



U.S. Department of Justice  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
*Cannabis Investigations Section*

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# 1986 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program

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## *Final Report*



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The 1984 National Strategy For Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking states:

"An integral part of the National Strategy is the eradication of illicit drugs wherever cultivated or processed."

"Domestic cultivation of cannabis requires the attention of all levels of government; however, the nature of domestic production places it primarily within the jurisdiction and capabilities of state and local authorities. To assist these local efforts, the Federal Government provides advice, funding, coordination and technical support."

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program was established to ensure a coordinated effort between Federal, state, and local agencies involving the eradication of domestically cultivated cannabis in the United States. DEA's role in this cooperative venture is to encourage state and local eradication efforts and to contribute, within limitations, funding, training, equipment, investigative, and aircraft resources to support such efforts. In 1986, all 50 states participated in the program.

A total of \$3.6 million was allocated in DEA's FY-86 budget for the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. A summary of expenditures is contained in the funding section of this report.

The program conducted 23 eradication schools and seminars in 1986 which were attended by 887 law enforcement officers from state and local agencies as well as other Federal agencies. Total cost for the program was \$127,000.00.

Support for the eradication program was listed as a priority for the DEA Aviation Unit and, as such, 281 missions, totaling 730.3 flying hours, were dedicated to this endeavor complementing state and local air efforts.

Eradication efforts resulted in the destruction of 129,686,033 plants in 33,291 plots. Of this figure, over 125,012,880 plants are known to have been uncultivated fibre-type cannabis of a low potency variety. This resulted in the arrest of 5,537 individuals and the seizure of 1,646 weapons. Of the cultivated plants reported eradicated, 1,807,021 were the usually high potency sinsemilla variety.

By all measures, the 1986 eradication program was an overwhelming success. Continued success is anticipated in the 1987 program.

## INTRODUCTION

The 1984 National Strategy for Prevention of Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking states:

"An integral part of the National Strategy is the eradication of illicit drugs wherever cultivated or processed."

"Domestic cultivation of cannabis requires the attention of all levels of government; however, the nature of domestic production places it primarily within the jurisdiction and capabilities of state and local authorities. To assist these local efforts, the Federal Government provides advice, funding, coordination and technical support."

The DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program is designed to provide Federal support to each participating state sufficient to support and encourage an aggressive search and removal program. Prior to 1981, DEA's cooperative efforts were focused in Hawaii and California. Since that time, the number of states participating in the program expanded progressively until 1985 when all 50 states participated.

Other Federal agencies with land management responsibilities also joined the program during this period. The U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs became progressively involved during the early 1980's in the detection and eradication of domestically cultivated cannabis. Planning and coordination at the Federal level now also includes the National Guard, the State Department, the National Institute for Drug Abuse, and the White House Office of Drug Abuse Policy. Today, Federal and state law enforcement and land management agencies have formed a strong partnership in this national effort.

The goals of the program are: to suppress cultivation in established areas, to deter cultivation in potential growing areas, and to minimize product availability through crop destruction. Specific program objectives are to:

- (1) Encourage state and local agencies in each of the 50 states to recognize the extent of cannabis cultivation in their own areas and assign law enforcement resources accordingly.
- (2) Provide funding to state and local agencies for an aggressive cannabis detection and eradication program.

- (3) Provide training to state and local officers and interested Federal agencies in the various cannabis detection and eradication techniques.
- (4) Identify any new or unusual cannabis cultivation trends or techniques.

The total number of DEA employees dedicated to the program has increased in proportion to the number of states participating in the program. Planning sessions held between the DEA field program coordinators and their participating state and local counterparts result in the development of operational plans for the respective jurisdictions. These plans are then submitted to DEA Headquarters and become the basis for the allocation of the various resources dedicated to the program.

In 1986, full time DEA coordinators were named in 14 states to provide year round eradication assistance and strategy.

The results and accomplishments of the 1986 program are described on the following pages.

## PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program is managed by the Cannabis Investigations Section at DEA Headquarters where three Staff Coordinators are assigned full-time to coordinate the many diverse aspects of the program with other Headquarters elements, and DEA division and resident field offices, and to act as liaison officers at meetings with state/local and other Federal officials. One Staff Coordinator at Headquarters is assigned the coordination of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the use of herbicides.

In each participating state, a Special Agent from the appropriate DEA field office serves as a field program coordinator. His function is to develop, in conjunction with his state and local counterparts, an operational plan for the state eradication program and serve as coordinator and conduit for DEA support to the state program. The DEA field program coordinator also assists DEA field management in monitoring the program, compiles program statistics, and develops intelligence within each area.

DEA's Office of Training at Quantico, Virginia, also has a coordinator assigned to the program. This Special Agent is responsible for coordinating the efforts of the DEA field division training officers in presenting the various eradication schools and seminars for Federal, state, and local officers.

A supervisory pilot in DEA's Aviation Unit at Addison, Texas, serves as a program coordinator to monitor the utilization of DEA's aviation resources in the training and surveillance activities of the program.

## ERADICATION STATISTICS AND TREND ANALYSIS

The 1986 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program statistics are presented on pages 5 and 6 for each of the 50 states. These statistics are compiled from data received by DEA Headquarters. Such data does not reflect the total number of plots or plants under cultivation in the United States, therefore no correlation between the two should be attempted.

Of the 4,673,153 cultivated plants eradicated in 1986, 1,807,021 were identified as sinsemilla with its usually high THC content.

In 1986, 125,012,880 of the plants reported destroyed 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, destroyed over 91.9 million plants in this effort.

Other states reporting large "ditchweed" eradication were Illinois 1,159,547; Kansas 13,347,363; Minnesota 15,772,544 and Oklahoma 1,388,795.

Eradication program efforts resulted in the sightings of 33,291 plots. Of the total sighted, 32,191 were eradicated. In 1986, 1,077 greenhouse/indoor operations were reported seized. These indoor growing operations accounted for an increase of 126 seizures from 1985.

The manpower required to accomplish the physical destruction of cannabis sightings has been, and continues to be, one of the primary contributing factors toward the overall difficulty in eradication efforts. While it is recognized that increased intelligence regarding the domestic cannabis industry is a necessary component of the overall program, it is also understood that a labor-intensive effort is required to minimize the availability of domestically grown cannabis.

Eradication activities in 1986 resulted in the arrest of 5,537 individuals and the seizure of 1,646 weapons. This represents a slight increase in arrests and a slight decrease in weapons seizures compared to 1985. There was an increase in total prosecutions at both state/local and Federal levels which seems to be attributable to the increase in the capabilities of state and local agencies to expend more time in the investigative phases of incidents of cultivation. An interest in asset seizures has also attributed to the increase in Federal prosecutions.



1986 DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM STATISTICS\*

STATES	PLOTS SIGHTED	PLOTS ERADICATED	PLANTS ERADICATED	NUMBER SINSEMILLA	NUMBER OF GREEN HOUSES	NUMBER OF ARRESTS	NUMBER OF WEAPONS SEIZED
ALABAMA	1,224	1,224	83,820	-	1	70	2
ALASKA	36	17	1,736	196	16	6	1
ARIZONA	95	88	21,615	20,565	7	45	21
ARKANSAS	1,452	1,452	100,725	73,685	19	359	68
CALIFORNIA	2,140	1,859	223,529	212,317	112	662	535
COLORADO	108	106	1,413**	3,156	12	41	5
CONNECTICUT	5	5	7,039	-	0	6	4
DELAWARE	8	8	4,128**	-	0	4	0
FLORIDA	970	970	794	15,667	6	146	14
GEORGIA	976	976	612	12,758	0	137	0
HAWAII	13,168	12,852	1,018,372	563,102	11	1,029	69
IDAH0	189	187	9,757	2,910	60	213	22
ILLINOIS	296	296	26,146	11,586	2	99	14
INDIANA	659	659	1,159,547**	3,251	193	170	4
IOWA	17	14	33,141	511	3	19	0
KANSAS	247	247	91,926,882**	3,586	4	170	40
KENTUCKY	1,132	1,132	7,108	467,616	2	190	25
LOUISIANA	150	123	116,400**	516	1	73	2
MAINE	182	168	28,759	25	32	34	18
MARYLAND	34	34	13,347,363**	0	0	25	0
MASSACHUSETTS	25	25	1,258,015	1,022	0	9	0
MICHIGAN	458	354	3,521	4,878	59	52	25
MINNESOTA	22	22	5,060**	1,589	7	20	2
MISSISSIPPI	176	176	42,653	100	4	126	10
MISSOURI	540	540	17,526**	110,826	6	228	53
MONTANA	18	18	33,413	0	14	16	1
			15,772,544**	190,000**			

## 1986 DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM STATISTICS\*

STATES	PLOTS SIGHTED	PLOTS ERADICATED	PLANTS ERADICATED	NUMBER SINSEMILLA	NUMBER OF GREEN HOUSES	NUMBER OF ARRESTS	NUMBER OF WEAPONS SEIZED
NEBRASKA	43	14	5,843 5,156**	170	5	83	6
NEVADA	2	2	118	118	0	0	0
NEW HAMPSHIRE	44	44	2,014	755	0	41	4
NEW JERSEY	1	1	1,500	-	-	-	-
NEW MEXICO	101	100	12,041	10,835	7	60	29
NEW YORK	380	380	7,038	1,570	4	7	2
NORTH CAROLINA	1,058	1,058	158,443	10,523	4	100	4
NORTH DAKOTA	1	1	28	0	0	2	0
OHIO	667	666	45,290	11,880	14	89	25
OKLAHOMA	354	354	5,131	0	3	32	34
OREGON	1,508	1,508	1,383,664** 63,542 391**	48,128	225	308	225
PENNSYLVANIA	168	162	5,091	460	1	28	3
RHODE ISLAND	3	14	155	0	0	20	0
SOUTH CAROLINA	117	117	14,183	8,711	1	28	0
SOUTH DAKOTA	28	28	3,428 4,550**	8	0	2	0
TENNESSEE	2,349	2,349	341,126	91,955	5	124	64
TEXAS	458	458	77,105 600,026**	21,048	1	78	10
UTAH	46	38	18,122 168**	3,100	10	89	10
VERMONT	76	73	4,695	2,435	2	56	19
VIRGINIA	685	685	120,212** 45,736 41**	275	27	106	14
WASHINGTON	297	297	34,215	17,952	177	285	191
WEST VIRGINIA	548	266	73,894 150,020**	66,505	4	54	18
WISCONSIN	12	11	1,084 206,574**	731	11	8	53
WYOMING	18	18	649	0	5	8	0
TOTAL	33,291	32,196	4,673,153	1,807,021	1,077	5,537	1,646
TOTAL**			125,012,880**				
GRAND TOTAL ALL PLANTS			129,686,033				

\* Compiled from data received by OM Headquarters.

These do not reflect the total number of plots or plants under cultivation in the U.S. - No correlation should be attempted.

\*\* Plants eradicated not under cultivation. i.e., wild growth or ditch weed.

DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM  
FINAL STATISTICS\*

1	Kentucky	1,258,015
2	Hawaii	1,018,372
3	Missouri	617,436
4	Tennessee	341,126
5	California	223,529
6	North Carolina	158,443
7	Georgia	105,445
8	Arkansas	100,725
9	Florida	86,259
10	Alabama	83,820
11	Texas	77,105
12	West Virginia	73,894
13	Oregon	63,542
14	Virginia	45,736
15	Ohio	45,290
16	Michigan	42,653
17	Washington	34,215
18	Minnesota	33,413
19	Indiana	33,141
20	Kansas	28,759
21	Illinois	26,146
22	Arizona	21,615
23	Mississippi	19,711
24	Utah	18,122
25	Louisiana	15,423
26	South Carolina	14,183
27	New Mexico	12,041
28	Idaho	9,757
29	Iowa	7,108
30	Colorado	7,039
31	New York	7,038
32	Nebraska	5,843
33	Oklahoma	5,131
34	Pennsylvania	5,091
35	Maine	5,070
36	Vermont	4,695
37	Massachusetts	3,521
38	South Dakota	3,428
39	New Hampshire	2,014
40	Alaska	1,736
41	Maryland	1,653
42	New Jersey	1,500
43	Wisconsin	1,084
44	Montana	930
45	Connecticut	794
46	Wyoming	649
47	Delaware	612
48	Rhode Island	155
49	Nevada	118
50	North Dakota	28
	TOTAL	4,673,153

\* Cultivated plants only

1986 DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

RANK	STATE	CULTIVATED	"DITCHWEED"	TOTAL
1	Indiana	33,141	91,926,882	91,960,023
2	Minnesota	33,413	15,772,544	15,805,957
3	Kansas	28,759	13,347,363	13,376,122
4	Oklahoma	5,131	1,383,664	1,388,795
5	Illinois	26,146	1,159,547	1,185,693
6	Kentucky	1,258,015	-	1,258,015
7	Hawaii	1,018,372	-	1,018,372
8	Texas	77,105	600,026	677,131
9	Missouri	617,436	-	617,436
10	Tennessee	341,126	-	341,126
11	California	223,529	1,413	224,942
12	West Virginia	73,894	150,020	223,914
13	Wisconsin	1,084	206,574	207,658
14	Montana	930	190,000	190,930
15	North Carolina	158,443	-	158,443
16	Vermont	4,695	120,212	124,907
17	Iowa	7,108	116,400	123,508
18	Georgia	105,445	-	105,445
19	Arkansas	100,725	-	100,725
20	Florida	86,259	-	86,259
21	Alabama	83,820	-	83,820
22	Oregon	63,542	- 391	63,933
23	Michigan	42,653	17,526	60,179
24	Virginia	45,736	41	45,777
25	Ohio (York)	45,290	-	45,290
26	Washington	34,215	-	34,215
27	Arizona	21,615	840	22,455
28	Mississippi	19,711	-	19,711
29	Utah	18,122	168	18,290
30	Louisiana	15,423	-	15,423
31	South Carolina	14,183	375	14,558
32	New Mexico	12,041	-	12,041
33	Colorado	7,039	4,128	11,167
34	Nebraska	5,843	5,156	10,999
35	Idaho	9,757	-	9,757
36	Massachusetts	3,521	5,060	8,581
37	South Dakota	3,428	4,550	7,978
38	New York	7,038	-	7,038
39	Pennsylvania	5,091	-	5,091
40	Maine	5,070	-	5,091
41	New Hampshire	2,014	-	2,014
42	Alaska	1,736	-	1,736
43	Maryland	1,653	-	1,653
44	New Jersey	1,500	-	1,500
45	Connecticut	794	-	794
46	Wyoming	649	-	649
47	Delaware	612	-	612
48	Rhode Island	155	-	155
49	Nevada	118	-	118
50	North Dakota	28	-	28
	TOTAL	4,673,153	125,012,880	129,686,033

1986 DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

TOP FIVE ARREST AND ASSET SEIZURES BY STATE

RANK	STATE	TOTAL
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ARRESTS

1	Hawaii	1,029
2	California	662
3	Arkansas	359
4	Oregon	308
5	Washington	285

ASSET SEIZURES

1	California	3,960,055
2	Kentucky	1,517,730
3	Arizona	1,503,000
4	Hawaii	1,050,318
5	Texas	600,000

State Totals: Arrests - 5537

Seizures - \$13,582,761.50

## FUNDING

In FY-86, \$3.8 million was allocated to DEA's Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program to fund the primary objective of the program, which was direct support to state and local eradication activities as reflected on page 11.

The expenditure of these funds helped offset state and local law enforcement expenses directly related to the eradication efforts such as officer overtime and per diem payments, vehicle/aircraft rental and operating costs, and the purchases of equipment.

In addition to the above direct expenditures to state and local agencies, the DEA Office of Training also expended \$127,000 in conducting 23 eradication schools and seminars. The DEA Aviation Unit expended \$12,500 in its support of state and local aerial surveillance efforts in the program and in providing aerial support to the DEA training schools and seminars.

# ALLOCATION OF PROGRAM FUNDS FY-86

STATE	LOA FUNDS
Alabama	\$ 120,000
Alaska	10,000
Arizona	40,000
Arkansas	105,000
California	406,000
Colorado	145,000
Connecticut	7,500
Delaware	7,000
Florida	98,000
Georgia	155,000
Hawaii	435,000
Idaho	35,140
Illinois	105,000
Indiana	95,000
Iowa	5,000
Kansas	35,000
Kentucky	195,000
Louisiana	26,950
Maine	30,000
Maryland	15,000
Massachusetts	6,000
Michigan	55,000
Minnesota	20,000
Mississippi	95,000
Missouri	90,000
Montana	15,000
Nebraska	15,000
Nevada	5,000
New Hampshire	20,000
New Jersey	-
New Mexico	25,600
New York	20,000
North Carolina	115,000
North Dakota	3,500
Ohio	32,000
Oklahoma	94,000
Oregon	97,300
Pennsylvania	57,000
Rhode Island	10,000
South Carolina	30,000
South Dakota	6,000
Tennessee	186,900
Texas	130,000
Utah	25,000
Vermont	39,000
Virginia	100,000
Washington	66,500
West Virginia	100,000
Wisconsin	34,000
Wyoming	7,500
TOTAL	\$ 3,570,890

Additional DEA Expenditures:

Training Schools (23)

DEA Office of Training \$ 127,000

\*Aviation Unit costs

primarily for Training

School Programs \$ 12,500

\*DEA Aviation Unit also flew 730.3 hours in 281 missions in support of the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program during 1986.



## COOPERATION WITH OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES

### U.S. Forest Service

In 1986, the U.S. Forest Service committed \$2.8 million to state and local cannabis eradication efforts on National Forest Land. U.S. Forest Service resources were directed to those areas of the country where a large percentage of the illicit growth was known to occur on National Forest Lands, as opposed to those areas of the country where the majority of production was on private lands. The overall eradication effort on National Forest Lands throughout the U. S. resulted in the eradication of 3,868 of 3,950 known plots containing 266,507 plants.

In 1986, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) was authorized by Congress to enforce Title 21 USC 841 and conduct investigations relating to marijuana and other controlled substances that are manufactured, distributed or dispensed on National Forest Service land. DEA and USFS are currently preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to establish operational guidelines.

### Department of the Interior

In 1986, the efforts of several bureaus within the Department of the Interior were directed in the detection and eradication of illicit cannabis cultivation on Federal public lands under their jurisdiction. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also conducted an eradication program on BLM land as well as providing financial assistance to local authorities to assist in eradication efforts on BLM lands.

### 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. This program is still very active and productive in most offices.

## National Guard Bureau

The National Guard Bureau continued its cooperative efforts with DEA in the cannabis eradication/suppression program in 1986.

The National Guard Bureau also encouraged the state National Guard units to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with their respective state law enforcement agencies to aid in the gathering and sharing of intelligence between these agencies.

Several state National Guard units under state activation status provided direct support to state law enforcement efforts in this program during 1986.

## TRAINING

In 1986, training of state, local, and Federal officers was primarily the responsibility of the DEA Office of Training. A full-time training coordinator at Quantico, Virginia is utilized in conjunction with the DEA Division Training Officers to schedule and conduct the schools and seminars for the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. Headquarters and field personnel, state, local, and other Federal officers contributed their expertise to specialized courses and instruction. Twenty-three DEA sponsored one-week schools attended by 887 officers were conducted in 1986.

The training curriculum focused on the objectives, functions, and problems associated with the detection and eradication of illicit cannabis. The aerial observation portion of the course, to which the Aviation Unit contributed a significant amount of time and expertise, included actual flying time in fixed wing and rotor aircraft and "on-the-job" training in safety, observations, aerial photography, and detection techniques. Presentations on booby-traps and first-aid received emphasis due to the proliferation of potentially lethal devices encountered during past eradication efforts. Aircraft safety procedures will be updated this coming year with hands on training to fully train observers in aircraft familiarity.

Due to the diversity of terrain, sophistication of growers, and manpower commitments of the various state and local law enforcement agencies, each of the schools and seminars was designed to address the training needs and requirements of the areas in which the attendees lived and worked.

The DEA Office of Training (domestic) is now located at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia.

DEA Headquarters (OM) worked closely with the Office of Training to evaluate the need for specialized courses dealing with the location, detection, and identification of indoor growing operations. Legal guidance and opinions from the Office of Chief Counsel aided the overall program relating to this increasing mode of cultivation. More specific training information is being developed throughout the U.S. as law enforcement personnel gain expertise in this area, and will be made available through the 1987 training sessions and seminars.

## DEA AVIATION UNIT SUPPORT AND AVIATION ACTIVITY

During 1986, requests for aerial support were coordinated through the Aviation Unit's area supervisors at Addison, Texas, who direct all Aviation Unit activities and are best able to evaluate and control their resources.

As a result, DEA's Aviation Unit flew 281 missions, totaling 730.30 hours in direct support of the program's enforcement activities and training schools and seminars throughout the country. An additional 121 missions request went unanswered primarily due to lack of DEA aircraft or pilot unavailability. Both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft were utilized in support of the effort.

In addition to DEA Aviation Unit support, aviation resources from other Federal agencies, National Guard units under state activation, state and local law enforcement agencies, and civilian contract sources were utilized throughout the United States in 1986.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, three police officers were killed and the contract pilot and a DEA Special Agent were injured in the crash of a helicopter during an aerial observation school. In California, two police officers and a contract pilot were killed when their single engine plane crashed on a mountainside during an aerial surveillance trying to locate marijuana plots.

Listed below are the minimum airman qualifications that are required for utilization of contract and/or state/local pilots in DEA sponsored training schools.

1. The pilot must possess a U.S. Commercial Pilot Certificate with instrument rating. In the case of rotorcraft (helicopter) operations, an instrument rating is not required.
2. The pilot must possess at least a current Second Class FAA Medical Certificate.
3. The pilot must have a minimum of 250 hours of total flight time in the category of aircraft being operated.
4. The pilot must provide a written statement to the DEA Training Coordinator setting forth his/her total flight experience; that he/she meets the requirements of Federal Aviation Regulations (FAR) 61-53 and 61-57; that the pilot has familiarized himself/herself with the FAR's; that flight operations will be conducted in

accordance with the FAR's with specific attention to 91-31; and that the aircraft to be utilized meets the FAR standards for civil operations although they may in fact be public aircraft. (The exception to these requirements would be military personnel operating military aircraft.)

## PUBLIC AND MEDIA AWARENESS

The Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program efforts in all of the 50 states received wide-spread media coverage in 1986.

"Hotline" or toll-free telephone numbers that were established by several states to receive information from the general public involving the sighting of illicit cultivation. Due to the extensive use made of information received via the "hotlines," every state was encouraged to establish a hotline and/or toll-free number to be used to report illicit cultivations of cannabis to appropriate authorities. A listing of the numbers utilized in 1986 is included on the following page.

During the month of November 1986, field supervisory personnel were brought to Headquarters and briefed on public information and media coverage. The Deputy Chief OM provided statistical information for the Domestic Eradication Program as well as general information on OM Operations.

NUMBERS FOR CONCERNED CITIZENS TO CALL IN EACH STATE  
TO REPORT MARIJUANA GROWING

<u>STATES</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
Alabama	1 800 392-8011
Alaska	Nearest State Police Post
Arizona	602 262-8011
Arkansas	501 224-4616
California	216 739-2267
Colorado	Local County Sheriff's Department
Connecticut	203 238-6616
Delaware	302 571-3083
Florida	1 800 342-7768
Georgia	1 800 282-8746
Hawaii	Local County Police Department
Idaho	1 800 524-7277
Illinois	1 800 223-7883
Indiana	Nearest State Police Department
Iowa	515 281-5138
Kansas	1 800 572-7463
Kentucky	1 800 222-5555
Louisiana	1 800 535-3344
Maine	1 800 992-3673
Maryland	1 800 492-8477
Massachusetts	800 727-8400
Michigan	1 800 235-4367
Minnesota	1 800 832-6446
Mississippi	601 359-1570
Missouri	1 800 223-9333
Montana	1 800 821-0640
Nebraska	800 742-9333
Nevada	1 800 992-0900
New Hampshire	1 800 852-3411
New Jersey	609 882-2000
New Mexico	1 800 432-6933
New York	518 457-6811
North Carolina	919 779-1400
North Dakota	1 800 474-2600
Ohio	614 852-2556
Oklahoma	1 800 522-8031
Oregon	1 800 452-7888
Pennsylvania	717 783-2600
Rhode Island	401 277-2837
South Carolina	803 758-6000
South Dakota	605 773-3784
Tennessee	615 741-0430
Texas	Nearest Dept. Public Safety Office
Utah	801 524-4156*
Vermont	802 244-8781
Virginia	Nearest State Police Post
Washington	1 800 223-7865
West Virginia	304 347-5209*
Wisconsin	414 <del>362-3395</del> * 241-3395
Wyoming	307 722-3395

\*DEA OFFICE

## INCIDENTS AND VIOLENCE

During the 1986 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, five police officers and one contract pilot were killed in two aircraft mishaps. One Special Agent and one contract pilot were also injured and are recovering from the accident.

The overt violence and use of booby trap devices is still prevalent with domestic eradication efforts. Incidents were reported in 32 states. Hawaii still reports little or no incidents since the sentencing of two defendants to 12 year prison terms for booby trap and marijuana violations.

In 1986 as in 1984 and 1985, dynamite and other explosive devices were encountered. An increase was noticed in the use of guard dogs and armed confrontations. It appears that passive alarm systems are a thing of the past and potential armed confrontations the future.

The training schools for 1987 will again emphasis detection and safety in the handling of booby traps.



## ASSET SEIZURES

Asset seizures were reported in thirty-seven (37) states during the 1986 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. The total seizures for this year were in excess of \$13.5 million. It is obvious that with the impact of the Comprehensive Crime Control Act as it relates to forfeitures, that interest has been generated by Federal, state and local agencies to seize more assets. Farms, residences and property were the typical 1986 asset seizures, which included farm equipment, vehicles and cash.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1. The Drug Enforcement Administration has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the eradication of cannabis on Federal and Non-Federal lands.
2. The EIS documents the results of an environmental analysis done to determine what methods would be used for eradicating and disposing of cannabis. It may be used as a broad, comprehensive background source on which any necessary subsequent environmental analysis can be tiered. Tiering is done to eliminate repetitive discussions of the same issues and to focus on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review.
3. Herbicidal eradication techniques utilizing paraquat, glyphosate and 2,4-D have been addressed in the EIS. In 1985, fourteen million pounds of paraquat, 27 million pounds of glyphosate and 72 million pounds of 2,4-D were sold for use in the agricultural, industrial and residential sections of the United States.

Emphasis will be placed on spraying during the upcoming 1987 program. Coordinators in their respective areas should actively seek, with their state and local counterparts, fields that can be sprayed early in the growing season.

## MARIJUANA AVAILABILITY

During the first week of November 1986, a telephonic survey was conducted of the DEA Domestic Eradication Program Coordinators in 49 states as well as Special Agents and Intelligence Analysts assigned to the 19 Divisional Offices. Information was also collected from various state and local police departments and DEA Reports of Investigation (DEA-6's), teletypes, and Field Management Reports. Staff Coordinators from OM also personally visited fourteen (14) selected cities to interview DEA, as well as, state and local authorities. The purpose of these surveys was to obtain a national overview of marijuana availability and address the issue of an alleged marijuana shortage.

During the Third Quarter FY 1986, 8 DEA Divisional Offices noted a decrease in marijuana availability. As of the Fourth Quarter FY 1986, 14 (73%) of the 19 DEA Divisional Offices reported shortages in marijuana availability and a concomitant rise in prices at both the wholesale and retail level. Prices in some areas had reportedly, doubled, and, in a few instances, tripled over the same period last year. As examples, during the Fourth Quarter FY 1986, San Diego and Phoenix had reported wholesale prices for commercial-grade marijuana of between \$900 to \$1,000 and \$1,350 to \$1,500 per pound, respectively. This compares to the same period during FY 1985 when San Diego and Phoenix reported commercial-grade marijuana selling for between \$275 to \$500 and \$250 to \$300 per pound, respectively. In addition, the number of reverse undercover operations being conducted by several Divisions also increased, according to Special Agents assigned to the investigations. This coupled with the increased prices supported reporting that spot shortages were, perhaps, more widespread than in previous years.

Of the 49 Marijuana Eradication Coordinators responding to the telephonic survey, 33 (67%) reported lessened availability of imported and/or domestic marijuana in their respective states. Twenty-six (84%) of the 31 state coordinators east of the Mississippi reported a decrease in the street availability of marijuana. Exceptions were Maine, New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Northeast Florida. Significantly, the latter two areas are noteworthy producers of domestic marijuana. New York not only reported a status quo in availability but also that prices were consistent with last year's reporting of between \$400 to \$600 per pound.

Conversely, of the 17 states west of the Mississippi River, only four - California, Utah, Colorado, and South Dakota - reported shortages statewide. Although Arizona and Texas also noted lessened availability, the decrease existed primarily in the states' northern and eastern sectors. Diminished border activity was also reported during this time frame by both of these states.

In the main, states in the Midwest and West which are significant growers of marijuana reported ready availability of domestic marijuana and the presence of many out-of-state customers. Prices, with few exceptions, however, had doubled over those of 1985 and in the Fourth Quarter FY 1986 ranged from \$700 to \$2,300 per pound. (It should be noted that price increase may be not only due to lessened availability but also to the preference by growers to specialize in Sinsemilla, a crop noted for its high THC content.) Although not a source of domestic marijuana, Nevada noted a ready supply of "Humboldt" a California grown marijuana priced at \$2,000 a pound and availability of "Thai" marijuana at \$1,300 a pound.

The general nationwide decline in availability is not considered to be unique for spot shortages have historically been reported prior to the harvesting of the largest of the bi-annual marijuana crops in both Mexico and Colombia. In addition to its seasonal nature, other possible explanations for the lessened availability in the 14 DEA Division are:

1. The complimentary interdiction operations throughout the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and the U.S./Mexican border as well as the Pacific/Atlantic seaboard approaches to the United States by both the United States and foreign governments; i.e., Hat Trick III, NNBIS, etc.;
2. A switch by some poly-drug organizations to trafficking principally in cocaine to satisfy current demand in the United States, increase profits, and avoid pressure being brought to bear on the marijuana trade in Colombia;
3. The immobilization of trafficking organizations, albeit temporarily, by "Sting" operations. Many regions reported this an opportune time to proceed with reverse undercover operations because of violators attempts to seek new sources of supply;
4. An attempt by traffickers to reduce losses experience in prior years by smuggling smaller quantities of marijuana per shipment and increasing

the number of shipments. Thus, only a proportional amount of a demand is satisfied at any one time, thereby keeping the demand a constant;

5. Expanded domestic eradication operations.

Perhaps a very significant factor in the reported decrease in availability and increased price of marijuana through the Third and Fourth Quarters of FY 1986 is the effectiveness of the Domestic Cannabis Marijuana Eradication/Suppression Program. This joint Federal/state program, which was started in one state in 1979, had increased its participation to 48 states by 1984. Currently, all 50 states are participating in the program.

Heretofore, the availability of domestic marijuana supplies may have offset the "dry spell" created by the seasonal fluctuation of imported marijuana. With the expansion of the U.S. eradication program and its continued overall effectiveness nationwide, this "dry spell" may have been prolonged this year. If this theory is proven correct over the next several months by a steady decline in prices and increased availability, this "dry spell" may then be predictable for the coming years and enforcement efforts geared accordingly.

Indications are the lessened availability of marijuana is of a temporary nature and will be alleviated as foreign crops are harvested and smuggled into this country. This fact is substantiated by reports of the arrival of large shipments in the United States, of motherships enroute, and increased trafficking activity over the last several weeks at the Southwest border area. Intelligence also indicates the establishment by trafficking organizations of new and/or additional sources of supply both domestically and internationally.

## SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS

Seattle, Washington

RE-87-0001, IA2-R1, HELL, Steven L. et al

As a result of CI information, a state search warrant was issued resulting in the seizure of 381 sinsemilla plants and the arrest of two individuals. Continued investigation has revealed an extensive growing operations by three brothers. Extensive assets, not yet seized, are held by the three brothers. CI has revealed brothers making approximately 1 1/2 million dollars a year. Federal conspiracy charges are currently being sought.

Charleston, West Virginia

ID-85-Z002, DA1-M1, AGUILSR, Ernie, et al

An extensive investigation resulting from a DCESP seizure of thousands of sinsemilla plants on a private farm resulted in a Federal Grand Jury investigation being undertaken. The farm, valued at \$650,000 and farm equipment was seized. Approximately thirty (30) defendants were indicted with additional indictments pending.

Burlington, Vermont

CF-86-X017, IG2-R1, PEDERSON, Didrik, et al

A raid and seizure of 1500 plants on a private farm, led to the arrest of two defendants who had relocated from California. Additional investigation led to seizure of a 50 acre farm, house and farm equipment valued at over \$90,000.00. Federal indictment brought against two growers and a resident of Florida, additional asset seizures pending. Marijuana was to be marketed in San Francisco, California areas.

Houston, Texas

M3-85-0070, IA2-M1, BROWN, Oscar D. et al

As the result of a state search warrant by DPS, documents were seized showing ownership of various properties. Properties were located and Federal warrants were served. 21,383 plants were seized and 1,162 acres with a value of \$1,633,100 were also seized. Two subjects were arrested and subsequently convicted.

Louisville, Kentucky  
IA-87-X004, IG2-R1, DAY, Homer

Kentucky State Police working within DCESP seized 364,000 plants in Lincoln County, Kentucky on a 512 acre farm. The case is being investigated for federal prosecution of owner of land and the seizures of assets valued at approximately \$600,000.

## LOOKING AHEAD

We have seen some significant changes during the 86 growing season. The substantial shortages of marijuana were largely the result of both foreign and domestic law enforcement efforts. Accuracy as to the percentage of domestic marijuana consumed in the U.S. is important in directing our efforts effectively. DEA will be initiating a marijuana signature program in 1987.

Samples of marijuana purchased in selected cities will be forwarded to a special laboratory with the expectation that the origin of the marijuana, and its potency, can be determined. This program should aid greatly in accurately estimating the ratio of foreign to domestic marijuana available in the U.S. This program also is expected to be able to determine, in regard to imported marijuana, the particular country of origin.

The information developed will be disseminated to appropriate elements of the DCE/SP.

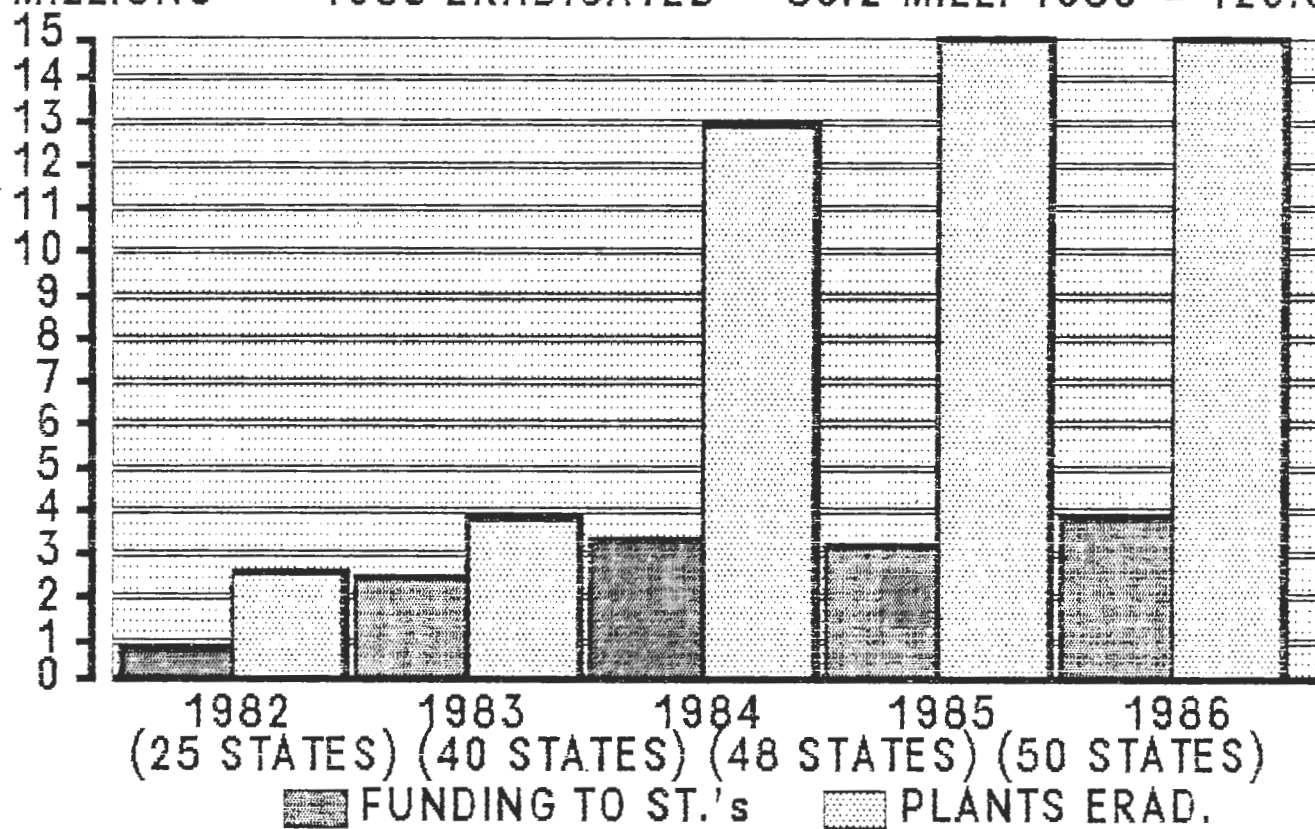
Also currently under development, is a device that can identify growing marijuana within a specific range. The device and potential legal ramifications are in the early stages of testing. Hopes are high that the device can become a effect tool in the eradication effort.



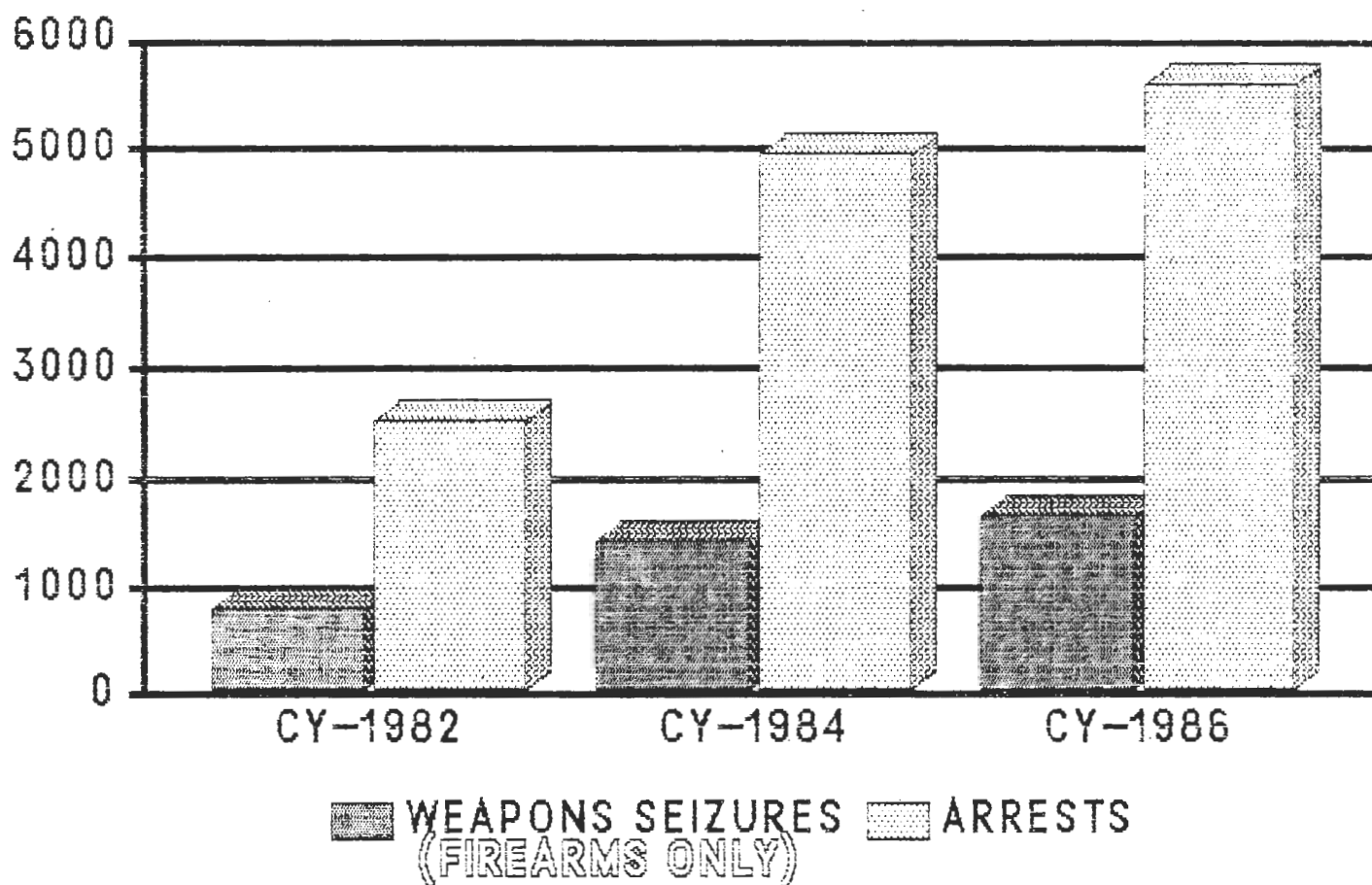
## APPENDIX

# DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM

MILLIONS      1985 ERADICATED = 39.2 MILL. 1986 = 129.6 MILL

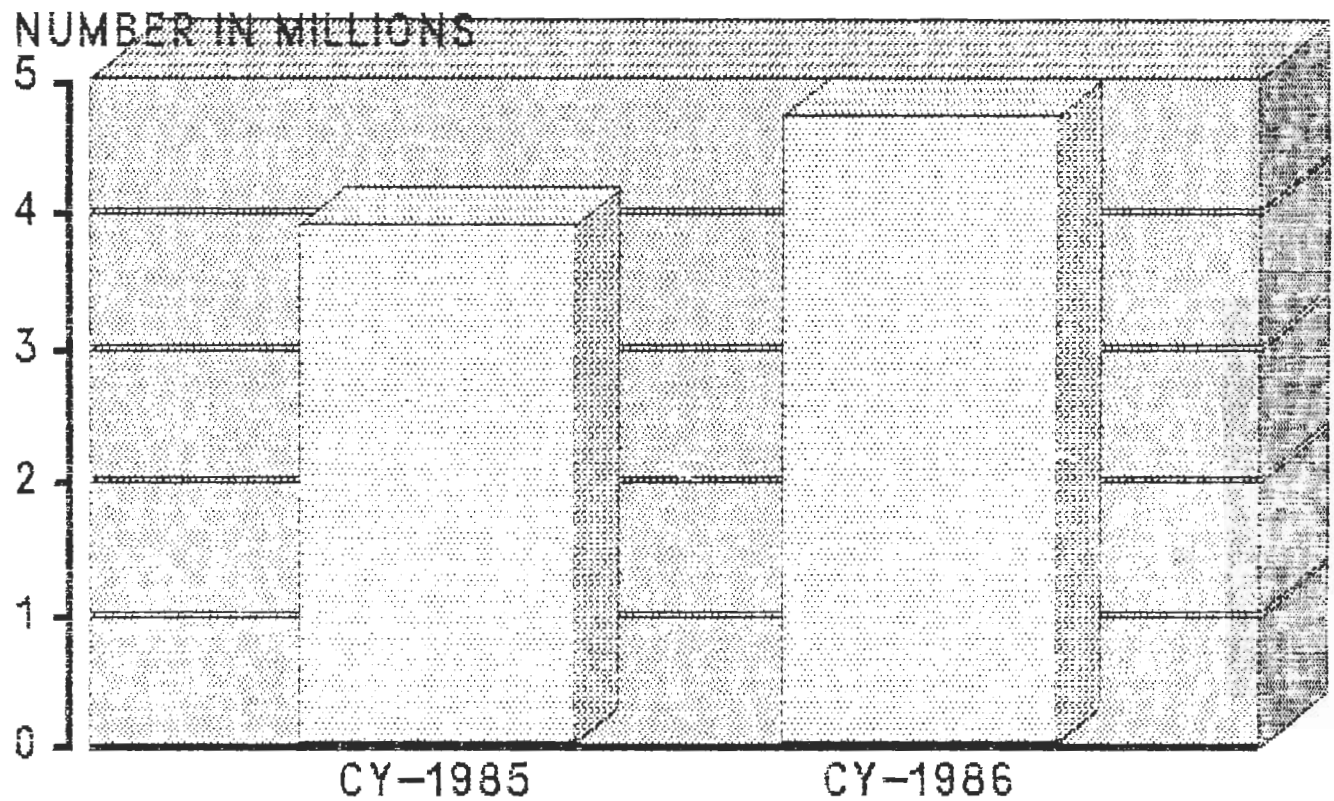


# DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM



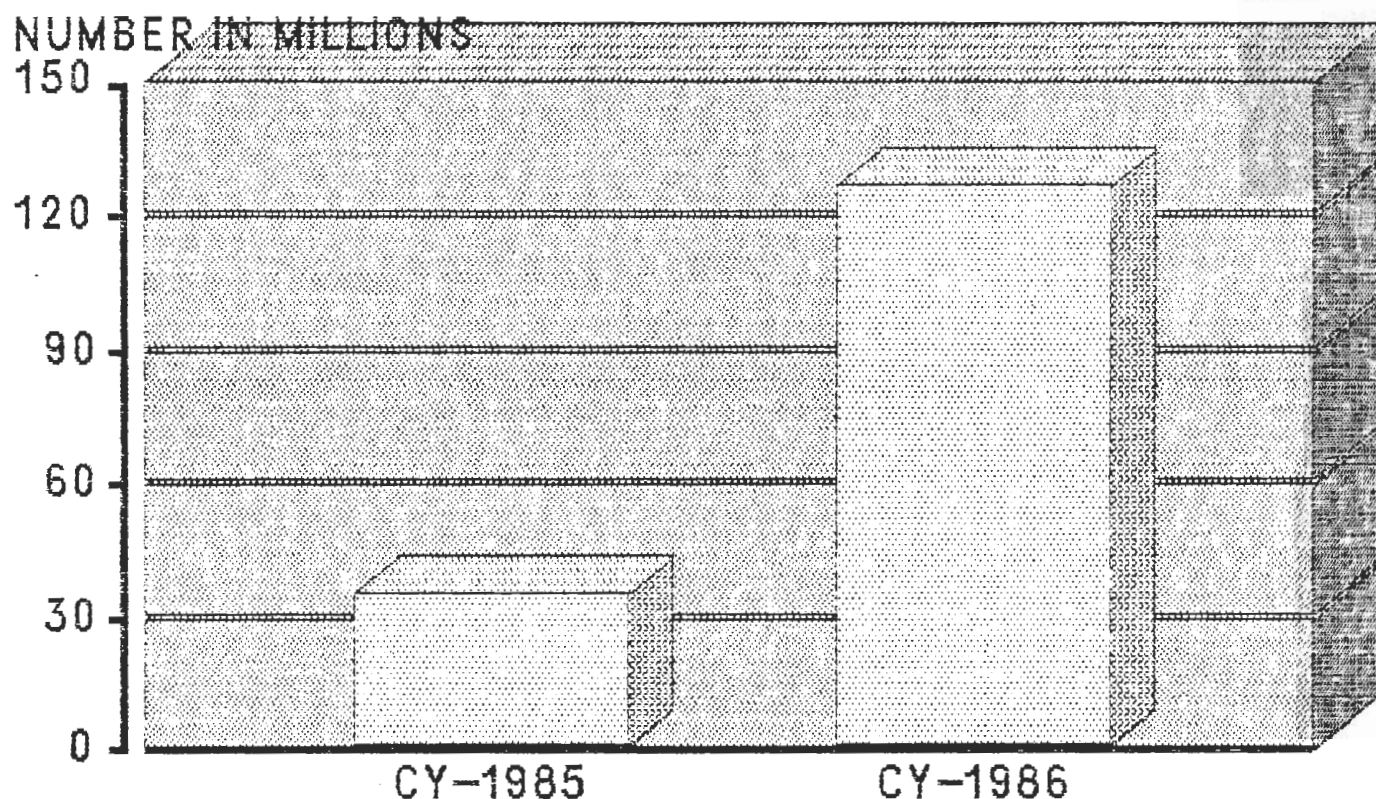
# DOMESTIC ERADICATION

## CULTIVATED PLANTS ERADICATED



# DOMESTIC ERADICATION

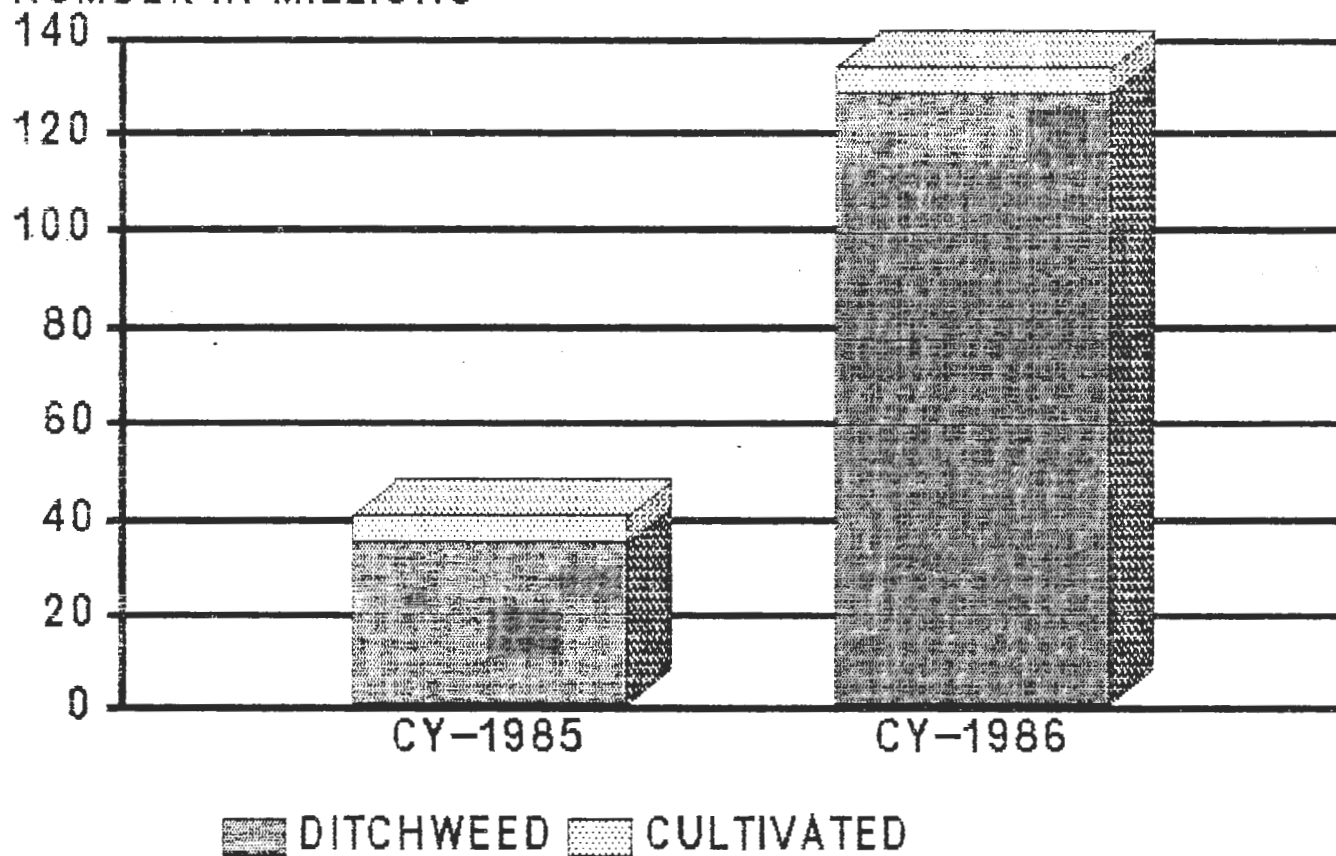
## DITCHWEED PLANTS ERADICATED



DITCHWEED - LOW POTENCY FIBER TYPE CANNABIS PLANTS

# DOMESTIC ERADICATION TOTAL PLANTS ERADICATED

NUMBER IN MILLIONS



# DOMESTIC ERADICATION

	1985	1986
INDOOR OPERATIONS	951	1077
ARRESTS	5151	5537
WEAPONS	1768	1646
ASSET SEIZURES	\$12M	\$13.5M

# Marijuana Potency Average Percent Delta-9 THC Content CY 1980 - CY 1986



\* Delta-9 THC is the major psychotomimetic constituent in marijuana.