

1992 Domestic Cannabis Eradication/ Suppression Program



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

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The Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business required by law of this agency.

Administrator's Message

Extremely rewarding and successful cooperation between law enforcement at the local, state and Federal levels has been a continuing hallmark of the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) directed and coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The cannabis products produced today are far more potent and dangerous than earlier forms of marijuana. The techniques, scope, and sophistication of those who are producing this illegal substance have grown as well. Our success in meeting and successfully attacking this challenge has resulted in great part from the effective melding of the skills and techniques brought to this partnership by the participation in DCE/SP of all areas of law enforcement.

The results of this program in 1992 have been impressive and are reflected dramatically by the soaring price of marijuana in the United States. All officers- Federal, state local -who have been a part of this outstanding program have not only my warmest congratulations but also my heartfelt thanks.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert C. Bonner". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

Robert C. Bonner
Administrator of Drug Enforcement

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Cannabis Investigations Overview

Marijuana is the most widely used illegal drug in the United States. Domestically grown marijuana accounted for 10% of all marijuana in 1980 this has increased to 25% in 1992, with a production estimate of 4,500 -5,300 metric tons. The domestic operations have increased in magnitude and sophistication. The potency of today's cultivated marijuana has increased significantly as a result of the modern agricultural methods and techniques. Mexico accounts for the most of the foreign marijuana available in the United States. Mexican growers are adapting new growing methods to produce a higher potency drug to compete in the American market.

Delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is the marijuana plant's primary psychoactive chemical. Flowering tops and leaves of the plant are known as colas or buds, and contain the highest THC levels of the plant material. In 1980, commercial grade marijuana THC levels were at 1.8%, and sinsemilla THC content was in the 6% range. Today the average commercial grade THC levels are at 3.2% and the sinsemilla at 12-15% with the most recent record at 29.86%. It is easy to see that we are working with a new drug. Prices for today's product have soared to as high as \$9,000 for a pound of sinsemilla marijuana.

The Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program, (DCE/SP) was established to ensure a coordinated effort between Federal, state and local agencies to eradicate domestically cultivated cannabis in the United States. The DEA Cannabis Investigations Section maintains oversight for the distribution of \$10 million to 101 state and local law enforcement agencies. These funds are expended specifically by these agencies to conduct cannabis investigations and eradication operations. These operations are conducted with

the assistance of the National Guard, U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Civil Air Patrol. All 50 states participate in the program.

As a result of national eradication successes, indoor marijuana cultivation is escalating in both the number of growing operations and the quality of the plants being cultivated. These new "farmers" leave little to chance in their operations, using cloning cuts from known high grade, high yield plants to produce the most sought after product in the marijuana world.

As the illegal marijuana growers learn new techniques, the counter drug investigations have become more sophisticated. Investigators now use thermal imagery Infrared systems to detect typical thermal anomalies associated with indoor grow operations. DEA advises state and local law enforcement officers in selection of proper equipment and conducts training in effective investigative methods and the use of thermal imagery.

DEA's Operation Green Merchant focuses on the expanding domestic indoor cannabis cultivation industry. This very successful Special Enforcement Program targets not only the illicit grower, but the hydroponic equipment supply stores and the counterculture advertising media that promotes this illegal industry.

Traditional eradication methods are still on-going. DEA encourages state and local authorities to select the best eradication methods for local conditions including, where applicable, herbicidal eradication. Before herbicide use, DEA performs an environmental assessment to determine unique local environmental conditions and resources, and what effect the proposed herbicide use may pose.

Executive Summary

By John T. Peoples
Director, Office of Enforcement Programs

The importance of Marijuana as the most abused illicit drug in the United States is being addressed by the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. It is all too clear that over 60% of habitual marijuana smokers do progress to diverse drug use. This "gateway" status makes all efforts to reduce the availability of the drug our cardinal directive.

The program, includes all 50 states and is constantly evolving to counter the illegal drug growers efforts. We're changing from the initial "Whack and Stack" operations, to sophisticated interstate cooperative criminal investigations. Marijuana farmers have become more and more resourceful and mobile, and so have we.

The DCE/SP has embarked on a new level of cooperation between multiple agencies to direct resources to accomplish the eradication/suppression mission. This season we saw interstate operations incorporating law enforcement officers from DEA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and individual State agencies as well as the National Guard.

Operation Red River, a two-state, 20-day eradication effort, seized over 40,000 sinsemilla plants in 700 plus plots and destroyed a potential \$12,000,000 crop. This type operation will continue.

Marijuana is a potent drug with high profit for the grower. Asset seizure in this program has increased by 31%, from \$52 million in 1991, to \$69 million in 1992. These figures reflect a comprehensive effort to disrupt and dismantle criminal organizations through investigation.

Since profits are the motivating factor, agents are faced with dangers of armed growers, booby traps and sophisticated surveillance equipment. Weapons seizures have increased by 31 percent with 5,500 weapons seized in 1992.

Twenty-six tons of processed marijuana was confiscated and destroyed in 1992, this is an increase of over 34 percent from 1991. With a low estimate of \$1,800 per pound, this would be approximately \$93 million worth of marijuana that was prevented from reaching the marketplace. The number of cultivated marijuana plants that were destroyed in 1992 increased by 42% from 1991.

Our efforts are also channeled toward demand reduction, for total effectiveness. We inform the public of the seriousness of this drug through videos and literature. The production of a 30 minute video entitled "Marijuana, the Forgotten Drug" is an attempt to reach students with a sound message from a popular Hollywood star.

Program Management and Coordination

The DCE/SP is managed by the Cannabis Investigations Section at DEA Headquarters, staffed with a Section Chief, five Special Agent DCE/SP Staff Coordinators and a Marijuana Eradication Program Assistant. In each participating state, a Special Agent from the appropriate DEA field office serves as a DCE/SP Coordinator. The DEA coordinator assists state and local counterparts in preparing the state eradication operation plan. The coordinator assists DEA field management in monitoring the program, compiles program statistics, develops intelligence and participates in enforcement operations.

DEA's Office of Training located at Quantico, Virginia, has assigned a Special Agent Instructor to coordinate the efforts of the DEA

Divisional Training Coordinators (DTC). The DTC conduct aerial cannabis spotter and eradication schools and seminars for Federal, state, and local law enforcement officers, National Guard troops and Civil Air Patrol members.

A supervisory pilot in DEA's Aviation Unit based at Addison, Texas, serves as a Program Coordinator to monitor the utilization of DEA's aviation resources for DCE/SP training and aerial surveillance activities.

Coordinators from DEA Headquarters, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Interior agencies have formed an eradication working group. The working group reviews and coordinates eradication efforts on public lands to increase efficiency.

Training

The Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Coordinators have assumed the responsibility for program specific training. To address the trends toward indoor cannabis cultivation the Cannabis Investigations Section (OEM) has developed and implemented two training seminars, Indoor Cannabis Investigations and Thermal Imagery. This training is available for DEA agents as well as State and Local Law Enforcement Officers.

The Indoor Cannabis Investigations Seminar includes all aspects of investigative techniques related to indoor cannabis grows, cannabis horticulture, search and seizure issues, indoor growing equipment, case studies, asset seizure, utility company application, raid planning and Operation Green Merchant. OEM has a demonstration Indoor Grow model that is

available as a training tool to familiarize officers with actual growing operations hardware.

Thermal Imagery and Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) devices have proven to be very effective tools in confirming the presence of indoor cannabis grow operations. The Thermal Imagery Investigations Seminar has been developed to instruct police officers and DEA Special Agents on the effective use this equipment. The course teaches theory, technology, legal and practical applications.

Other training classes have been conducted in response to specific needs and pilot programs.

OEM sponsored seminars and schools nationwide, 747 federal, state and local law enforcement officers completed cannabis related training courses during 1992.



Operation Green Merchant

The expanding popularity of the illegal cultivation of cannabis indoors has brought a new challenge to drug law enforcement. Hybridization techniques and sophisticated hydroponics utilized by indoor cannabis growers result in the potent sinsemilla form of cannabis preferred by the abuser. In addition, the lucrative profit margin attracts the illegal entrepreneur.

Operation Green Merchant is a Special Enforcement Program that focuses on the domestic indoor cannabis cultivation industry. It targets:

- Domestic growers on cannabis
- Foreign suppliers of cannabis seeds
- Hydroponic companies that sell equipment to grow cannabis
- Advertisers on marijuana seeds and indoor growing supplies intended for illicit cultivation.

Operation Green Merchant was initiated in 1988 and continues to be a viable approach against this illicit industry. Thousands of suspect leads have been developed related to domestic indoor cannabis cultivation. The leads are provided to DEA and state and local law enforcement agencies. These leads have resulted in numerous seizures of indoor operations. Hydroponic supply stores have become an excellent source for identifying and tracking illegal growers.

The popularity of illicit indoor cannabis

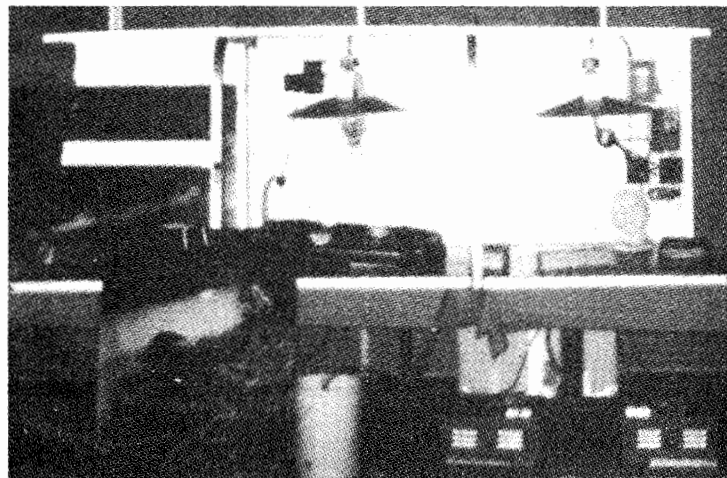
cultivation in the United States is evidenced by the increase in seizures, representing a 26% increase. This trend is likely to continue. The average wholesale price for a pound of sinsemilla is \$3,500.00. In certain areas of the western U.S. and Hawaii it has been reported between \$4,000-\$9,000 a pound.

DEA investigations alone since the initiation of Operation Green Merchant has resulted in the following statistics:

- 1,698 cannabis growers arrested
- 3,794 indoor cannabis grow operations seized
- \$35 million in drug assets seized

DEA, under the direction of Operation Green Merchant, sponsors specialized training seminars. The latest investigative techniques relative to indoor cannabis cultivation are presented by expert instructors. This information has significantly enhanced the drug investigators ability to attack this growing phenomena. Hundreds of DEA, state and local law enforcement officers have participated in these training seminars.

Operation Green Merchant's success is measured not only in arrests and seizures, but in the ability to raise public and law enforcement awareness to this drug threat. The program will continue to explore innovative methods to address the indoor grow problem.



Green Merchant's indoor cultivation demonstration, training model.

Pilot Program

Green Merchant personnel are working with several Division Offices in developing new and better ways to obtain and disseminate "Good Leads".

The Green Merchant Data Base data is being ranked and ordered to offer the best possible "Leads". Presently one state is participating in a study for better use of the data. Headquarters is providing listings of these leads to their Divisional Office and they have 90 days to respond to each lead. Feed back will let us know if the system is working. If it is as successful as we expect, all

states will receive these new listings.

Major changes are in the works for the Green Merchant Data Base system, reprogramming has been requested. Pin-point queries and searches will be possible. Our plans include the eventual outcome of investigations, arrests and seizure information, being entered by the field office personnel for quick documentation of the resolution of each lead.

All qualified individuals may obtain Green Merchant Data Base clearance. Aspects of training should be addressed through Headquarters.

Cooperation With Other Agencies

The DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program was established to ensure coordination effort between Federal, state and local agencies involved in this effort.

U.S. Department of Agriculture



U.S. Forest Service (USFS): The USFS employs Special Agents and law enforcement officers involved in general law enforcement activities and in cannabis site detection and investigation. It also has an active target priority program to apprehend and prosecute persons involved in cannabis production on National Forest Service lands. The USFS works closely with other Federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.

U.S. Department of the Interior



Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The BLM utilizes Special Agents and Law Enforcement Rangers to eradicate marijuana grown on land under its jurisdiction. It investigates, arrests, and prosecutes marijuana cultivators. The BLM uses cooperative law enforcement agreements with state and local law enforcement agencies to augment its program.



Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): The FWS has Special Agents and Refuge Officers along with state and local law enforcement officers to assist in eradication. A staff of about 970 investigators and Refuge Officers conduct marijuana cultivation investigations in cooperation with state, local and other Federal agencies.



National Park Service (NPS): NPS employs 1,500 permanent and 800 seasonal rangers who are trained for fire fighting, scuba diving, search and rescue, emergency medical service, resource management, and law enforcement. There are also 600 Park Police officers who are specialists in the law enforcement field. NPS law enforcement personnel are responsible for resource and visitor protection, including drug enforcement throughout the National Park System. Drug enforcement activities on NPS lands include investigation of smuggling, manufacture, cultivation, sale, and use of illegal drugs including cannabis. Cannabis detection, apprehension, and prosecution are emphasized in its law enforcement training programs. A close working relationship with state and local authorities maximizes NPS's impact on domestic cannabis eradication and suppression efforts.



Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): Over 1,200 BIA and Tribal law enforcement officers provide general law enforcement and public safety services on Indian reservations under Federal criminal jurisdiction. BIA and the tribes also have cross deputization agreements with several state and local jurisdictions which allow state certified law enforcement officers to enforce Federal and tribal laws on the reservations. BIA has established a highly mobile, Marijuana Eradication and Reconnaissance Team which concentrates on the detection, investigation, and eradication of cannabis cultivated on the reservations. A Special Investigations Unit was also formed to achieve maximum prosecutions and target major drug traffickers and cultivators operating on the reservations. BIA operates a cannabis eradication training school at Klamath Falls, Oregon. During 1990 this school was open to Federal, state and local law enforcement officers, as well as members of the National

Guard. The marijuana eradication school will become available in 1991.

Department of Defense (DOD)



National Guard (NG): The NG has supported the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program since its inception. It began with OPERATION GREEN HARVEST in Hawaii during 1977

and expanded its operations into 54 states and territories during 1989. NG personnel are under the command of each state governor and are not restricted by the Posse Comitatus Act. This act prevents active duty military components from supporting civilian law enforcement operations unless authorized by Congress. The NGB Office of Military Support (NGB MS) at the Pentagon serves as the a point of contact and coordination for anti drug operations in the 50 states, U.S. territories, and possessions.

Proposed operations included in state anti drug plans are reviewed for policy, legality, and funding by NGB MS before they are submitted

to the Office of the Secretary of Defense. NGB MS personnel pledge a "support role" rather than a law enforcement one.

The FY 89 Defense Authorization Act allows the Secretary of Defense to provide funds for governors who submit plans for anti drug operations. The plans are coordinated through NGB MS. Although they are not directly involved in the arrest, search, or seizure of suspects or contraband.



Civil Air Patrol (CAP): CAP is a volunteer civilian auxiliary unit of the US Air Force with extensive search and rescue experience. CAP offers aerial platforms for cannabis search missions. On April 19, 1989

a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by DEA, USFS, CAP and the USAF which allowed CAP to fly "non combat" Air Force missions to assist the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program. In calendar year 1992, the CAP flew over 8,000 hours in support of the DEA/USFS Counter Narcotic Program. This represented over 3,600 missions at a cost of about \$271,500.

Science and Research

Technical support provided by DEA's office of Investigative Support to the Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP) during 1992 touched on a number of specialized technologies and included investigative support assistance and technology development. The most significant accomplishment during the year was the completion of a two year study to determine the average yield of outdoor cultivated cannabis plants.

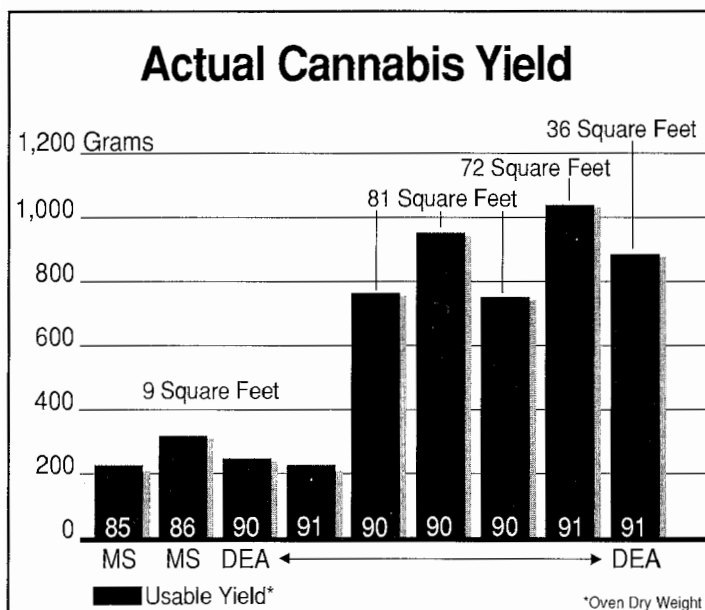
Outdoor Yield Study

The two year study conducted by DEA's Technical Operations Section at the University of Mississippi's research farm demonstrated that useable yield, dry smokable product, is directly related to the amount of growing space available to the cannabis plant. Densely grown cannabis plants, given only a 3 foot by 3 foot area (9 square feet), yielded slightly less than one-half pound. However, cannabis plants given a spacious 36 square feet or greater had a usable yield in excess of 1.5 pounds. The cannabis plant with the greatest usable yield measured during the course of the study had a dry weight of 2.3 kilograms or 5.1 pounds.

All tests were done at University of Mississippi. 1985 and 1986 test growths were conducted for the University, the 1990 and 1991 tests were conducted for DEA. Oven Dry Weights can be significantly lower than the usual seized dry processed smokable cannabis from field operations. Yields are averaged gram weights.

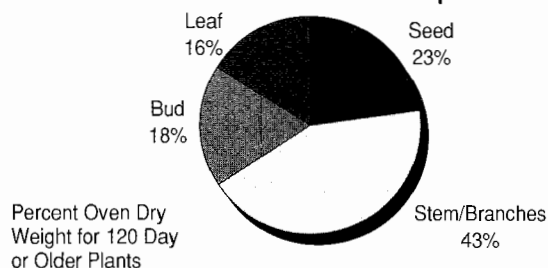
Cannabis plant yields were largely unaffected by differences in planting dates or the type of seed stock used. The study evaluated yield results from plantings using seed of Mexican and Columbian origin as well as 4 different planting dates ranging from late April to early June.

The DEA yield study also identified several simple field measurement techniques which provided highly accurate estimates of useable yield and plant age. Useable yield can be easily estimated by weighing the fresh weight of a recently harvested cannabis plant. Approximately 15% of the fresh weight of a mature cannabis plant yields usable material. Alternatively, a mathematical formula can use plant canopy diameter informa-

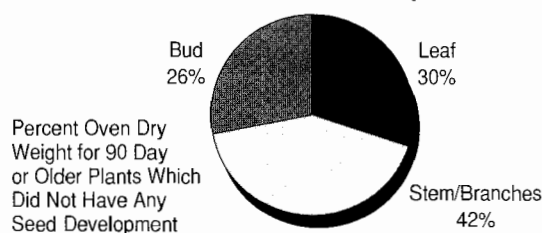


Usable Cannabis Yield

Non-Sinsemilla Cannabis Components



Sinsemilla Cannabis Components



tion to accurately estimate usable yield.

Using the relationship established between plant canopy diameter and usable yield, an estimate of the average national yield of a cultivated female cannabis plant grown in 1992 was made using canopy diameter information from 15 leading producer states. The average estimated usable yield for an outdoor cultivated plant was calculated to be one pound.

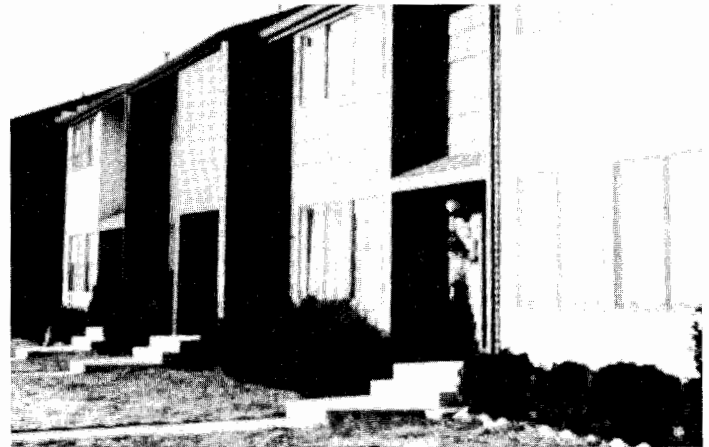
Research on cannabis yield estimation techniques is continuing, and a similar study on indoor cannabis cultivation is ongoing. Additionally, fresh weight and canopy diameter information will be collected from a number of illicit outdoor sites to further validate the work conducted by DEA at the University of Mississippi.

Thermal Imaging Technology

Another major technical support service offered to DCE/SP was to provide training to DEA, state and local law enforcement personnel in the operation of thermal imaging equipment. Thermal imaging technology has been intensely evaluated by DEA's Technical Operations Section, and proven highly effective in confirming the presence of inordinate levels of thermal energy radiating outward from buildings already suspected of containing indoor grow operations. The intense thermal signature arises from the long term use of high intensity grow lights. This past year, the focus of the thermal imaging technical program was to support DEA sponsored training programs across the country, and identify sources of equipment which meet the specialized surveillance needs of law enforcement.

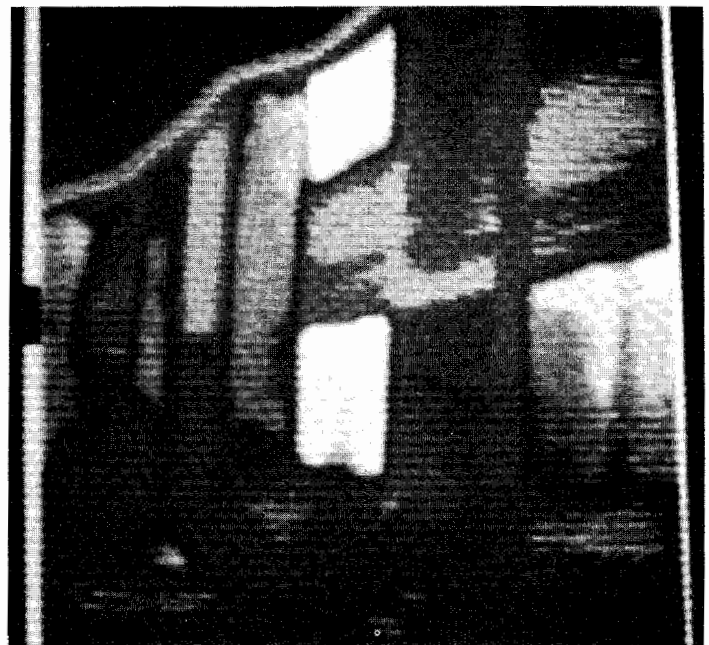


AGEMA thermal imagery unit.



Normal view.

Thermal imagery view.



Funding

Fiscal year 1992 we had \$10 million in funding to distribute between the 50 states. 101 Letters of Agreement were initiated with state and local enforcement agencies.

DCE/SP FUNDING LEVEL

| | |
|------|----------------|
| 1982 | \$843,340 |
| 1983 | \$2.4 MILLION |
| 1984 | \$3.4 MILLION |
| 1985 | \$3.15 MILLION |
| 1986 | \$3.6 MILLION |
| 1987 | \$3.8 MILLION |
| 1988 | \$3.8 MILLION |
| 1989 | \$3.8 MILLION |
| 1990 | \$3.8 MILLION |
| 1991 | \$13.7 MILLION |
| 1992 | \$10.0 MILLION |

Listing of States Ranked by Total DCE/SP Funding

| State | Funds Received |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| 1 CALIFORNIA | \$ 815,000 |
| 2 HAWAII | \$ 577,872 |
| 3 MISSOURI | \$ 559,175 |
| 4 KENTUCKY | \$ 510,000 |
| 5 TENNESSEE | \$ 499,576 |
| 6 ILLINOIS | \$ 418,125 |
| 7 OKLAHOMA | \$ 415,560 |
| 8 GEORGIA | \$ 410,000 |
| 9 TEXAS | \$ 369,077 |
| 10 ALABAMA | \$ 324,500 |

Arrests and Assets Table

1992 DCE/SP

Top Ten Arrest and Asset Seizures by State

ARRESTS

| State | Totals |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 1. Indiana | 1813 |
| 2. California | 1551 |
| 3. Washington | 785 |
| 4. Florida | 784 |
| 5. Hawaii | 517 |
| 6. Tennessee | 435 |
| 7. Missouri | 434 |
| 8. Kentucky | 420 |
| 9. North Carolina | 420 |
| 10. Oregon | 389 |

ASSET SEIZURE

| State | Totals |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Washington | \$9,351,936 |
| 2. California | \$8,572,678 |
| 3. Indiana | \$6,069,572 |
| 4. Florida | \$6,003,395 |
| 5. Montana | \$4,263,539 |
| 6. Oregon | \$2,409,030 |
| 7. Colorado | \$2,109,788 |
| 8. Minnesota | \$1,793,000 |
| 9. Alaska | \$1,780,770 |
| 10. Texas | \$1,752,980 |

GRAND TOTALS FOR ALL STATES:

ARRESTS: 12,369
ASSETS: \$69,268,640

Operation Red River - An Overview



In DCE/SP year 1991, a multi-agency initiative, conceived as an enforcement operation rather than an eradication operation, was formulated targeting not only marijuana cultivation, but clandestine laboratories, and other illegal drug trafficking operations taking place along a 525 mile long corridor of the Red River, which separates Oklahoma and Texas. The Red River area has historically been a notorious no man's land for criminal activity. The vast majority of this area is rural, heavily vegetated, and scarcely populated, and therefore conducive for these illegal enterprises.

Beginning in CY 92, an indepth intelligence project directed at gathering intelligence relative to drug trafficking in the Red River area was initiated. This intelligence probe lead to the establishment of, OPERATION RED RIVER. OPERATION RED RIVER was a multi agency/state joint operation consisting of Federal, state, and local agencies which included the Drug Enforcement Administration, Bureau of Land Management, Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, Oklahoma National Guard, Texas

Department of Public Safety, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Civil Air Patrol and the National Guard Units in Oklahoma and Texas.

On August 3, 1992, OPERATION RED RIVER, which was the largest multi agency, two state enforcement operation under taken to date, commenced at the western end of the Red River. Twentyone days and over 31,500 square miles later the operation culminated at the borders of Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas.

Over one hundred law enforcement officers, supported by the Oklahoma and Texas National Guards and the Civil Air Patrol, utilized the tactical team concept of simultaneous deployment by helicopter, waterborne craft and ground transportation, to conduct over 1,800 separate enforcement operations. These targeted missions utilized intelligence obtained through historical operations, aerial reconnaissance, suriptious covert human/photo surveillance, informant debriefings and information/tips provided by the concerned public, gathered via 1-800 lines and local law enforcement resources.

During the operations the agents encountered eight booby traps, one of which was activated accidentally. Two of the National Guard support vehicles were targets of drive by shooters. However, there were no serious injuries sustained by any personnel throughout the operation.

As a result of OPERATION RED RIVER, twenty five violators are being prosecuted, two major cultivation/distribution organizations have been immobilized and over \$1.2 million in assets have been seized. Over 26 tons of cultivated

marijuana valued at over \$50 million was processed as evidence and destroyed, along with five indoor hydroponic cultivation operations and one methamphetamine laboratory.

The outstanding success of OPERATION RED RIVER is directly attributable to the highly professional cooperation and dedication exhibited by the various agencies. Future multi state efforts will be initiated based on this concept.



Successful rappel mission.



Red River booby trap.



Significant Cases

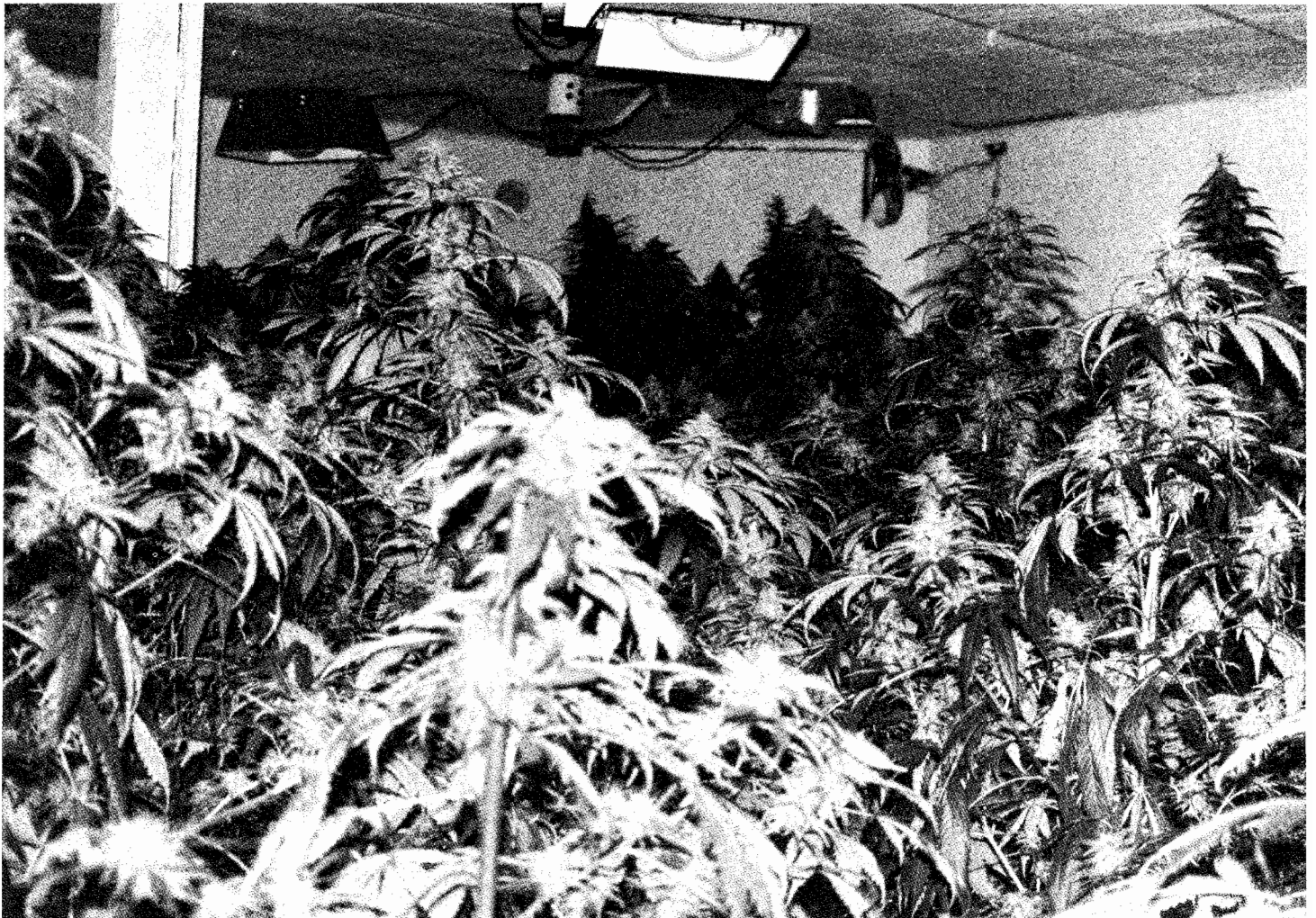
Anchorage Resident Office

THC Record Level Broken

The 1992 DCE/SP year saw many records broken: over 272 million plants eradicated, over 52,000 pounds of bulk marijuana seized, over 12,000 total arrests, over 5,500 weapons seized, and total assets over \$69.2 million. However, the most frightening record of all was broken on 5/27/92, in the rural Matanuska Valley of Alaska. A task force of Federal, state and local officers executed five search and seizure warrants on a suspected indoor hydroponic marijuana cultivation

operation. The agents arrested five major violators, members of the Aryan Brotherhood, three of which were fugitives from other jurisdictions in the southern part of the US. The agents seized \$618,101 in assets to include \$24,817 cash, 23 firearms and ammunition, farms, residences, vehicles, three aircraft and hydroponic grow equipment. They also seized over 470 high grade sinsemillia marijuana plants. Analysis confirmed that the THC level is 29.86 percent, which broke the previous October 1992 record level of 20.45% THC.

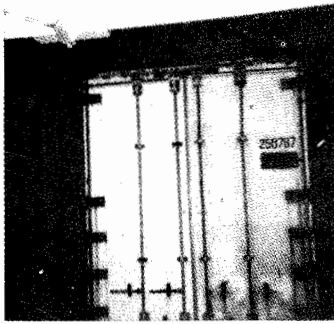
Record THC indoor grow seized in Matanuska Valley, Alaska.



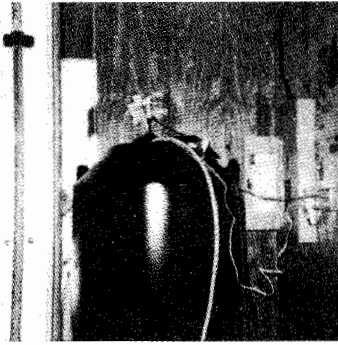
Chicago Field Division

March 20, 1992, Chicago Field Division and local police officers, Illinois State Police and North-east Metropolitan Enforcement Group executed a Federal search warrant at an Inverness, IL residence and seized 3,440 high grade sinsemilla marijuana plants and made two arrests. The residence of Michael Coffey and Lilliann Adich

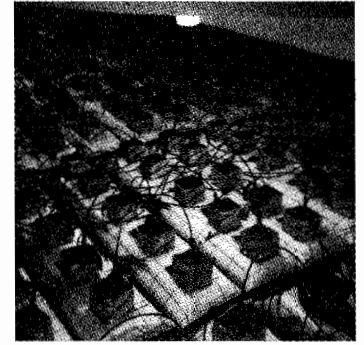
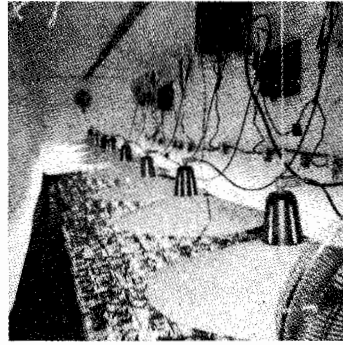
was seized along with other assets. On March 23, 1992, a search warrant was executed at a warehouse leased by Coffey in nearby Carol Springs, IL. Officers seized an indoor cannabis cultivation operation in two tractor-trailer rigs, with 2,678 high grade sinsemilla plants. A third trailer was present, fully equipped with hydroponic equipment. It was apparent that the third trailer had recently been harvested.



One of three trailers seized at Inverness, Illinois.



CO₂ and H₂O reservoirs inside trailer.



Cannabis cultivation operation inside trailers.

Honolulu Resident Office

In January 1992, the Honolulu Resident Office and the Hawaii County Police Department seized a sophisticated marijuana indoor grow operation including 5,067 plants and 185 pounds of dried marijuana. The indoor grow was situated in a lava tube. The entire operation was capable of handling the cultivation of 15,000 plants at a time. Twelve subjects have been arrested, approximately

one million dollars in assets are presently pending forfeiture under plea agreements.

Operation Wipeout

Hawaii DEA and state and local authorities completed a successful 1992 "Operation Wipeout" program utilizing manual and herbicidal eradication methods. Operation Wipeout eradicated 2,977 outdoor plots totalling 362,927 cultivated plants.



Loading plant cuttings.



Herbicidal aerial spot spraying.

Wichita Resident Office

During 1992, nine agencies coordinated under the direction of the Wichita Resident Office investigated an organization of marijuana cultivators operating in three counties in South Central,

Kansas, resulting in the arrests of eight defendants on State/Federal charges, also the seizure of 1,684 cultivated plants, and 1,1471 acres of rural property valued at \$534,000.



Arrest of a cultivator.



Processing the evidence.



Some of the seized properties.



Quality cultivated marijuana.



The Wichita Resident Office working in conjunction with the Oklahoma City Resident Office, Oklahoma National Guard, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and the Kansas Highway Patrol disrupted a close knit family of marijuana cultivators operating along the Kansas/Oklahoma border when 535 cultivated plants were seized from an arrested family member at Anthony, Kansas. 375 additional plants were seized from family property, rendering 488 acres of prime Oklahoma farm property subject to seizure.



Oklahoma National Guard leads enforcement group into area of cultivation.



Officers gather at evidence processing bulk destruction site.

Little Rock Resident Office

In June 1992, the LRRO, along with Arkansas State Police and Searcy County Sheriffs Office, culminated a two year investigation into a major outdoor marijuana cultivation operation headed by a former prosecuting attorney. The organization was involved in cultivating and distributing 5,000 marijuana plants annually. Five violators have been prosecuted with over \$80,000 in assets seized.

In July 1992, the LRRO, Arkansas SP and Polk County Arkansas Sheriff's Office, pursuing a Green Merchant lead, executed a state search warrant in rural Mena, AR. The officers seized two indoor grow operations housed in a U Haul trailer and a chicken house. Two violators were arrested and \$160,000 in assets seized.



Residence seized in Searcy County.



Part of the Bountiful Harvest. Marijuana being transported by an Arkansas National Guard helicopter.

In October 1992, the LRRO, Arkansas SP, and the Thirteenth Judicial Task Force served three arrest warrants and one search warrants in Hampton, AR. The Agents immobilized a cooperative farming operation involved in the outdoor cultivation of over 3,000 marijuana plants annually. Two violators have been prosecuted and over \$200,000 in assets forfeited to date.

In September and October 1992, the Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi DEA and State Police DCE/SP teams, in cooperation with the National Guard Units in each state conducted a ten day joint, multistate eradication operation. Over four thousand marijuana plants were seized in the operation.



Miami Field Division

In June/July 1992, the Miami FD DCE/SP Task Force, assisted by the Florida Game & Fish Commission, U.S. Forest Service, Baker County, FL Sheriff's Office and the Florida National Guard, conducted an investigation into a sophisticated

marijuana cultivation/distribution organization headquarters in Baker County, FL. Several search/seizure and arrest warrants were executed. The organization was immobilized by the arrest of its three principal leaders. A total of 8,584 marijuana plants were seized, along with \$3.27 million in assets.



Marijuana seized in Baker County, Florida.

San Antonio District Office

On July 12, 1992, the San Antonio DO and the Texas DPS Narcotics culminated a cooperative investigation in Menard and Mason Counties with the arrest of the two co-heads of a large scale outdoor marijuana cultivation operation. The agents assisted by the Texas National Guard, San Antonio PD, 16th Judicial Task Force, Mason

County and Menard County Sheriffs Office, executed three search and seizure warrants, which resulted in the seizure of over 4,100 high quality sinsemilla plants, 58 assorted semi auto assault weapons, 5,000 rounds of ammunition and a vehicle valued at \$19,000. Forfeiture proceedings for two residences and rural property are being pursued.



Marijuana seized in Menard, Mason County, Texas.

Weapons seized in Menard, Mason County, Texas.

Houston Field Division



Marijuana seized,
Harris County,
Texas.
THC averaged
10.7 percent.

On July 21, 1992, agents of the Houston FD, Harris County OCU and Houston ATF immobilized a highly sophisticated indoor hydroponic cannabis cultivation operation in rural Boling, Texas. The agents executed a Federal search warrant on a 100 acre ranch and seized 104

sinsemilla plants whose THC content averaged 10.7%. The two principal violators arrested indicated they were selling the marijuana buds for \$5,000/pound. The ranch and residence, valued in excess of \$1 million, was seized.

San Francisco Field Division

On March 24, 1992, DEA Sacramento and El Dorado County Sheriff's Office seized a 498 plant indoor marijuana grow, two violators were arrested.

Operation "10 Days In Spring"

DEA and state and local agents/officers in California successfully concluded "Operation 10 Days In Spring" with the seizure of 190 indoor marijuana grow operations yielding 35,576 marijuana plants and 270 defendants.

Denver Field Division

On March 12, 1992, DEA Denver executed a Federal search warrant and seized an 80 plant indoor grow operation. Two subjects were arrested. One subject was an air traffic controller at the ATC Center in Denver County. An additional warrant was executed on the residence of a former air traffic controller and a 595 plant indoor marijuana grow was seized.

Chyenne Resident Office

On March 13, 1992, Wyoming Attorney General Division Of Criminal Investigation assisted by DEA Casper seized a 291 indoor marijuana plant grow and arrested three subjects. One violator was an Arizona state fugitive.

St Louis Field Division

On March 12, 1992, DEA St Louis executed a search warrant in a residence and seized an 80 plant indoor marijuana grow. One subject was arrested. The violator is the President of the St Louis Chapter on N.O.R.M.L.

Tulsa Resident Office

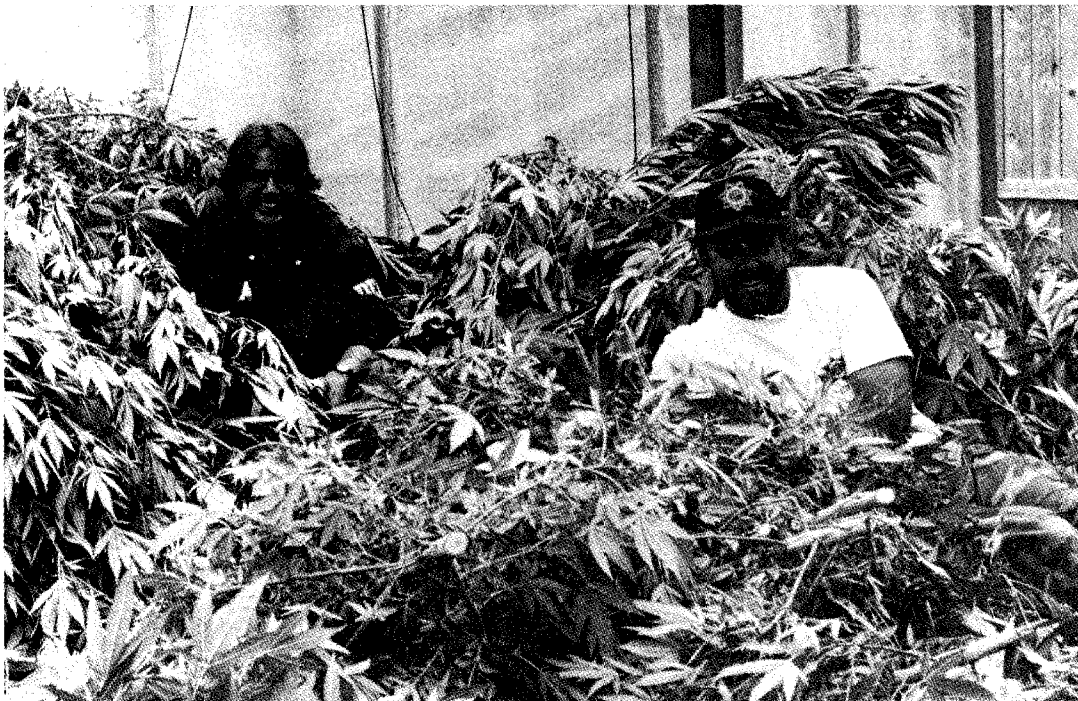
In August 1992, during OPERATION RED RIVER, an undercover investigation was conducted by agents of the McAllister, OK POD and the District 17 Task Force, which resulted in the arrest of one violator who attempted to bribe an undercover state prosecutor and an undercover DEA agent to protect his marijuana crop from OPERATION RED RIVER. The agents seized over 100 plants, 140 pounds of processed marijuana, \$25,000 cash and the violator's 400 acre farm and residence.

In August 1992, as a result of OPERATION RED RIVER, agents of the Oklahoma City RO, OBND and OHP culminated a three month investigation with the execution of a search warrant in rural Vici, Oklahoma. The agents arrested two cultivators and seized 1,450 high quality sinsemilla plants along with seizing their farm.

Great Falls Resident Office

In the early morning hours of September 11, 1992, a multi agency force comprised of DEA, ATF, Missoula County Sheriff's Department, Missoula Police Department and Montana National Guard executed a Federal search warrant on a farm in rural Potomac Valley, Missoula County, Montana. The execution of the search warrant resulted in the arrest of one individual and seizure of a highly sophisticated indoor marijuana cultiva-

tion operation. A two story structure was used to house the hydroponic operation for the incubation, infant and adolescent growth stages. The mature growth stage was accomplished in three separate green house type structures protected by a 15 foot high stockade type fence. The mature plants ranged in height from 5 to 10 feet. A total of 2,333 high quality female sinsemilla plants were seized. The violators were processing only the buds of the sinsemilla plants.



Indoor grow seized in Missoula County, Montana

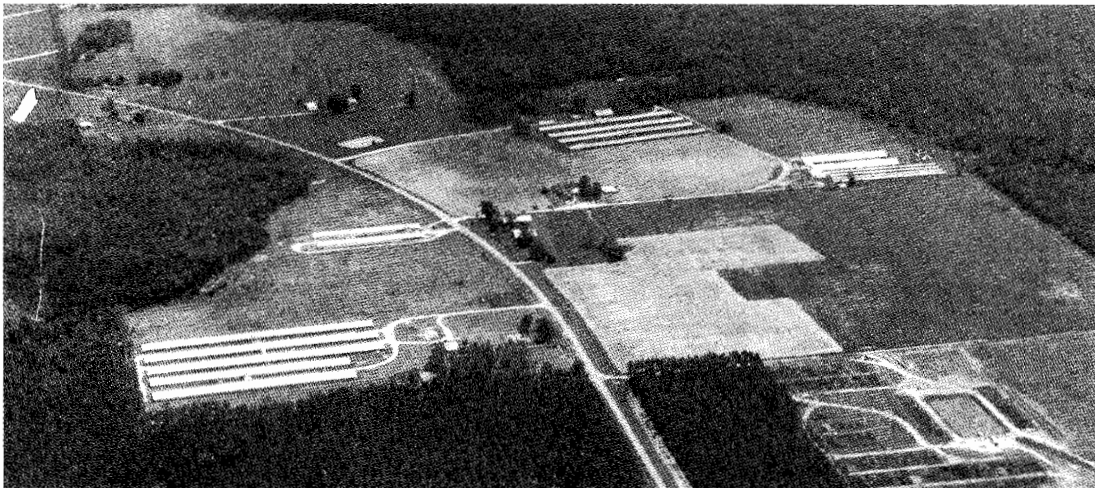
Assets Seized

There was a 31% increase in asset seizures in 1992 over 1991. The total asset seizures rose to \$69.3 million in 1992 from \$52.8 million in 1991. Washington State led the nation in Overall DCE/SP asset seizures with \$9.4 million. California followed with \$8.6 million and Indiana was next with \$6.1 million.

Statistics regarding assets seized from Indoor operations showed Hawaii leading the nation with \$1.2 million. California led in assets seized from outdoor investigations with \$5.7 mil-

lion and Washington State was second in both outdoor and indoor asset seizure categories.

The asset forfeiture provision of the Federal Law continues to be a powerful and effective tool in the overall DCE/SP. The equitable sharing of forfeited assets with contributing law enforcement agencies remains a valuable source of revenue, to allow one violator's illicit gains to aid in the investigation and prosecution of other criminal enterprises.



Farm seized in Baker County, Florida.



Indoor grow 2,333 plants seized, Messoula, Montana.

Indoor grow house, Matanuska Valley, Alaska.

DCE/SP 1992 Overall State Ranking

| | | | |
|------|----------------|------|----------------|
| 1st | Indiana | 26th | South Carolina |
| 2nd | California | 27th | West Virginia |
| 3rd | Illinois | 28th | Nebraska |
| 4th | Tennessee | 29th | Iowa |
| 5th | Florida | 30th | Louisiana |
| 6th | Hawaii | 31th | Alaska |
| 7th | Minnesota | 32nd | Montana |
| 8th | Ohio | 33rd | Mississippi |
| 9th | Missouri | 34th | Arizona |
| 10th | Wisconsin | 35th | New Jersey |
| 11th | Kentucky | 36th | Maryland |
| 12th | Oregon | 37th | Maine |
| 13th | Washington | 38th | Utah |
| 14th | Michigan | 38th | Vermont |
| 15th | North Carolina | 39th | Idaho |
| 16th | Georgia | 40th | North Dakota |
| 17th | Colorado | 41nd | New Mexico |
| 18th | Texas | 42rd | Connecticut |
| 19th | Alabama | 43th | New Hampshire |
| 20th | Oklahoma | 44th | South Dakota |
| 21st | Virginia | 45th | Nevada |
| 22nd | Arkansas | 46th | Rhode Island |
| 23rd | New York | 47th | Pennsylvania |
| 24th | Kansas | 48th | Wyoming |
| 25th | Massachusetts | 49th | Delaware |

1992 DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM STATISTICS

| STATES | ERADICATED PLOTS OUTDOOR | CULTIVATED* PLANTS OUTDOOR | SINSEMILLA PLANTS OUTDOOR | DITCH-MEED ERADICATED | INDOOR GROWS SEIZED | INDOOR PLANTS | TOTAL ERADICATED PLANTS | BULK- PROCESSED MARIJUANA | NUMBER OF ARREST | WEAPON SEIZURES | ASSETS SEIZED (VALUE) | REPORTING PERIOD |
|----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| ALABAMA | 3,876 | 251,429 | 88,899 | 0 | 42 | 6,072 | 257,501 | 68 | 217 | 31 | \$440,488 | 12-15-92 |
| ALASKA | 2 | 0 | 129 | 0 | 87 | 9,359 | 9,359 | 280 | 79 | 65 | \$1,780,770 | 11-30-92 |
| ARIZONA | 60 | 5,553 | 2,585 | 0 | 18 | 4,981 | 10,534 | 704 | 134 | 31 | \$696,883 | 11-30-92 |
| ARKANSAS | 1,973 | 110,084 | 44,107 | 0 | 33 | 1,539 | 111,623 | 428 | 217 | 43 | \$503,251 | 11-30-92 |
| CALIFORNIA | 1,990 | 215,977 | 215,977 | 191 | 426 | 53,626 | 269,794 | 14,361 | 1,551 | 1,091 | \$8,572,678 | 11-30-92 |
| COLORADO | 114 | 10,396 | 7,009 | 31,317 | 274 | 9,508 | 51,321 | 889 | 324 | 32 | \$2,109,788 | 11-30-92 |
| CONNECTICUT | 4 | 1,374 | 130 | 0 | 15 | 1,547 | 2,921 | 268 | 56 | 31 | \$1,159,585 | 10-31-92 |
| CONNECTICUT | 46 | 353 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 37 | 390 | 0 | 3 | 0 | \$800 | 10-31-92 |
| DELAWARE | 1,893 | 228,834 | 13,286 | 0 | 248 | 14,618 | 243,452 | 273 | 784 | 279 | \$6,003,395 | 12-15-92 |
| FLORIDA | 1,297 | 68,632 | 49,811 | 0 | 61 | 10,209 | 78,841 | 26 | 208 | 68 | \$521,376 | 12-15-92 |
| GEORGIA | 3,433 | 431,216 | 321,897 | 0 | 8 | 9,167 | 440,383 | 2,442 | 517 | 17 | \$1,720,009 | 11-30-92 |
| HAWAII | 25 | 1,265 | 917 | 0 | 44 | 12,384 | 13,649 | 164 | 50 | 17 | \$446,860 | 12-31-92 |
| IDAH0 | 2,088 | 445,490 | 10,002 | 99,942,720 | 87 | 16,972 | 100,405,182 | 1,951 | 186 | 160 | \$1,240,138 | 12-31-92 |
| ILLINOIS | 2,207 | 585,919 | 32,099 | 56,447,579 | 177 | 11,211 | 57,044,709 | 3,423 | 1,813 | 332 | \$6,069,572 | 11-15-92 |
| INDIANA | 98 | 96,023 | 0 | 1,178,072 | 13 | 2,336 | 1,276,431 | 546 | 45 | 86 | \$317,188 | 09-30-92 |
| IOWA | 479 | 8,308 | 4,192 | 4,747,731 | 27 | 1,603 | 4,757,642 | 706 | 91 | 46 | \$1,362,919 | 12-31-92 |
| KANSAS | 8,180 | 907,350 | 748,545 | 0 | 70 | 3,980 | 911,330 | 0 | 420 | 107 | \$577,450 | 12-31-92 |
| KENTUCKY | 483 | 18,545 | 1,937 | 0 | 53 | 2,749 | 21,294 | 19 | 186 | 59 | \$188,221 | 12-31-92 |
| LOUISIANA | 384 | 13,806 | 12,786 | 0 | 30 | 1,615 | 15,471 | 39 | 48 | 81 | \$90,050 | 11-30-92 |
| MAINE | 338 | 5,505 | 2,400 | 0 | 34 | 1,563 | 7,068 | 82 | 108 | 44 | \$1,449,753 | 12-31-92 |
| MARYLAND | 228 | 7,253 | 3,919 | 15 | 125 | 2,816 | 10,084 | 344 | 213 | 56 | \$1,273,716 | 12-08-92 |
| MASSACHUSETTS | 1,745 | 76,192 | 18,080 | 6,591 | 125 | 12,171 | 94,965 | 19 | 182 | 258 | \$921,307 | 12-15-92 |
| MICHIGAN | 889 | 138,973 | 7,049 | 2,031,825 | 18 | 18,610 | 2,189,408 | 653 | 113 | 117 | \$1,793,000 | 12-01-92 |
| MINNESOTA | 1,096 | 111,149 | 19,652 | 0 | 18 | 755 | 111,904 | 13 | 106 | 65 | \$180,238 | 12-10-92 |
| MISSISSIPPI | 1,073 | 48,836 | 33,136 | 24,360,769 | 34 | 4,195 | 24,413,800 | 810 | 434 | 173 | \$1,079,303 | 12-31-92 |
| MISSOURI | 9 | 622 | 0 | 4,150,760 | 53 | 9,116 | 9,769 | 225 | 334 | 14 | \$4,263,539 | 12-31-92 |
| MONTANA | 17 | 2,000,660 | 59 | 0 | 30 | 510 | 6,151,930 | 2,246 | 153 | 30 | \$76,830 | 09-30-92 |
| NEBRASKA | 69 | 707 | 707 | 0 | 12 | 1,807 | 2,514 | 5 | 30 | 32 | \$370,937 | 12-31-92 |
| NEVADA | 69 | 1,554 | 286 | 5,260 | 41 | 1,530 | 8,344 | 9 | 51 | 36 | \$121,954 | 12-15-92 |
| NEW HAMPSHIRE | 30 | 2,472 | 1,938 | 0 | 19 | 830 | 3,292 | 699 | 64 | 15 | \$549,000 | 11-30-92 |
| NEW JERSEY | 101 | 23,496 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 1,098 | 8,231 | 34 | 61 | 15 | \$1,295,237 | 11-30-92 |
| NEW MEXICO | 77 | 142,440 | 7,288 | 0 | 47 | 7,410 | 30,906 | 4,784 | 179 | 89 | \$1,556,566 | 11-30-92 |
| NEW YORK | 4,410 | 97,381 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 7,288 | 149,728 | 960 | 420 | 50 | \$419,527 | 11-30-92 |
| NORTH CAROLINA | 64 | 175,807 | 2,582 | 4,905,230 | 7 | 11,931 | 5,002,689 | 32 | 13 | 0 | \$2,700 | 10-31-92 |
| NORTH DAKOTA | 867 | 65,494 | 38,500 | 0 | 79 | 187,738 | 187,738 | 2,647 | 155 | 198 | \$1,290,600 | 12-15-92 |
| OHIO | 1,951 | 10,200 | 21,387 | 4,299,321 | 15 | 1,689 | 4,366,504 | 2,835 | 112 | 51 | \$303,713 | 12-15-92 |
| OKLAHOMA | 581 | 10,200 | 7,999 | 0 | 204 | 15,960 | 26,160 | 416 | 389 | 388 | \$2,409,030 | 11-30-92 |
| OKLAHOMA | 247 | 5,982 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5,982 | 0 | 22 | 3 | \$250 | 10-31-92 |
| PENNSYLVANIA | 88 | 2,318 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 1,950 | 4,288 | 0 | 15 | 4 | \$326,000 | 10-31-92 |
| RHODE ISLAND | 154 | 44,360 | 27,266 | 23,488,284 | 50 | 1,682 | 46,042 | 430 | 128 | 33 | \$129,860 | 12-15-92 |
| SOUTH CAROLINA | 2,084 | 943,119 | 505,075 | 0 | 122 | 5,723 | 948,842 | 1,388 | 437 | 92 | \$1,281,867 | 12-15-92 |
| SOUTH DAKOTA | 537 | 22,925 | 22,925 | 1,204,175 | 47 | 4,528 | 1,231,628 | 48 | 101 | 205 | \$1,752,980 | 12-15-92 |
| TENNESSEE | 28 | 4,240 | 4,240 | 0 | 48 | 629 | 4,869 | 3,031 | 78 | 34 | \$530,000 | 10-31-92 |
| UTAH | 102 | 6,726 | 6,726 | 1,360 | 29 | 1,534 | 9,620 | 57 | 73 | 52 | \$533,037 | 12-15-92 |
| VERMONT | 1,112 | 58,586 | 1,908 | 0 | 71 | 3,263 | 61,849 | 3,899 | 167 | 59 | \$445,526 | 11-30-92 |
| VIRGINIA | 183 | 13,879 | 13,879 | 0 | 561 | 50,927 | 64,806 | 191 | 785 | 486 | \$9,351,936 | 11-30-92 |
| WASHINGTON | 389 | 50,687 | 48,402 | 1,551,488 | 4 | 390 | 1,602,525 | 91 | 100 | 95 | \$237,475 | 12-15-92 |
| WEST VIRGINIA | 327 | 20,486 | 4,778 | 35,853,407 | 184 | 4,628 | 35,878,521 | 657 | 378 | 205 | \$1,317,568 | 12-31-92 |
| WISCONSIN | 2 | 34 | 0 | 546 | 22 | 909 | 1,489 | 27 | 26 | 16 | \$203,770 | 12-15-92 |
| WYOMING | 48,603 | 7,490,379 | 2,357,100 | 264,206,672 | 3,849 | 349,271 | 272,046,333 | 52,320 | 12,369 | 5,541 | \$69,268,640 | |
| TOTAL | 48,603 | 7,490,379 | 2,357,100 | 264,206,672 | 3,849 | 349,271 | 272,046,333 | 52,320 | 12,369 | 5,541 | \$69,268,640 | |

*MAY INCLUDE TENDED DITCH-MEED

TOTAL 1991 FINAL FIGURES 42,660 5,257,486 2,251,735 133,786,059 2,848 282,908 139,326,453 39,041 9,364 4,200 \$52,830,475

TOTAL 1990 FINAL FIGURES 29,469 7,328,769 2,039,597 118,547,983 1,669 1,669 125,876,752 5,729 3,210 \$38,691,584

TOTAL 1989 FINAL FIGURES 46,699 5,635,696 2,084,921 124,288,999 1,398 1,398 129,924,695 2,320 \$29,545,033

Eradication Statistics

The statistics for the 1992 DCE/SP are compiled at DEA Headquarters from information provided from all 50 states. These data do not include non DCE/SP information and there is no correlation between total number of plots or plants under cultivation in the United States and these statistics.

Operations for 1992 show the following:

1. Outdoor Sinsemilla plants eradicated increased by 4%, over 1991, with Kentucky, Tennessee and California having the most plants destroyed.

2. 7.4 million outdoor cultivated plants were destroyed. This is a 42% increase over 1991. In 1992 "tended ditch weed" was included in this category which skewed the data. Otherwise, 1991 to 1992 statistics show only a slight increase.

3. Ditch weed figures demonstrate a 97% increase over 1991 with 264 million plants being destroyed. A new 1993 initiative schedules eradication efforts before plants produce seeds. Specific timing windows have been established for each geographic area of the United States. This program should dramatically reduce the ditch weed statistics within the next four years.

4. Indoor Operations seized have increased by 35% with a total plant count increase of 23%. Washington and California alone accounted for 25% of all operations, with 987 out of the total 3,849.

5. The number of arrests show a 32% increase, with Indiana and California reporting over 1,500 in each state. Weapons confiscated went from 4,200 to 5,500, a 31% increase. In CY 92, there was an average of 1 weapon seized for every indoor grow seizure.

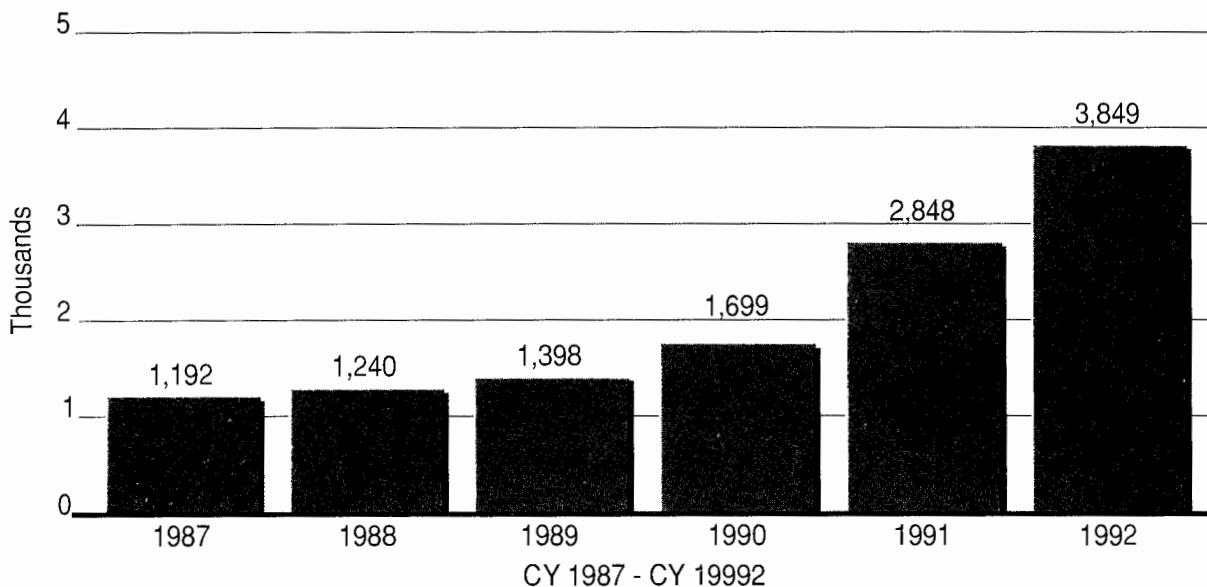
6. DCE/SP operations have been successful in removing 52,320 pounds of processed bulk marijuana from the market, a 34% increase over 1991.

7. Asset seizure soared to \$69 million for 1992, showing a 31% increase over 1991.

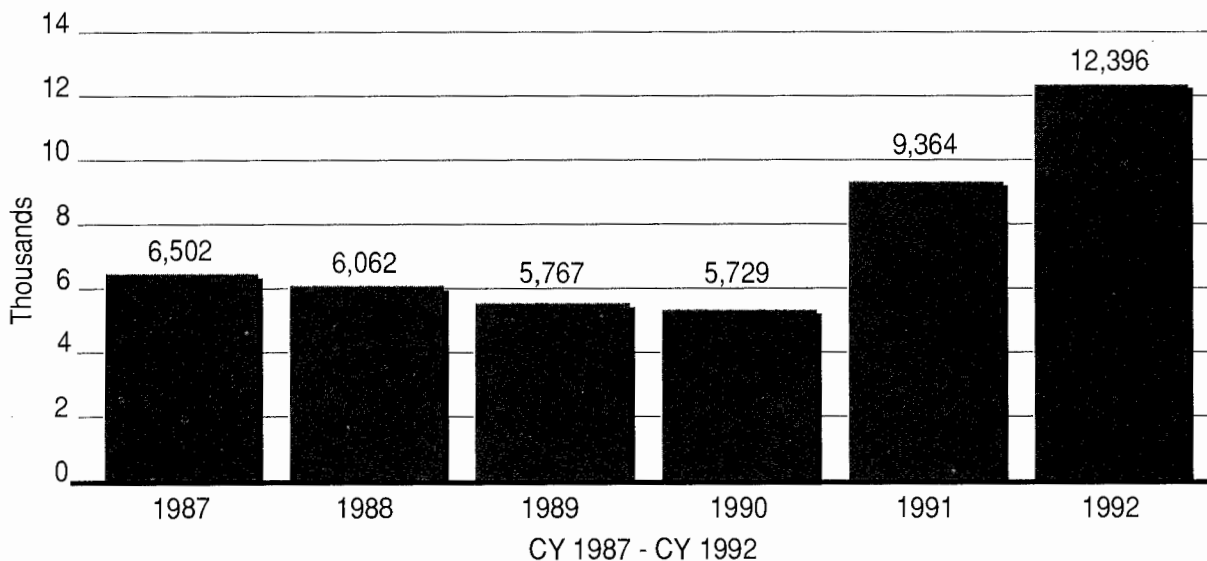
The program is working. We are doing a measurably good job in most of the states. With continued dedication, next year we plan to strike even harder and keep even more of the marijuana from reaching the market.

Appendix

Number of Indoor Cannabis Cultivation Operations Seized

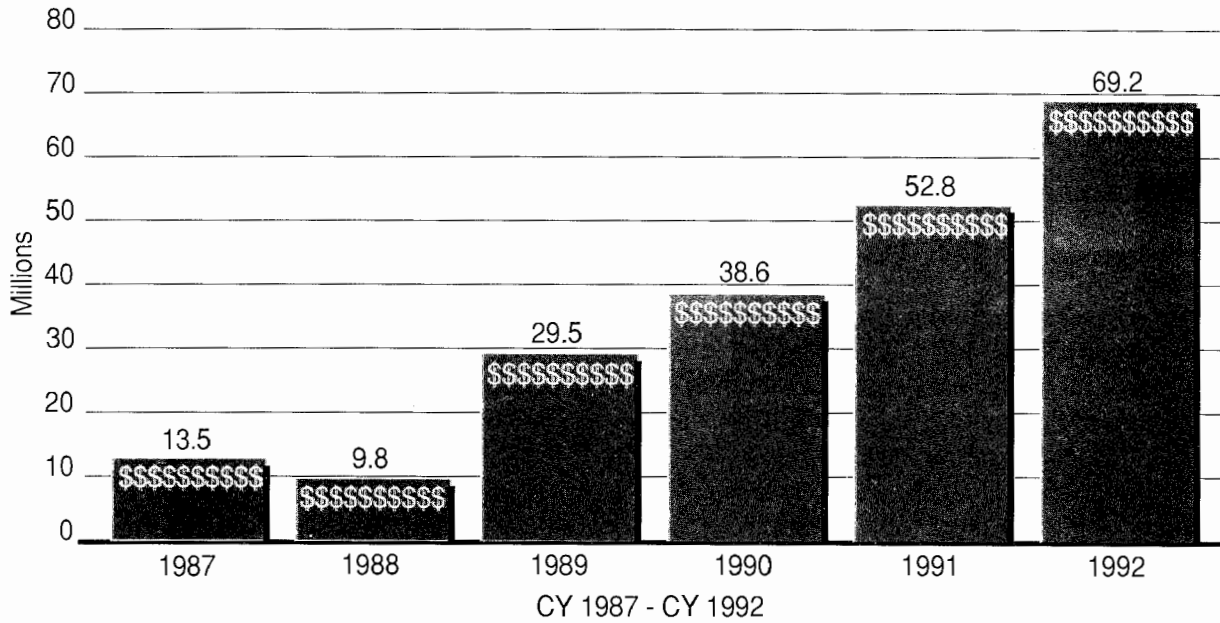


Number of Arrests

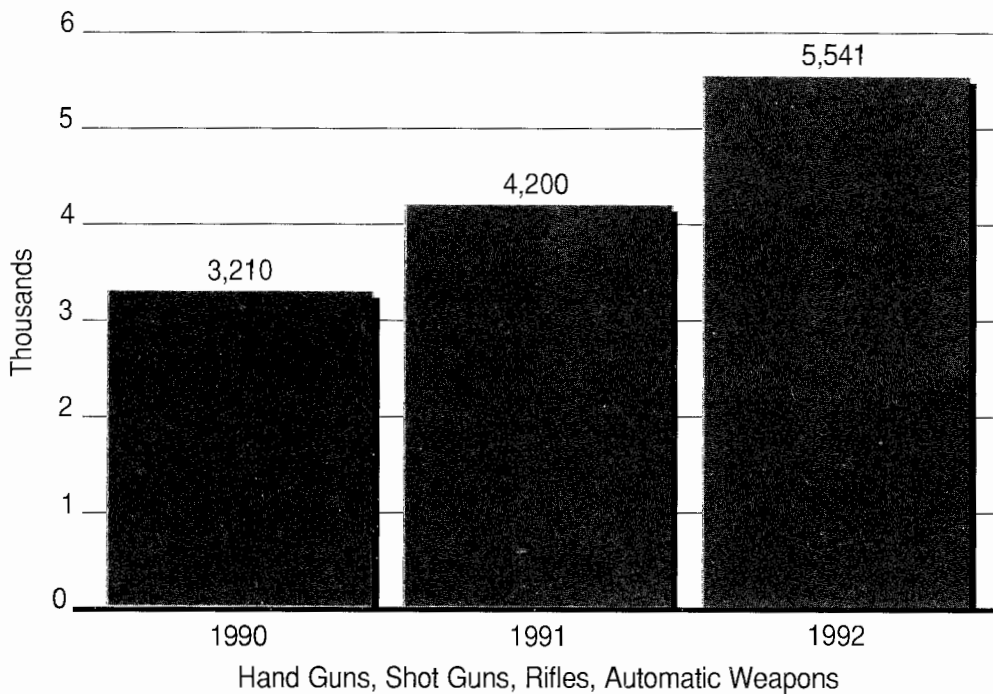


Indoor and Outdoor Cannabis Operations

Assets Seized Cannabis Operations



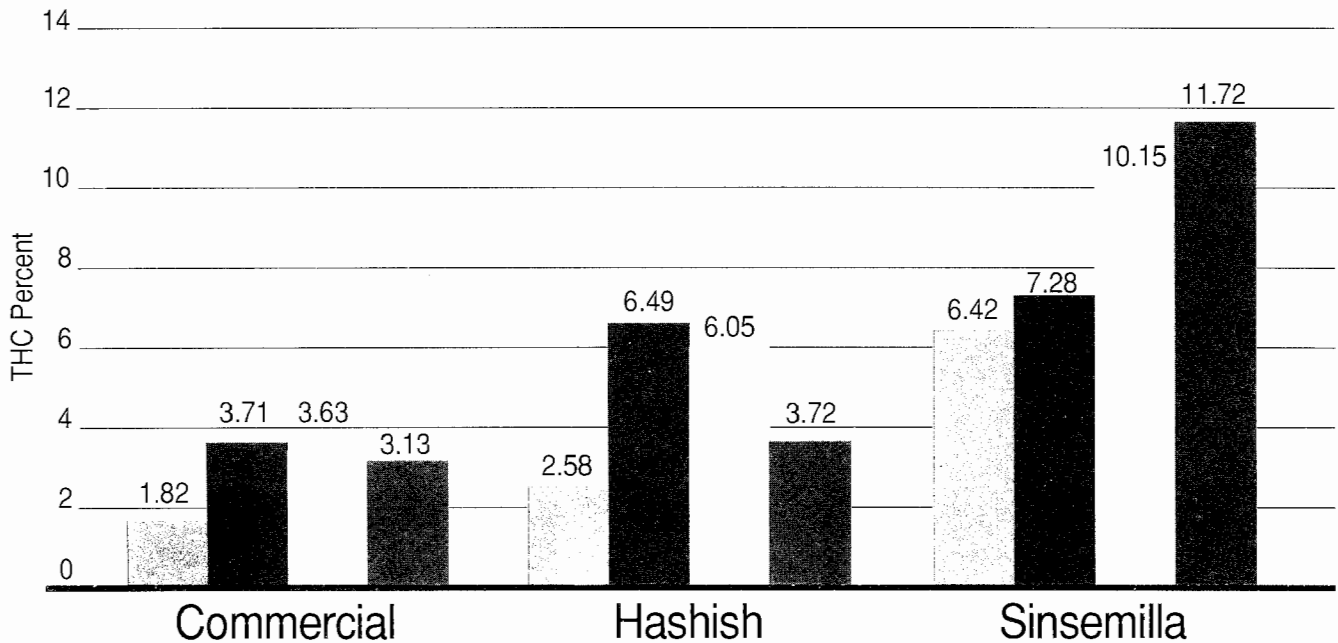
Weapons Seized 1990 - 1992



Average THC Content

Cannabis and Hashish

1980
1985
1990
1991

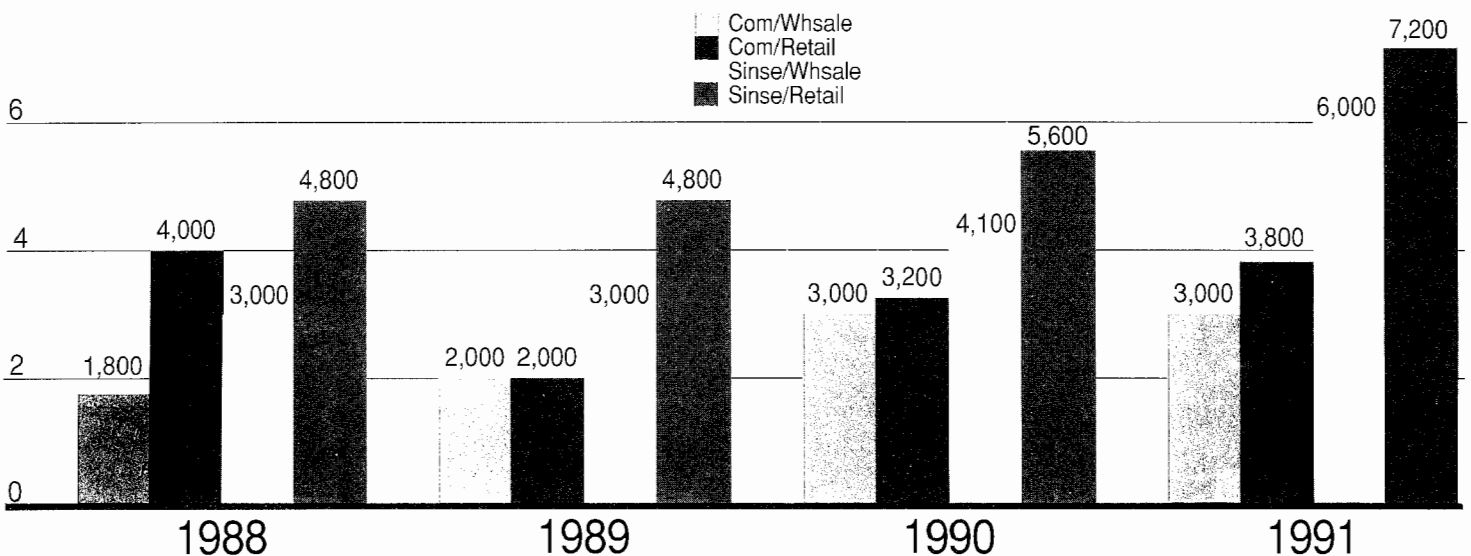


1991 NNICC Report (1992 Not Available)

U.S. Domestic Marijuana Prices

High Average by Pound 1988 - 1992

8 Thousands



High 1991 Severe Shortages in Maine and Hawaii