend their lives and national sovereignty from neighboring Russia.

Originally founded in 2005, Freedom March is a cannabis advocacy group that pushes for reforming Ukraine's cannabis laws, expanding access to medical cannabis, and which defends in court people accused of possessing cannabis products, which remain outlawed in Ukraine. In a statement provided to Ganjapreneur, Nazarii Sovsun, a representative for Freedom

March, described the effort

“Today, with weapons in our hands, we have to defend our sovereignty and democracy, shining rays of hope at the uncertain future of the entire free world. This war was cast on Ukraine not just to steal our territories and resources and eradicate our population. This war is against freedom and identity, a threat that reaches beyond borders. We invite all cannabis professionals to stand by our side while we still resist.” — Sovsun, in a statement

THE FREEDOM MARCH CAMPAIGN IN UKRAINE, WHICH HAS SOUGHT TO REFORM THE COUNTRY’S CANNABIS LAWS SINCE 2005, IS CALLING ON THE GLOBAL CANNABIS INDUSTRY FOR DONATIONS TO HELP THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE DEFEND AGAINST RUSSIA’S INVASION.

:The group says donations will go towards two primary efforts: first, supporting the children of slain soldiers and civilians who need medical and psychological care and financial support; and second, providing proper treatment for the patients of Ukraine including

wounded soldiers and civilians, cancer patients, and “other vulnerable groups impacted by the war.”

Notably, Freedom March is soliciting the donations not through their own platform but via the Kyiv School of Economics (KSE), which has updated its website to describe a new humanitarian campaign “together with Ukrainian businesses and state-owned companies ... to provide food supplies, transportation, refugees help for Ukrainian citizens affected by the war,” and to “purchase necessary medicines, first aid and protective kits for the State Emergency Service of Ukraine, Ukrainian Paramedic Association, and the Ukrainian Territorial Defense Forces to shield them against Russian aggression.”

Russia launched its military invasion of Ukraine 31 days ago on February 24, 2022, in what has become the first major war in Europe in decades. Since the invasion was launched, millions of refugees have fled the country while countless more have joined the resistance effort.

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2000 - 1000 BC *Athanas Vidas*

2000 - 1400 BC *Scythians*

1550 BC Ebers Papyrus

1213 BC Ramsesses II

900 BC Assyrians

450-200 BC Greco-Roman use

207 AD Hua To

1000 - 1464 AD Treats Epilepsy

1025 AD Avicenna

1300 Arab Traders

1500 Spanish Conquest

1798 Napoleon

1900 **MEDICAL CANNABIS**
Medical cannabis is used to treat nausea, rheumatism, and labor pain.
Available as over-the-counter medications: "Piso's cure" and "One day cough cure".
More than 100 papers published on its therapeutic uses.

1914 **HARRISON ACT**
Drug use declared a crime in the U.S. under the Harrison Act.

1937 **MARIHUANA TAX ACT**
The Marihuana Tax Act banned the use and sales of cannabis in the U.S.

1970 **SCHEDULE 1 DRUG**
Cannabis is categorized a Schedule 1 Drug in the U.S. Further research into the plant is restricted and listed as having no accepted medical use.

1978 **WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY**
Irish doctor O'Shaughnessy introduced the therapeutic use of cannabis to Western medicine.
Published "On the preparations of Indian hemp, or gunjah", concluding that it had no negative medicinal effects.
As a result, cannabis rapidly rose in a pharmaceutical context.

1988 **CBD1 AND CBD2 RECEPTORS**
Discovery of CBD1 and CBD2 cannabinoid receptors, found to be the most abundant neuroreceptors in the brain.

2000-2018 **MAKING MEDICAL CANNABIS LEGAL**
The government of Canada established legal frameworks (MMAR, MMPRI, and most recently ACMPRI) allowing patients to legally access medical cannabis from licensed producers.

2019 **THC DISCOVERED**
Molecular structure of THC, an active component of cannabis, is discovered and synthesized by Israeli chemist Dr. Raphael Mechoulam.

2022 **THE USE OF MEDICAL CANNABIS HAS A LONG HISTORY**
As scientific research into the plant's medical efficacy is recognized, the evidence for medical cannabis blooms with it.

1798 **NAPOLEON**
Napoleon brought cannabis back to France from India.
Investigated for its pain-relieving and sedative properties.
Cannabis was used to treat tumors, cough, and epilepsy.

450-200 BC **GRECO-ROMAN**
Cannabis diffused into Greco-Roman world from Middle East and Eastern Europe.
Physician Dioscorides prescribed it for toothaches and earaches.
Women of the Roman elite used it to alleviate labor pains.
Greek doctor Claudius Galen noted that it was widely consumed throughout the empire.

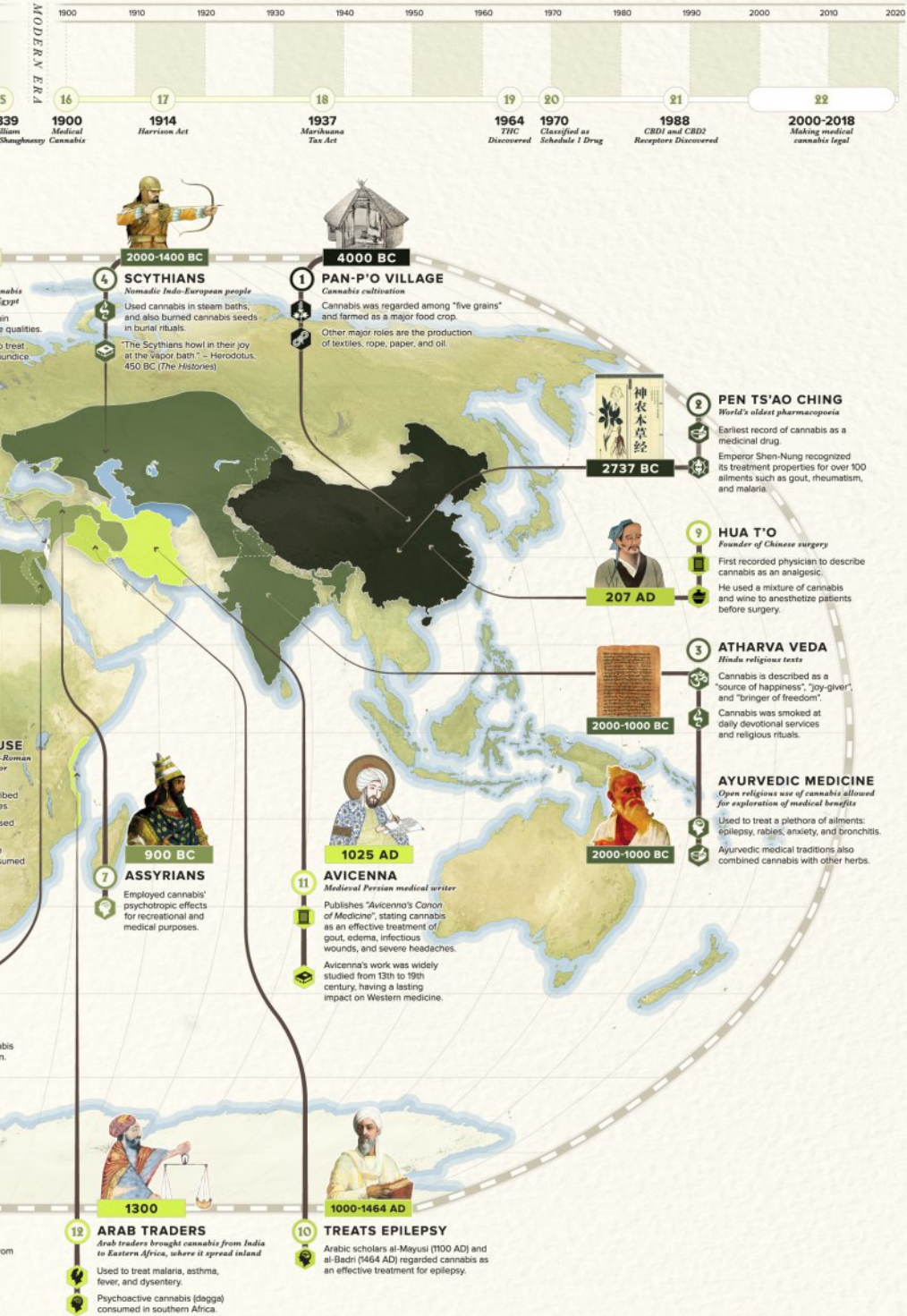
1550 BC **EBERS PAPYRUS**
Egyptian medical papyrus of herbal knowledge.
Makes note of medical cannabis as a way to treat inflammation.

1213 BC **RAMESSES II**
Cannabis pollen recovered from the mummy of Ramsesses II.

As scientific research into the plant's medical efficacy is recognized, the evidence for medical cannabis blooms with it.

THE CANNABIS SPACE IS HIGHLY POLARIZED TODAY.

However, it's less known that the plant has over 6,000 years of documented history – and its therapeutic applications appear to have been realized by most cultures. With medical cannabis making a comeback around the world, it's worth tracing the plant's humble beginnings and how it played a vital role throughout the centuries.



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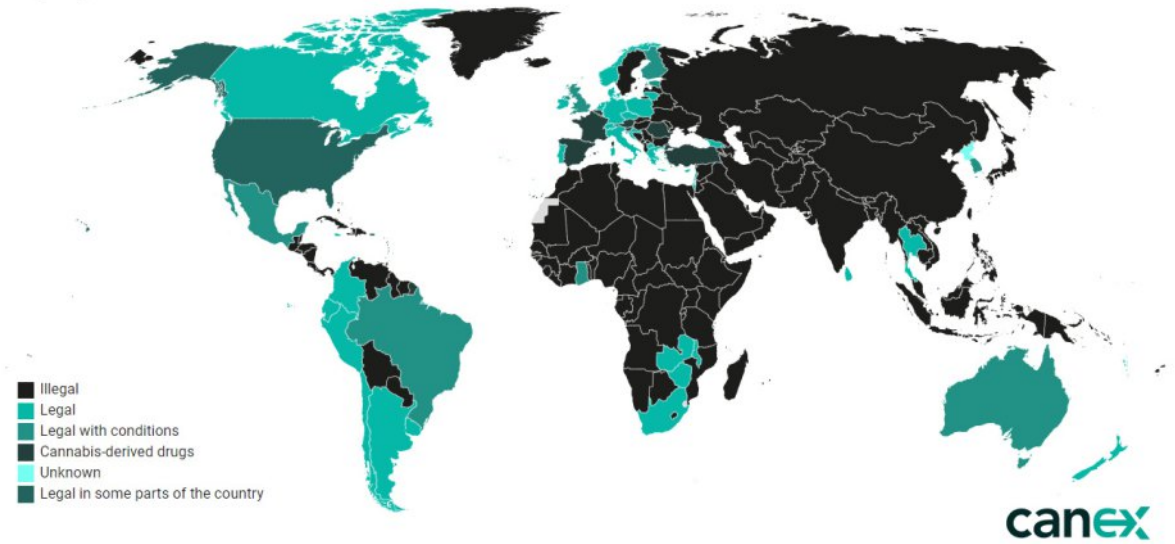
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There has been immense progress in the legalization of medical cannabis in countries around the world, including some that have legalized or decriminalized the plant for adult recreational use.

Nonetheless, navigating the many jurisdictions can be tricky. Rules and regulations surrounding cannabis vary wildly from country to country. And though there are some countries where weed is legal or decriminalized, others still have regressive policies.

There has been immense progress in the legalization of medical cannabis in countries around the world, including some that have legalized or decriminalized the plant for adult recreational use.

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Countries that have legalized recreational use of cannabis are

Canada, Georgia, Malta, Mexico, South Africa, Thailand, and Uruguay, plus 19 states, 2 territories, and the District of Columbia in the United States and the Australian Capital Territory in Australia.

The majority of European countries have legalized medical marijuana in recent years, although access remains inconsistent across the continent.

A growing number of countries have decriminalized possession of small amounts of cannabis, transforming marijuana laws in Europe so that criminal penalties are largely a thing of the past. However, the marijuana laws in Europe can be confusing, with some countries having legalized only derivatives of the cannabis plant and not flowers or other natural forms of the plant.

With the European Union recently legalizing CBD and hemp products, however, it is important to check the rules before you travel if you are concerned about where marijuana is legal in Europe.



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Conventions

Cannabis conventions are resource hubs for the rapidly expanding cannabis industry. These are events where businesses, entrepreneurs, investors, educators, patients, advocates, and consumers can all connect, learn, and grow. They are focused on the local market needs of wherever they are held, but also tie those needs into the industry at large.

Europe's most important B2B trade fair for all things cannabis is getting even bigger: this year, the

International Cannabis Business Conference (ICBC)

will take place for the first time on

more than 7,000 sqm of exhibition space at the Estrel Hotel Berlin, with 5,000 participants from more than 80 countries expected. The event comes at a particularly exciting time for the industry, as the legalization of the recreational use of cannabis comes within reach. International experts from medicine, business, politics and law will discuss the future of cannabis in Germany.

With a visit from Burkhard Blienert, the German government's commissioner for addiction and drugs, and his keynote on July 19, this year's conference will lay important groundwork for responsible relationships between the industry, policymakers and consumers, and allow for early exchanges on how the approaching reforms should be shaped.



BERLIN
19-20 JULY 2022



ICBC will encompass the entire thematic spectrum around emerging business. "We have invited high-caliber speakers from around the world who will address current developments in presentations and discussions," says ICBC founder Alex Rogers. From the German politics, Karl Bär (Bündnis90/Die Grünen), Kristine Lütke (FDP) and Simone Borchardt (CDU), among others, are expected to attend. In addition, government representatives from countries such as Uruguay, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa will be represented in panels and discussions at the conference.

Expos & Trade Shows

Cannabis expos and trade shows are public exhibitions which operate as a microcosm of the activities taking place in the cannabis market. They tend to offer an array of activities for a much more engaging experience with the subject matter of the day. They also feature an inherent dynamism.

This is created by the presence of interactive exhibits, workshops, the showcasing of innovative technology by various vendors, and the wide variety of participants from different industries and walks of life.

Festivals

A festival revolving around cannabis has a focus on music, advocacy, education, activism, and having fun. You can expect a jam-packed program of events and entertainment with a focus on consuming cannabis surrounded by positive vibes, and novice, as well as seasoned, cannabis enthusiasts.



B2B

Some cannabis events focus on the business side of the cannabis industry. These B2B-focused events gather up like-minded professionals, uniting leading pioneers and entrepreneurs with investors and experts in order to discuss the latest industry developments.

B2B events also target would-be entrepreneurs, providing them with the knowledge and resources to get ahead fast and avoid common pitfalls. This is why a conference-style event is usually adopted. There is discussion about current economic opportunities, as well as challenges, in the cannabis market at large. There are also opportunities to network with lots of different players in the cannabis industry, including highly sought after angel investors.

The area of focus is mostly on how to secure funding in what may seem like a saturated market, understanding new developments within the industry, defining distribution channels, overcoming market barriers to entry, scaling up production for export, and dealing with supply chain issues.

ATHENS CANNABIS EXPO 2022

23-25
SEP TAE
KWON DO

Medical Cannabis and Research

These events are usually focused on the opportunities within the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes and its capacity to treat diseases, illnesses, and ailments. At a cannabis event focused on the medicinal use of cannabis, you will find industry professionals from all over the industry in attendance, such as licensed producers, growers, suppliers, dispensary owners and managers, and healthcare professionals.

Events that have medical cannabis and related research as focal points are usually organized as cannabis conferences. They include the dissemination of new insights and conclusions from researchers. In addition, speakers with personal experience of having used (or known someone using) cannabis for medicinal reasons may be present.

The usual program of events encompasses discussion of THC and CBD extraction, cannabinoids, the

regulatory environment, products being developed at present and future opportunities, the territories in which medical cannabis is accepted or in the process of being accepted, and educating attendees on the benefits of cannabis for medical purposes

The Sheer Joy of Public Cannabis Consumption

Some people simply want to indulge in cannabis. With the number of cannabis enthusiasts growing each day, a large number of cannabis events have appeared with the intention of allowing attendees to enjoy cannabis, usually within the boundaries of the law, although sometimes held as 'protestivals' to make a stand in the form of civil disobedience. This usually takes the form of a festival and may be organized as an indoor or an outdoor event.

At these events, the main focus is smoking, vaping, or partaking in cannabis in some other way. A great way to meet other cannabis enthusiasts in your community.

FRENCHY DREAMS OF HASHISH

A documentary film by (collabo!)

Frenchy Dreams of Hashish is a documentary film about the master Hashishin Frenchy Cannoli and a small group of Emerald Triangle cannabis farmers in Northern California. Frenchy and his wife Kimberly produced Frenchy Dreams of Hashish in collaboration with the director of the film, Jake Remington, and his production company (collabo!)

From the beginning, the intention behind the film was to reintroduce traditional hashish to the public and amplify Frenchy's and the farmers' ethos of sustainable farming and their dedication to quality sun-grown cannabis. During filming, the cannabis industry in California was experiencing the waves of change brought on by the legalization of adult-use cannabis - these changes negatively affected and threatened the livelihood of the small farmers Frenchy worked with. This maelstrom of bureaucracy and hypocrisy ended up being the context of the film in which Frenchy and the farmers' fight for quality - and survival - intensified.

This mistreatment of farmers is still happening today and with the release of this documentary, we hope to bring awareness and change to the situation surrounding cannabis in northern California.





THE HISTORY OF HEMP

**HOW WE ENDED UP
WHERE WE ARE NOW**

On an annual basis, 1 acre of hemp will produce as much fibre as 2 to 3 acres of cotton. Hemp fibre is stronger and softer than cotton, lasts twice as long as cotton, and will not mildew.

Hemp use dates back to the Stone Age, with hemp fibre imprints found in pottery shards in China over 10,000 years old. Hemp is thought to be the first domestically-cultivated plant, with evidence of hemp fabric dating to 8,000 years ago found in Turkey (former-day Mesopotamia). Other evidence suggests cultivation further back by two or more thousands of years.

The word hemp has been used in the past to Europe to describe other fibre plants, including sisal and jute.

Beer hops (*Humulus* genus) are a close cousin of genus *Cannabis*, both of which fall under family *Cannabaceae*.

Hemp was not always treated as the same as marijuana by the U.S. government. The word “marihuana”

(now marijuana) was coined in the 1890s, but not used until the 1930s by the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics (replaced by the DEA) to refer to all forms of cannabis.

According to the documentary “The Union: The Business Behind Getting High” (available at YouTube), the first marijuana law in the United States was enacted in 1619, in Jamestown Colony, Virginia, and actually required farmers to grow hemp.

Former American President, Benjamin Franklin used hemp in his paper mill – one of the country’s first – and the first two copies of the Declaration of Independence were supposedly written on hemp paper. In parts of the Americas, hemp was legal tender and could be used to pay taxes. Hemp paper is stronger than wood-based paper, and can withstand more folding. In general, hemp has strongest natural fibre of any source. Hemp paper hundreds of years old (found in museums) has not yellowed, and is thus a high quality paper of archival quality.



HIGH! EUROPE MAGAZINE

Hemp can grow nearly anywhere in the world, in many types of soil — even in short growing seasons or in dry regions — and helps purify soil as well as kills some types of weeds

Hemp can grow without pesticides. The crop also kills some weeds, purifies soil (bioregenerative), and is suitable for rotation use, due not only to its short harvest cycle (120 days).

Hemp is a high-yield crop. One acre of hemp produces twice as much oil as one acre of peanuts, and nearly four times as much fibre pulp (for paper) as an acre of trees.

Hemp paper is naturally acid-free and does not yellow as quickly as tree pulp-based paper.

Hemp has the strongest (and longest) plant fibre in the world, resistant to rot and abrasion, and was in long use before DuPont patented nylon in 1937. It was used for ship rigging, military uniforms, parachute webbing, baggage and more.

Because of its strength, hemp fibre can be used for composite materials

that could be used to make anything from skateboard decks to car and stealth fighter bodies.

Car makers are using hemp in their cars, including Audi, BMW, Ford, GM, Chrysler, Honda, Iveco, Lotus, Mercedes, Mitsubishi, Porsche, Saturn, Volkswagen and Volvo. For example, the Mercedes C-Class contains up to 20 kg in each car.

A hemp composite material (with limestone and water) forms a type of concrete (hempcrete) that can be used for home building, at 1/9th the weight. It also acts as insulation and repels some vermin.

Levi jeans were originally made from hemp sailcloth (and rivets), for goldminers in California, who would fill their pockets with gold.

Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company, created a plastic car in 1941 which ran on hemp and other plant-based fuels, and whose fenders were made of hemp and other materials. Ford had a plan to “grow automobiles from the soil.” (Note: a company in France is experimenting



GROWING YOUR OWN?

Growing cannabis indoors can be a challenge. You can buy everything you need online, or from your local garden centre / grow shop. Don't worry if you have never grown cannabis indoors before, it's not as complicated as one might think and most people can master the basic skills quickly. You will need to learn more about:

- Choosing the best cannabis seeds
- Germinating cannabis seeds
- Choosing the right grow lights for indoor cannabis growing.
- Choosing nutrients to be used for cannabis growing
- Choosing supplements used to promote better cannabis growing
- The importance of the climate in your grow room
- Tips for growing cannabis indoors

NEW TO GROWING CANNABIS INDOORS?

Don't worry. Cannabis grows in a wide variety of substrates and under a broad range of conditions. If you are looking to grow a few plants in a square metre tent, then any of the Dutch Passion autoflower seeds would be a good choice for an easy grow. Feminized varieties such as Night Queen, Mazar or Bubba Island Kush would also make great choices.



The **Dutch Passion** cannabis seed collection out of Europe or **RocketSeeds** out of Canada have two of the most complete seed catalogues ever assembled. You will find a wide selection of cannabis cup winning varieties in several categories on their website. It is good to note that most people grow cannabis indoors with feminized seeds or autoflower seeds. Feminized seeds grow vegetatively for the first few weeks

under 18 or 24 hours of daily light. They only start to bloom when daily light is reduced to 12 hours, and generally take around 8-12 weeks to bloom. Some varieties/phenotypes can be quicker and ready after as little as 7 weeks of bloom. Fast blooming varieties are probably very Indica dominant, such as Bubba Island Kush. Some Sativa dominant plants/phenotypes can take up to 15 weeks to fully finish blooming.



At first, cannabis cultivation indoors can look like a daunting process. After all, growing weed indoors requires you to replicate Mother Nature's great outdoors inside a space – you're basically bringing the outside inside. When done right, it's amazingly rewarding. The keys to cannabis cultivation indoors: selecting/creating a space, lighting and ventilation, control systems and growing medium/process, nutrients, water and pest management.

- Select/Create Your Cannabis Grow Space
- **Start Small** - With cannabis cultivation indoors, it is easier to learn, and fail, with a small amount of plants (2 or 3) than it is when you're starting out with 15 or more! Unless you've already grown some other plants indoors

(orchids, veggies) or you have an especially green thumb, you will have failures your first time or two.

- One way to mitigate failure is to work with a mentor; if you don't know someone who is already good at growing weed you're working from a disadvantage. Having someone to talk with about your grow is an important part of learning to be successful on your own.
- **Think Big** - Even though you're starting out with a handful of plants, you still have to build out your space for a maximum load. As you scale up, you'll want to have your infrastructure in place so all you have to do is get more clones, not re-configure the entire room each time you set up a grow (you'll already have to clean it thoroughly between cycles ESPECIALLY if you had a pest issue).
- Cannabis cultivation indoors is not easy. There's a lot of detail work and each time you cycle the room you've got to clean it as part of getting ready for the next cycle.
- Keep it clean

- The two biggest systemic problems you'll have are: mildew and pests. One way to mitigate them is by keeping your grow room clean during the grow cycle, and by performing a complete cleaning of the room between grow cycles.
- You'll want to keep the room as clean as you can regardless; you don't want to smoke weed which has been grown indoors in a room which ISN'T clean ... lots of things can happen to the plants which aren't good!
- **Keep it Secure** - We mean "secure" two ways: secure from unwanted visitors and secure from unwanted pests.
- **Convenience** - By convenience we mean: Access. You'll want to have an easy way for you to gain access and you'll need to make sure "prying eyes" can't. After all, even if cannabis cultivation indoors is legal where you live, you probably don't want your neighbor's to see it or smell it.
- **Temperature and Humidity** - The most important elements to control in an indoor grow are temperature and humidity. Balancing these two is critical to having a successful grow which doesn't develop any pest or mildew problems.
- **Stealth** - Here's the thing about building an indoor grow: you have to be 'stealthy' if you want to keep it secure. Something's are obvious (like a load of lumber being delivered so you can reconfigure your garage) and some things are just weird, like adding external ventilation ports to your roof.



- The less obvious (and weird) the better – ask yourself this - will it look suspicious if you start to use too much electricity all of sudden?
- **Lights** - Since you're recreating the outside environment in your indoor grow, the most important thing is Light (and temperature and humidity as noted above, however, these can all be managed by using the right lighting system).
- **Pests** - There are several types of pests to manage:
 - Soil borne
 - Airborne
 - Hitchhikers

Soil Borne - Soil borne are the critters (like mites) which came in with your soil (if you're growing in dirt). One way to fight mites is to release ladybugs into the room. Ladybugs are like Rumba vacuums, they're always crawling around on the plants eating pests and cleaning the plants as they go.

- **Airborne** flew in when the door was open. Creating negative pressure in the room can help to mitigate this, as will have fine screens on your intake and output vents.
- **Hitchhikers** came in on your clothes and shoes. You can step into some bleach before entry to take care of your shoes and you might consider getting a 'clean room' jumpsuit to put on over your clothes.
- **Controls and Monitoring** - Cannabis cultivation indoors depends on the types of controls and monitoring you're doing during the grow cycle.

Here are some things to think about:

- **Lighting Timers** - When plants are seedlings (and during the vegetation phase) the lights should be on 18 – 20 hours per day. Once you're ready to trigger the Flowering Phase you'll "flip" the lights to 12 hours on and 12 hours off. Simple systems use a timer on the power box, more complex systems use a computer to control the lights and their relative UV output (e.g., LED Lighting Systems).
- **Temperature and Humidity Controls** - As discussed, controlling temperature and humidity is critical. One way to help manage this is to incorporate a de-humidifier into your room. Again, you'll need to monitor the room for temperature and humidity to maintain the optimal settings during each phase of your grow cycle.



H2O Ph - The Ph of the water you'll be using needs to be established at the start of the grow. Once you know what the Ph levels are you can manage by filtering the water and adding nutrients to the water when it's time to feed the plants.

Most "Nutrient Systems" (e.g., General Hydroponics) have balanced their products to work with Ph neutral water. Our choice and recommendation for a comprehensive nutrient company is **Emerald Harvest**. Emerald Harvest has carefully calibrated and formulated their base nutrients to provide precisely the right ratios and concentrations of all the essential elements for plants to grow and bloom properly. They offer two professional base nutrient series made from the highest quality raw ingredients.

After many years in the industry, and having worked with hundreds of growers and store owners, they operate under a simple concept: that most growers would prefer a compact line of nutrients that provide the very best of both science and nature in a simple, easy-to-use feeding program that delivers professional results.

That's **Emerald Harvest**.



There are too many choices, and these choices leave growers and store owners feeling misled and confused. We have been asked more times than we can count, “Do I really need all these products?” Well, the answer is that it depends on how much yield you want and what you expect from your garden. Many of the available supplements have well-known benefits, but growers believe that using so many single-bottle products is too costly, confusing and frankly wasteful.

Cannabis Plant Roots - Cannabis plants have a “root ball” (insert picture) which resembles cotton candy. How big the plants will grow depends on how much room there is in the container. Once a cannabis plant gets ‘root bound’ it won’t grow either taller or in diameter.



Cannabis Grow Medium - Soil or hydroponic? Amended soil or DIY? These are just some of the questions to consider with cannabis cultivation indoors. Remember: you’re trying to replicate Mother Nature so the medium you choose is critical. **We recommend Promix and here’s why.**

Seed germination and young plant production starts with you choosing the right growing medium or substrate. It is important to have a substrate with good physical characteristics, such as air porosity and water holding capacity, however chemical characteristics are equally important.



Plant Containers - Remember at the beginning of this post we talked about the Goal of your Grow Room? This gets to the heart of the Plant Containers conversation. Everything gets down to how “big” (height and diameter) you want to grow your plants. We recommend the excellent selection available at **Infinity Pot**.

Achieving such a feat as reaching the optimal result with a specific cannabis strain doesn’t happen just by chance. Science and technologies are essential to bringing the best out of the hidden power of your plant. When it comes to **Promix** - active ingredients, such as mycorrhizal fungi, are definitely part of the equation.

CAUTION!

EXPOSURE TO MICROBIAL MASS AND CHITOSAL MAY BLOW YOUR MIND.

SHOULD YOUR PLANTS DEVELOP SYMPTOMS OF AWESOMENESS,
PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY TO BRAG ABOUT YOUR RESULTS.

DON'T SAY WE DIDN'T WARN YOU.


**MICROBIAL
MASS**


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MASS
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NEXT GENERATION BIOSTIMULANT

- SPECIFIC FOR CANNABIS AND HEMP PRODUCTION • FASTER ROOT DEVELOPMENT AND INCREASED ROOT BIOMASS
- FASTER VEGETATIVE GROWTH • INCREASED PLANT HEALTH AND VITALITY • THICKER STALKS AND STRONGER BRANCHES • INCREASED YIELD • HIGHLY EFFECTIVE WITH ALL NUTRIENT PROGRAMS AND GROWING MEDIA
- CERTIFIED ORGANIC & CFIA REGISTERED



MIICROBIAL MASS utilizes the latest scientific understanding in soil microbiology. We have created the perfect biostimulant which contains five targeted strains of beneficial bacteria that aid in the uptake of Phosphorus, Calcium and Iron like no other product on Earth.



ADVANCED TIPS

Topping - Topping involves cutting off the top of your plant to encourage it to grow more thick and full. It might seem like a crazy idea to cut the top off of a perfectly healthy plant, but it's a tried and true method used by farmers of many plant types. Instead of your plant growing tall and skinny, topping will make your plant grow more bushy and lead you to a higher yield.

Lollipopping - Lollipopping is where you remove the side branches and the small low branches on your plant. Once you remove the small branches your plant will be able to put all of its energy into the main branches. It's very similar to the regular pruning that is done to trees and other plants.

This practice is done when you don't want the small branches sucking the

energy from your plant. This allows the plant to focus its energy on the bigger buds at the top of the plant. Removing the sluggish lower branches that often sprout along the base will also allow better air circulation for your young cannabis plant. Lollipopping will get rid of the extra, unwanted parts of your cannabis plant so that your young plant can put its energy into growing bigger buds and giving you a better yield in the end.

Biostimulants - By plant biostimulant we mean a material which contains substance(s) and/or microorganisms whose function when applied to plants or the rhizosphere is to stimulate natural processes to benefit nutrient uptake, nutrient efficiency, tolerance to abiotic stress, and/or crop quality, independently of its nutrient content



If you are interested in being able to unleash the full potential of your crops without major changes to your growing practices when you do so - then **Miicrobial Mass** is the grower's helper for you. **Miicrobial Mass** is a bio-stimulant product specially developed to maximize plant yield using five different bacterial strains.

Miicrobial Mass harnesses the latest scientific understanding of rhizosperic microbiology and has been carefully developed to harness the power of beneficial bacteria in the root zone of the plant. Part of the **Miicrobial Mass** research and development process involved extensive field testing in partner gardens across North America utilizing a wide variety of nutrient programs, substrates, and growing practices in both indoor and outdoor settings.

This research has allowed **Miicrobial Mass** to identify with great precision the application rates necessary to achieve spectacular results in the majority of Gardens and growing conditions. **Miicrobial Mass's** proprietary blend of bacteria promotes a healthy root zone by solubilizing phosphorus and calcium, and assisting with the bio-availability of iron and other fertilization compounds from both organic and inorganic sources. This allows growers be able to unleash the full potential of their crops without major changes to their growing practices.

Features and Benefits

- Extracellular enzyme production helps to break down other fertilization compounds thoughts promoting our rich and diverse healthy root zone.

- Faster root development and increased root biomass.
- Faster vegetative growth.
- Increased plant health and vitality.
- Thicker stalks and stronger branches.
- Increased yield.
- Effective is an additive for all nutrient programs – growing practices do not need to change in order to achieve the benefits that **Miicrobial Mass** offers.
- Compatible with any organic or salt-based fee programs.
- Effective for use with any substrate or growing medium.
- Excellent for use in field agriculture and commercial hemp production.
- Certified organic by ECOCERT Canada.
- CFIA approved for production and any licensed facility in Canada.

Cannabis Grow Medium

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LST (Low Stress Training)

Low Stress Training involves bending the branches slowly so that they grow in a certain direction. This is similar to putting braces on your teeth.

You might be wondering if it's okay to stress plants, but the truth is plants are able to undergo stress, just like our teeth.

The reason we stress plants is to bend our stems into a shape that best fits the available space and makes sure it's growing in the right direction. This can help increase yields, and make the most out of your growing space.



Monster Cropping

This technique has the name Monster Cropping because it results in so many flowers, so it has almost a monster result. Monster Cropping is where you take clones of a plant during the flowering phase, replant them, and revert them back to the vegetative growth stage. This allows you to save on seeds, have continuous harvests.

In order to switch the plant back to vegetative growth, you simply need to give the plants more light than you would in the flowering stage.

One of the cool things about Monster Cropping is that you don't have to keep the mother plant in order to let the clones grow.

Many times the mother plant becomes big and spreads out. You can take several cuttings to save space, harvest the mother and still have several plants that will be ready for harvest much sooner than if you were to start again from seed.

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**Unlocking the Full
Genetic Potential of
Every Plant**

CREATE THE UNDERGROUND CONNECTION



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HEALTHY, ENHANCED
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FASTER
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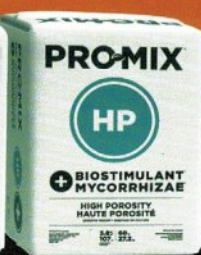


INCREASED
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HIGHER
QUALITY

FROM THE MAKERS OF
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Dutch Passion 35th Anniversary

2022

2021 was a special year for Dutch Passion. There were 9 new cannabis cup victories (see the full list of cannabis cup wins) and plenty of highly satisfied customers. 2021 saw a massive increase in the number of licensed, legal cannabis growers responding to increasingly liberal cannabis laws. The future for the cannabis community has never looked more encouraging.

Some of the professional growers using Dutch Passion seeds are seeing some great results, with several strains producing independent lab tests showing 25-30% THC levels.

2021 also saw Dutch Passion push new scientific boundaries with their Special Cannabinoid cannabis seed collection. This is the best place to

buy cannabis seeds which will produce plants rich in rare cannabinoids such as CBG, CBDV, THCV as well as low-THC/high-CBD strains.

2022 will see Dutch Passion continue to invest heavily in R&D for new THC-rich autoflower and feminized strains as well as researching some unusual new cannabis genetics. 2022 will also be Dutch Passion's 35th anniversary, so you can expect some special promotions and seed sales to celebrate being one of the oldest remaining original Dutch seed companies.



Always on my Mind A Love Letter To Willie Nelson and Cannabis

by Josh Socket



Hi, I'm 26, Canadian and I love Willie Nelson. You're probably thinking one of two things right now: "why does this kid care so much about an old stoned hippie cowboy?" and "Why is Willie Nelson being talked about for High! Europe Magazine? He's an American!"

To answer your question bluntly, here is part two...

Texas to Nashville Turnaround: Gigging, Driving, yellows, drinking, smoking, repeat.

Throughout the rest of the fifties, Willie soldiered on. He was in a marriage with a woman who seemed content on outdrinking and out-partying him on a regular basis. Her name was Martha, but I'm going to refer to W1. You'll understand why soon enough. The two were in a self-destructive competition. Separately, he continued to gig and

perform radio spots. As he sat in with more musicians, played more clubs and dancehalls, the recognition slowly came too. He was also being told that he needed to be in Nashville.

In 1957, Willie's a budding DJing in Vancouver, Washington and playing his songs for anyone who came through town. When he showed his song 'Family Bible' to Mae Axton, she told him he needed to "go to Nashville or go home". Willie leaves the area and after a couple of brief stops, winds up back down in Texas. But Nashville is still on his mind. This time around, he's in Texas and gigging in Honky Tonks.

In Texas, he's gigging at night and spending lots of time with hard-partying people like Roger Miller. They met sometime in the late 50s. He's also struggling to remain gainfully employed. He was fired from one job for falling asleep on the side of an elevator shaft and nearly falling in his sleep. It would have been the end of Willie Nelson. Thankfully for Willie, his boss fired him. For a while

after that, Willie had an ad out where he could take any song and put it to music. He would also write custom songs for people. I did the same thing on fiverr this year. Neither of us made any money and quit soon after. We did both sell some music though.

The power of three (joints). Let's flash forward to 1959. Willie's still not in Nashville. He's still clubbing and gigging in Texas. There are at least three times something like what I'm about to tell you happens in the span of a few years. Pay attention. Willie's in Houston in 1959 and he met Larry Butler, a songwriter and producer. Willie tries to sell him: *Funny How Time Slips Away* *Crazy Night* *Life Mr Record Man* Willie wants \$40 total for the songs, Larry refuses. Instead Larry offered Willie a job and a loan. \$40 for those 4 songs in 1959 works out to \$376.99 US. That's nothing.

Think about that for a second. Larry did Willie a favour by not buying those songs. This was one of many things, though short lived, that got him into Nashville. By 1960, Willie's was finally in Nashville. His friend Paul Buskirk was recording his songs under the D Records label in Texas and people were starting to recognize him. Paul Buskirk was in the middle of a marketing push funded by D Records and it helped Willie as well. The Nashville Sound is synonymous with terms like "countryopolitan". Which to me sounds like big string sections, smooth vocals, clean suits and short hair.

They were catering to a hillbilly, folk, mountain, and western crowd with religious leanings. When Willie got to Nashville, he ran into old friend and musician Billy Walker. They had met



gigging together in Texas. Willie was doing door to door sales for some company and they ran into each while Willie was walking on the street. On a side note, if Willie Nelson ever knocks on your damn, be courteous and invite the man in!

Again, Willie tried to sell a whole bunch of songs. This time it was 6 songs for \$500. And again, Willie was refused. That's like \$4,500 now. Better but not nearly worth the price of the songs he was trying to sell. Willie was in a \$25 dollar a week trailer in Nashville. When Billy put it all together, he drove Willie around to every publishing house and record label in Nashville. Billy Walker introduced Willie around until he found him work. Billy took Willie into a songwriter's hangout called Tootsies. Tootsies used to host "picking parties". Songwriters would bring guitars and their best songs and show off for each other. While at one of these hangouts, Willie met Hank Cochran. Hank



an asthma cigarette. Yes, you read that correctly. At one time, doctors were prescribing cigarettes as an asthma remedy. But if FDR outlawed cannabis in 1937, I'm unsure how that translates to Willie (It's a long strange story). He believes he was given one and it contained cannabis. It's hard to question it, so let's just take Willie's word for it.

Willie was raised in a musical family. His father and mother had Willie and his older sister Bobbie as teenagers, and then promptly left them with their paternal grandparents. The Nelsons had a family farm and a passion for music. His paternal grandparents both played instruments and encouraged their grandchildren to learn to play as well.

hears Willie at one of these parties and invites him to his office the next day. At his office, he offers Willie a songwriting job at \$50 a week (Which works out to under \$460 a week now). Hank even has to forfeit a raise to get Willie a job. Patsy Cline covered Willie in 1962 and it turned his song 'Crazy' into her Signature song. Before patsy covered 'Crazy', Faron Young covered a song called 'Hello Walls'. Not long after covering the song, Willie tried to sell it to Faron. He offered again to sell 'Hello Walls' for \$500 and again was offered a loan because Faron understood the publishing would make Willie much money.

Weed? In the early 60's. Willie smoked weed sometimes, often with whiskey and cigarettes. Weed probably came 4th after whiskey, cigarettes, and pills. Many of those songwriters were still pill-popping, drinking, staying up all day and night types. Somewhere in the early 60's, Willie got on a bus with a group of songwriters and toured for the first time. They made it to a few northern states, but it was ultimately a short tour. It was Willie's first foray touring. In 1961, Willie was tracked down by Ray Price to play bass in his band. Donny Young (soon to be Johnny Paycheck) had just quit the band to go to California. He would then proceed to go on tour with Ray.

There's conflicting information on Willie's weed use around that time. There's a story I recently heard retold at the Luck Summit about him knocking on Ray Price's door and seeing the towel behind the door to keep the smoke from mistaking. Willie was amused because they'd been doing the same thing in secret and hiding it from each other. Willie's time as a bass-player for Ray Price reminded him that he wanted to



be the band leader. Willie saw Ray as a mentor for his own band leading aspirations. Still working on becoming a genuine star, Willie winds up with a record deal in California in 1961. For two years he would release singles and tour with a woman named Shirley Collie. Shirley would eventually become Willie's second wife. Musician and producer, Tommy Allsup tells a story about going to Willie's in the 60's when Willie was with Shirley and eating Shirley's brownies. These brownies were full of "wacky 'baccy". His words, not mine.

The Ridgetop Ranch. In 1963, Willie bought a ranch in Ridgetop Tennessee outside of Nashville. It's sort of like the suburbs I guess. Now It's a 30 minute drive, but I can't comment on 1963. From 1963 to 1967, Willie farmed. He barely toured, he grew out his beard, and he continued to write songs. He also started taking kung fu in town. Willie also brought Shirley and his kids from his first marriage out to live with him and spend time on the farm as a family. Willie had



been on the Grand Ole Opry for a second in 1961. He left after an argument and a series of firings. He also left because he was drawing better crowds in Texas and couldn't be in Nashville and Texas at the same time. From what it looks like, the beer joints in Texas were his audience, but he needed to be close to Nashville for the recording studios and publishing houses. Or so he thought. In the late 60's,

he was also starting to do The Ernest Tubb Show and would do a number of appearances for Ernest from the mid 60's up to the early 70s. This was still more of a wool cardigan and turtleneck sort of affair. By the late 60s Willie had built up a large farm in Nashville and was back touring Texas again at the same time. He

was a much bigger star in Texas and could draw much larger crowds. Meanwhile he's still drinking, partying and getting rowdy. Shirley (wife 2) wasn't like Martha (wife 1).

She wouldn't tolerate Willie's drinking and she wasn't about that life herself. Flash forward again to 1969. Willie's going on Wife 3. Connie Koepke. Wife 2 had received a bill in the mail for a baby Willie was the father of. And she hadn't had a baby. She was raising Willie's kids in Tennessee! Separately, that baby is Paula Nelson and you can catch her on Willie's Roadhouse and Outlaw Country if you have Sirius satellite radio. It's nice to hear her refer to him as "papa-bear".

Trigger - 1969 was a year for Willie. The famous 'Shotgun Willie' happened then too. Where he famously shot up his son-in-law's place for beating up his daughter.

Don't boss him, don't cross him. Willie was testing all these free guitars he was getting.

Telecasters, Jazzmasters, Jaguars. Mostly Fenders, but the odd Gibson.

Eventually he was given a Baldwin he liked. This Baldwin classical was the first classical-guitar to be electrified with a pickup. Sometime by the end of 1969, a drunk stumbled and fell on the Baldwin and broke it. I have this great, Gretsch my mother sat on in the middle of the night. She tripped in the dark and fell landing ass-first on the guitar. Luckily,

she only broke the stand. But when the drunk fell on Willie's Baldwin, his luthier, Shot Jackson, offered him a deal on another guitar.

Willie took the deal on the condition that the Shot took the pickup out of the Baldwin and stuck it in the new guitar. This new guitar, a 1969 Martin N20 cost Willie \$750 at the time. That would be about \$5,400 in 2021 money. But in 2021, after 60 years of touring and records, Trigger must be worth millions if not more. That's a question I don't want the answer to. Our story ends Christmas eve 1969.

Willie's in Nashville for something and his house in Ridgetop catches fire. Fortunately, someone's there and makes two phone calls. First they call the event Willie's at, then the fire department.

Willie gets in his car, rushes home and runs into the burning house. Only to emerge with Trigger in one hand and a garage bag with a pound of Columbian gold in the other. Willie took his house burning down as a sign and retreated to Texas. He took Trigger, his family, and that sweet sweet pound of cannabis home with him.

So what can we learn? Protect your weed and the things you love! More than that, keep going. Rejection isn't always the end and don't sell yourself short if you get rejected. Not everyone's going to give you a job when they see you're desperate and struggling, but if you keep going, you keep putting yourself in opportunities to succeed. People will see you as someone who prevails and is willing to hustle. And if things don't work out now, it doesn't mean they won't always work out.

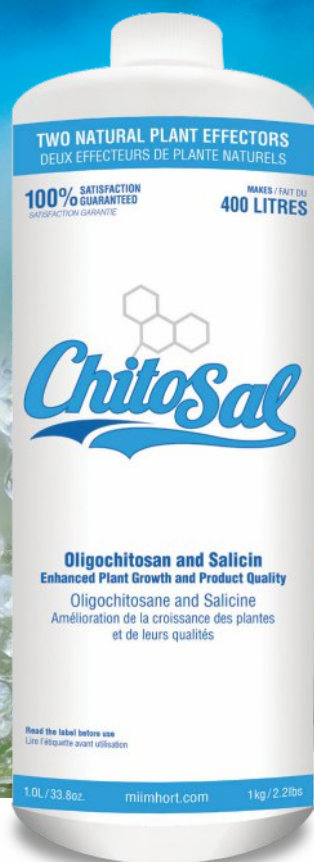
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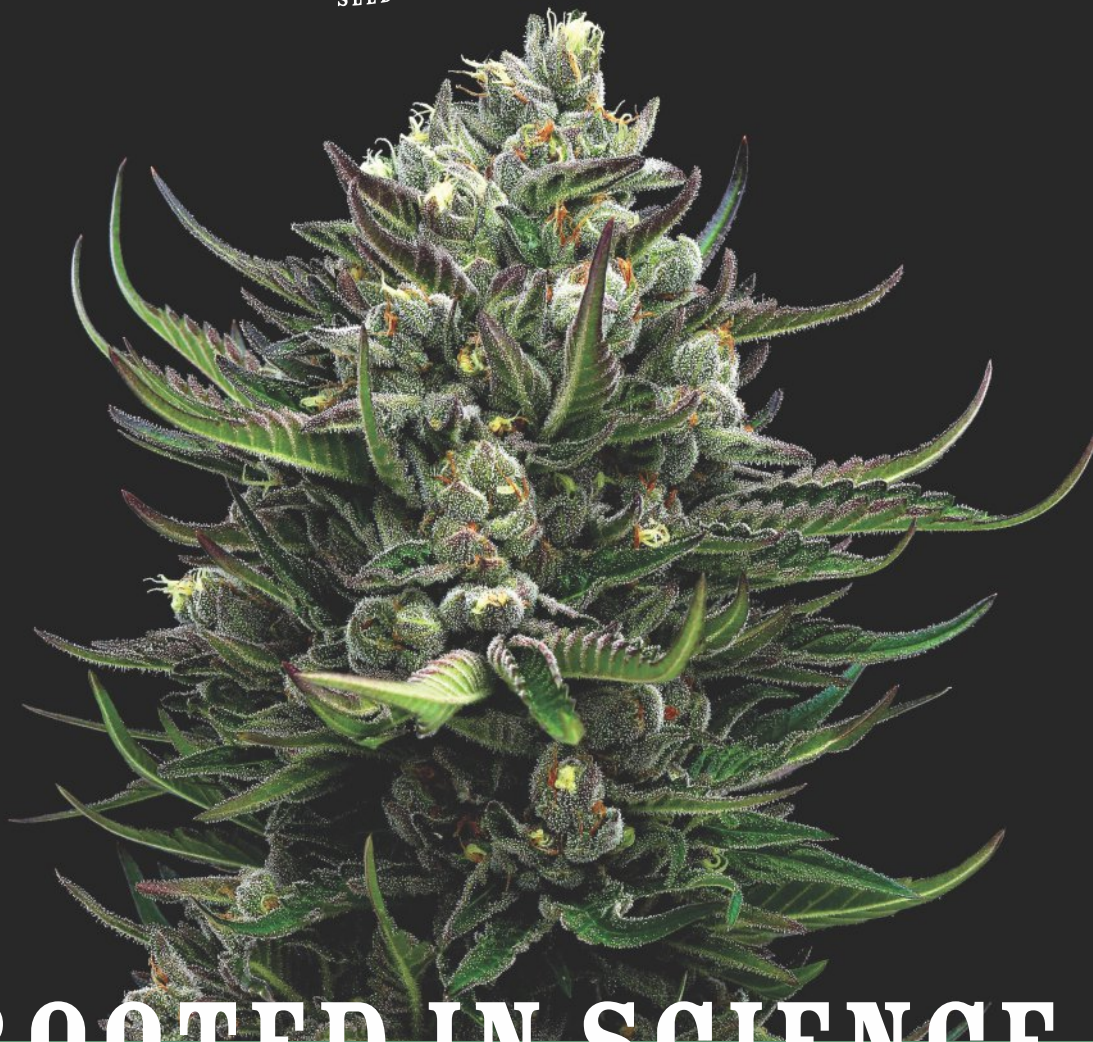
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