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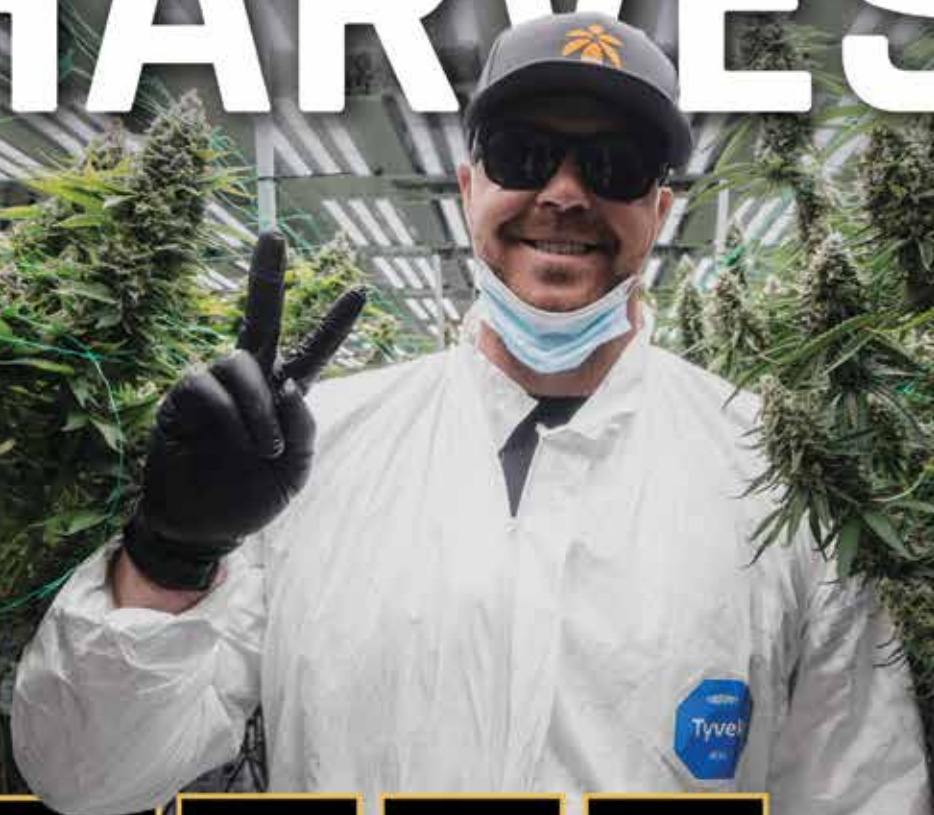
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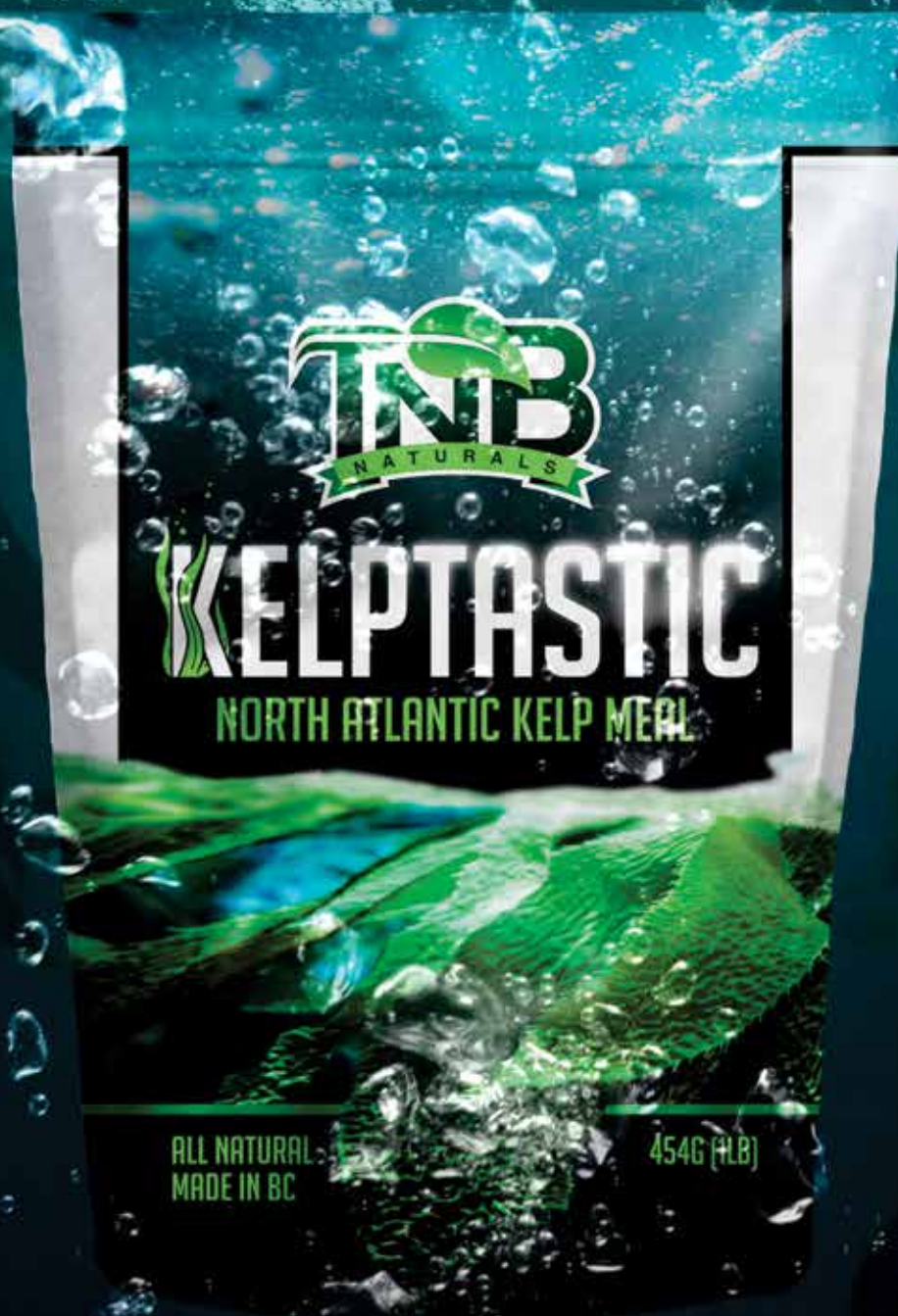
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WOOD WIDE

HIGH CRAFT CANNABIS

Mendocino | California



THIS MOMENT SPRING/SUMMER 2023



Perseverance is 99%. Life likes to kick and challenge us; we are diamonds formed under great pressure and intensity. Nature has a way of showing us what she is made of and thereby shows us what we are made of in return. As this Renaissance kicks into full swing, we see economic strain pushing communities all over the world because of the abject greed of the 1%. It's madness. Scarcity doesn't exist in nature; it's a man-made construct, yet here we are faced with it.

The over-taxation, over-regulation, and poorly written laws that stymy our plant wherever legalization takes place, stymy us from getting the medicine and the science out to the people. The word that continually reverberates in my mind is perseverance. When things persist over time consistently, without stopping, long-lasting progress is made, and that is when our vision is realized. By continuing, we know we are on the right track because there is more to be done, and we are the ones to do it.

Consistency over time brings results. The great test is never to be turned aside, no matter what circumstances are presented. There is so much more to be done. It is up to us to press on. As the great visionary Robert Machoulem said, tired? There is more to do. I cannot be tired; I must continue. And so must we.

Julie Chiariello - Editor-in-Chief



**"IT ALWAYS SEEMS
IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL IT'S DONE."**

NELSON MANDELA



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SOMETIMES IT ALL COMES TOGETHER

WORDS & PHOTO | CASEY O'NEILL

Sometimes it all comes together! The last four days have been one of the biggest farm pushes I can remember, a series of projects spanning long hours with a level of teamwork that we rarely have achieved, if ever. Farmers market, harvesting cannabis and winter squash, prepping beds, replanting, up-planting brassica, the list goes on.

This year we've had so much help from family, friends, and neighbors, and we couldn't have done it otherwise. Whenever I feel overwhelmed by the work ahead, someone comes to the rescue, and the journey has been smoother than I expected. Even as changes in the cannabis market have made money stress more real for us, the actuality of the farm work has taken shape in new and unexpected ways.

I see our operations gelling, the many facets of our farm business taking on new life as love is breathed into them. We are each focusing on different aspects; Pops does the cooking and canning, Lito manages the cannabis, Amber leads in animals and cutting flowers, and I focus on veggies. We all help each other and rely on many other people with whom we share community.

It has been a year of changes in our animal operations as we have stepped into managing the old ranch up the road, shifting poultry, pigs, and sheep there. This past week we slaughtered our first sheep, an experience that I value and has opened new doors of capability and understanding of animal husbandry. It was no easy task, yet it was one for which we found ourselves prepared, and it went well.

As the piglets are growing, I'm finding that managing nine porcine mouths to feed is different than just the boar and sow we

“WE’RE ENJOYING A GLORIOUS, COOL, MOIST DAY AFTER A SPELL OF HEAT THAT I THOUGHT MIGHT BREAK ME. WE’VE ALSO SEEN SOME TRIBULATIONS; WILD PIGS HAVE BEEN RAVAGING THE NEIGHBORHOOD ALL SUMMER, AND THEY CAUGHT UP WITH ME FRIDAY NIGHT, ROTOTILLING TWO OF OUR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION HOOPHOUSES.”

CASEY O'NEILL

had for most of the year. I'm having to adjust my feed rationing, seek out more sources of apple drops, blow out zucchini, and gather acorns. We try to get as much feed from the land or local farm waste as possible to save money and keep the feed miles down. We've just finished up our third day in a row of early morning cannabis harvest, so I sit down to write in the middle of the day instead of in the magic window before the first light. Looking back on the mammoth effort of the last three days, it feels good to see so much done, to feel like we're on the ball during a time of year that is intense at best and chaotic and frustrating at worst.

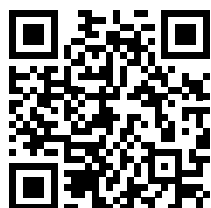
The first round of pumpkins and butternuts are harvested and stored in the barn to cure, and the same day we cleared the beds, prepped

for replanting, and planted three rows of garlic. Next, we got the trays of cabbage, broccoli, and cauliflower up-planted into 3" pots, where they will grow until the last light dep tunnels are harvested. Then we'll clear the stalks and plant them as a stellar round of midwinter food for farm and market.

The rotations fly fast and thick and keeping it all together is a challenge that drives me but can also wear me down. It feels good to take a moment, drink a cup of coffee and put some thoughts down on the screen, reflecting on this point in the harvest. We're enjoying a glorious, cool, moist day after a spell of heat that I thought might break me. We've also seen some tribulations; wild pigs have been ravaging the neighborhood all summer, and they caught up with me

Friday night, rototilling two of our vegetable production hoophouses. The hoops are surrounded by electric fencing and hard panels, but I reconfigured the fencing earlier in the week to take some panels up to the ranch for sheep slaughter, and in my haste, I forgot to turn back on the electric. In one sense, the pig damage hurts more because I made a mistake, but in another sense, it is comforting because now that I have the electric running again, I am hopeful that they will not be able to repeat the performance.

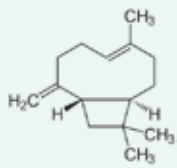
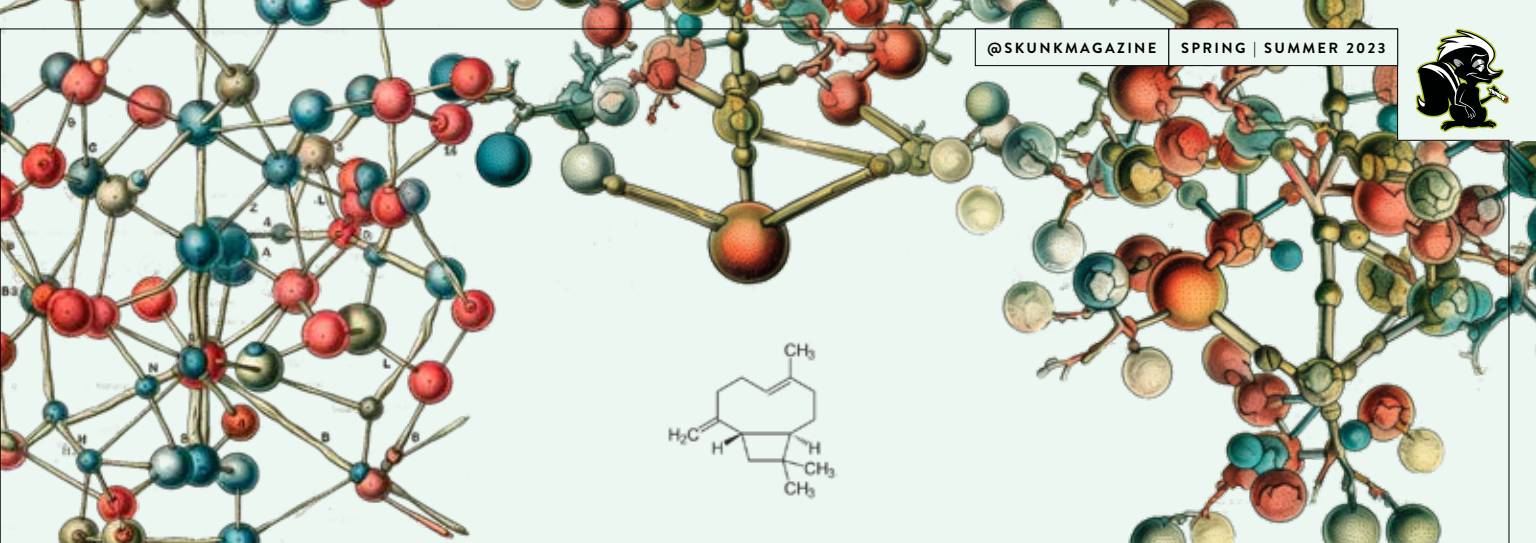
When things calm down with the cannabis harvest, I'm going to set the pig trap that we installed after pulling a permit from CDFW, but I have been so busy with the farm and ranch that I haven't made it happen yet. Such is life this time of year. Many things on the list, but they are being checked off with a steady regularity that makes me feel good. As always, much love and great success to you on your journey! •



INSTAGRAM

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CARYOPHYLLENE

THE ZOMBIE CANNABINOID CLOUDING THE CANNABIS LANDSCAPE

WORDS | BEARD BROS ART | BRANDON PALMA / 8TH DAY CREATE

Sβ-Caryophyllene - also known as Beta-Caryophyllene or more simply as Caryophyllene - is commonly recognized as the first known “dietary cannabinoid.” As a common component of food that has GRAS (Generally Recognized as Safe) status and is approved by the FDA for food use, β-Caryophyllene is the primary sesquiterpene contributing to the spiciness of black pepper.

Caryophyllene is also found in natural abundance in cloves, hops, rosemary, and, of course, cannabis. In fact, it is getting increasingly more difficult to find flowers on a dispensary menu that have something other than Caryophyllene in the dominant position on the terpene profile.

All of your favorite “Dessert” named strains - Gelato, Ice Cream Cake, Cookies, etc. - are heavy in Caryophyllene, using less abundant terps like Limonene, Myrcene, and others to create some semblance of ‘variety’ in genetics.

This wasn’t always the case.

California has always set the trends that the rest of the cannabis world follows, and since 2004 the Emerald Cup has been at the forefront of that influence, gathering the state’s best buds each year for what has evolved into the world’s largest and most diverse cannabis competition.

As cannabis lab testing became more widely available and more widely trusted, the Emerald Cup partnered with SC Labs to provide analysis on all products entered into the annual competition. Not only did this ensure that Emerald Cup Judges were only consuming safe products, but it provided a trove of data on what those products contained.

Not only were cannabinoid levels like CBD and THC now readily available, but eventually, detailed terpene profiles were reported as well.

For many years, the data clearly showed that the majority of Emerald Cup flower entries were Myrcene-dominant. There were lots of Kush and OG varieties in those days. This lined up perfectly with hundreds of thousands of cannabis flower lab tests

that SC Labs was performing in the California marketplace.

In 2021, however, tastes changed. At least, what became available to taste changed, and as it has for nearly two decades, the Emerald Cup reflected that.

Sorting through the data collected that year by SC Labs, it was discovered that Caryophyllene-dominant terp profiles made up 54% of all Flower entries in the 2021 Emerald Cup and, sure enough, the main Flower category winners that year were Gelonade, a cross of Lemon Tree and Gelato #41 (Caryophyllene dominant), Ice Cream Cake, a cross of Wedding Cake and Gelato (Caryophyllene dominant), and Gorilla Snacks, a GG #4 and Girl Scout Cookies cross (Caryophyllene dominant).

The Emerald Cup has several subcategories in the Flower division, and in the 2022 Emerald Cup, some of those subcategories had anywhere from 65-80% of their entries as Caryophyllene/Limonene dominant “Dessert” strains.

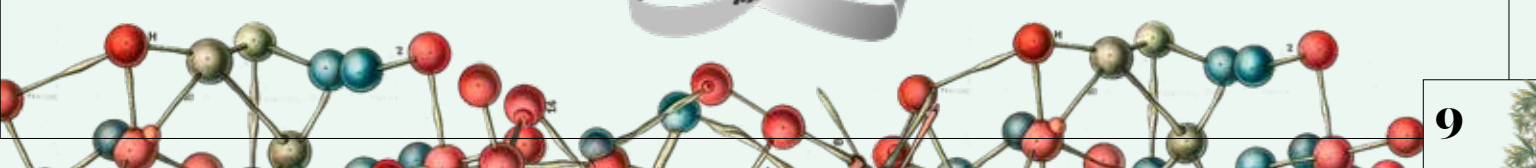
Sure enough, this year’s 1st Place winner for Sungrown Flower and Best in Show overall was Lemon Sponge Cake by Farmer and the Felon. This cultivar came in with 2.78% total terpenoids dominated by (you guessed it!) Caryophyllene and Limonene.

ONE TERPENE DOMINATES THE MARKET.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

California and many other states with established regulated cannabis markets are experiencing a massive oversupply of mostly midgrade weed. This depresses values for the entire market, making every harvest less lucrative for the farmers who bring the weed to the masses.

Like a Mobius Loop of Mids, too many farmers fall into the tail-eating trap of chasing market trends even as those trends wreck the value of their crops and homogenize the marketplace to the point where every shop and every menu offers the same old shit.





REST IN PEACE

DR. RAPHAEL MECHOULAM

1930-2023

THE FATHER OF CANNABIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING - BUT NOT FORGOTTEN.

WORDS & PHOTO | JEFF EICHEN



Raphael Mechoulam, considered by many to be the “Father” of cannabis, died March 9, 2023, aged 92, in Jerusalem, Israel.

The OG’s of the Cannabis Hall Of Fame would be remised and possibly never even have been a complete family without the Daddy of them all and my number one vote Dr. Raphael Mechoulam. Alongside Sir Jack Herer, Tommy Chong, Ed Rosenthal and more, Dr. Mechoulam leads the way in the research department of our Cannabis industry. And I was so proud to meet Sir Dr. Raphael one of my heroes and legends in Pueblo Colorado, 2017 at The Institute of Cannabis Research. The ICR was established in June 2016 through an innovative partnership between Colorado State University Pueblo, the state of Colorado, and Pueblo County.

Without our incredibly brave and so articulate esteemed Cannabis Heroes, where would our 420 industries and evolving schools of Cannabis be? Dr. Raphael Mechoulam certainly proved and dedicated his life to the demystification of the Reefer Madness herb we all love and know as 420 and yes THC, the molecule Sir Dr. Raphael Mechoulam isolated and for more than 50 years proved his research at the at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the cannabis plant is one of the most beneficial and diverse natural medicinal and industrial plants ever to be in our presence. While there (1960-65), he focused on the isolation, structure elucidation, and total synthesis of the main active components of cannabis.

My Hero-My Legend, Rest in Peace, Sir Dr. Raphael Mechoulam. We thank you and Israel and the cosmic star-seeds who dropped this wonder plant on our Earth, Hemp Hemp Hooray! •

MY LABORATORY HAS WORKED ON THE CHEMISTRY, PHARMACOLOGY AND CLINICAL EFFECTS OF NATURAL PRODUCTS (INCLUDING CANNABIS) FOR OVER 50 YEARS. WE HAVE ISOLATED NUMEROUS CANNABINOIDS, INCLUDING THE ACTIVE CONSTITUENT OF CANNABIS, DELTA9-THC, AND ELUCIDATED ITS STRUCTURE. WE HAVE ALSO IDENTIFIED ENDOGENOUS CANNABINOIDS IN THE PIG BRAIN. THESE FATTY ACID DERIVATIVES, NAMED ANANDAMIDE AND 2-AG, ARE THE AGONISTS OF A MAJOR NEW BIOLOGICAL SYSTEM CALLED THE ENDOCANNABANOID SYSTEM. MOST OF MY CURRENT RESEARCH FOCUSES ON THE NUMEROUS ANANDAMIDE-LIKE COMPOUNDS IN THE MAMMALIAN BODY, MANY OF WHICH ARE INVOLVED IN BASIC BIOLOGICAL REACTIONS, SUCH AS BONE FORMATION, VASODILATION, HEAD TRAUMA, ADDICTION, ETC. WE HAVE ALSO DEVELOPED NOVEL CANNABINOIDS AND ANANDAMIDE-LIKE COMPOUNDS WHICH ARE BEING DEVELOPED AS DRUGS BY PHARMA COMPANIES.

RAPHAEL MECHOULAM

SPRING INTO NEW BEGINNINGS

WORDS | BRIGITTE MARS

ART | BRANDON PALMA / 8TH DAY CREATE



The beginning of a new year is an opportunity for transformation. Life patterns that no longer assist our highest potential, such as poor food choices or unhelpful habits, can be replaced with positive and healthful actions. What better time than now?

A journal can be an excellent partner along life's path. Write down what you want your life to look like in a year and what steps you are willing to take to achieve those goals. Write ten things you want to accomplish this year. Write down 100 things you wish to do in your lifetime. Putting goals on paper is a first step to achieving them.

Take a picture of yourself now. Do another next year at this time. We will likely get the same results if we keep doing the same things. Replace

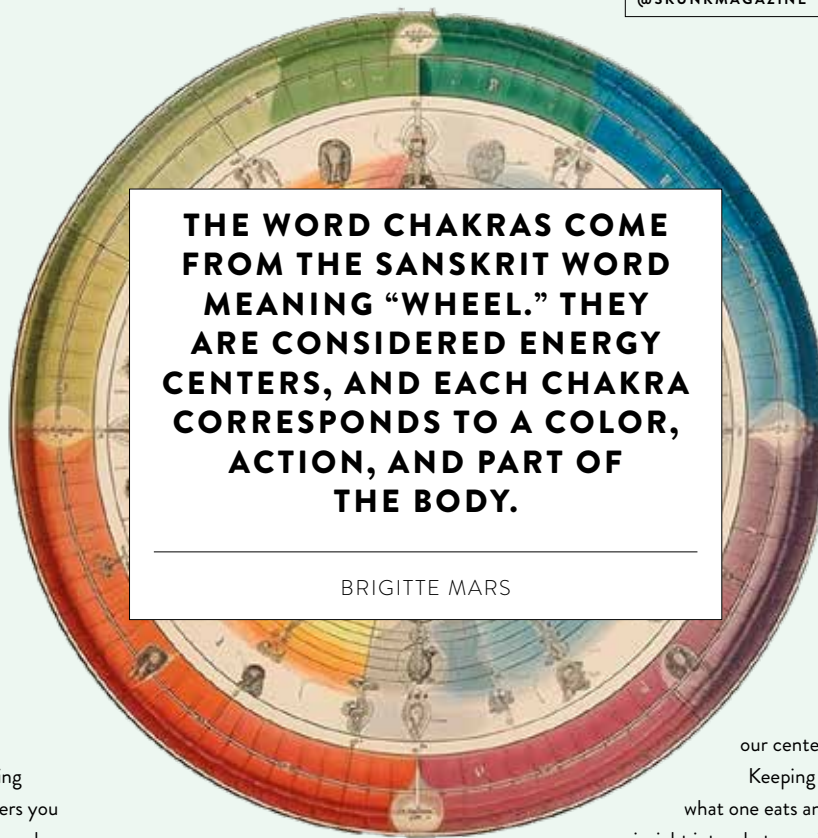
a negative habit with a positive one – doing a craft with your hands rather than overeating, for example. Make this the best year ever!

Every year I make a resolution for each chakra. Here are some suggestions where you might find a few ideas to give you the inspiration to choose your own New Year's resolutions.

RED:

The first chakra is located at the base of the spine. It corresponds to survival, elimination, and action.

Waking one-half an hour earlier gives you more time for yourself. Stretch before getting out of bed, like babies and animals. If you prepare



THE WORD CHAKRAS COME FROM THE SANSKRIT WORD MEANING “WHEEL.” THEY ARE CONSIDERED ENERGY CENTERS, AND EACH CHAKRA CORRESPONDS TO A COLOR, ACTION, AND PART OF THE BODY.

BRIGITTE MARS

for morning the night before by packing a healthy lunch, laying out clothing, and whatever papers you need, you can have a more serene day.

The best time to exercise is in the morning when the air is cleaner. Exercise increases endorphin production, enhancing cheerfulness, energy, circulation, digestion, immunity, posture, and elimination.

Exercise in the open air, or at least with the windows open when possible. Walk or ride a bicycle, taking the less polluted route. Provide backup plans, such as a dance video when inclement weather keeps you home.

Get rid of clutter. Make someone’s day, and what you can’t use, you can give away, have a yard sale, donate to a charity, recycle or reinvent.

Red ray foods to include more of might be beets, pomegranates, apples, watermelon, radish, hazelnuts, and tomatoes.

ORANGE:

The second chakra corresponds to the reproductive organs, kidneys, and adrenals. It is the center for relations, partnerships, and sexuality.

Connections with friends can be positive. Invite a few friends over. Have healthy potlucks at rotating homes and allow everyone to put a business card into a hat. Each participant can draw a card and commit to offering an exchange. You might find yourself trading a massage for a feng shui consultation or a landscaping consultation for a facial. By learning more about the talents of those around us, we create friendships and expand our business.

When possible, if there is anyone in your life that you need to forgive, owe an apology to, or return a borrowed item, do what you can to make it right.

If you are blessed to have found a partner, get healthy together by exercising or preparing food as a team. Learn about tantra by reading a book such as *The Art of Sexual Ecstasy* by Margo Anand or taking a workshop together. Keep learning about love and relationships your entire life.

Pumpkin and other winter squashes, sweet potatoes, carrots, cinnamon, and oranges are foods to bring the orange ray into our lives.

YELLOW:

The third chakra corresponds to the solar plexus, naval area, digestion, and

our center of material comfort.

Keeping a food journal and recording what one eats and drinks encourages

insight into what goes into our bodies. Do your choices support ultimate health?

Say a blessing or take a few deep breaths to become calm and present before eating. Also, put your fork down between bites.

Some people find that using a smaller plate, cocktail fork, or chopsticks to dine reminds them to appreciate each bite.

We require fuel more at midday than at night. Therefore, lunch rather than dinner as the main meal may work best. And rather than snacking into the night, floss and brush your teeth right after dinner to discourage food consumption. If you must eat something, choose celery or raw carrot. This year, equip your kitchen with what is needed for healthier living: a blender, food processor, dehydrator, juicer, etc.

Cravings are more likely to occur when we are hungry. When craving sweets, choose something crunchy such as an apple. Craving salty foods may indicate that minerals such as those found in sea vegetables are needed. When craving fats, a tablespoon of flax seeds or hemp seed oil daily provides essential fatty acids. Put all of your vitamins and herbs in an easy-to-access place. They don’t work unless you use them!

Find other ways to reward and comfort yourself other than food. Make a list in your journal. Enjoy the sensual delights of an aromatherapy bath, foot massage, or walking in a beautiful environment, be it nature or an art museum.

Yellow-rayed allies include lemon, banana, almonds, ginger, and pine nuts.

GREEN:

The fourth chakra corresponds to the heart and lung center.

It is the seat of love, forgiveness, and compassion.

Breathing more deeply and fully increases the amount of oxygen in the blood. Good posture encourages deep breathing, good circulation, a calmer mind, improved concentration and mood, and better function of all the organs. Wear comfortable clothing that promotes circulation without binding. Take walks in the pine forests or along the beach and breathe the air.

Live a greener life. Support organics. Go vegetarian, or even raw food vegan. Recycle more than you already do. Vote with your dollars. Buy that which supports good causes and do your best to consume less things that are harmful or polluting to the planet. This might be the year that you stop buying things that require dry cleaning and buy some organic cotton or hemp clothes. We can't just talk about saving whales and rainforests. Put your money where your mouth is and be willing to donate to at least some good causes.

Gardens affirm our belief in the future, even if it's only on the balcony or a sprout garden

on the kitchen counter. Start or join a community garden—plant fruit trees. “The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The next best time is now.” Learn about wild edibles instead of spraying them. Be a steward of the earth and help recreate paradise. Have an attitude of gratitude.

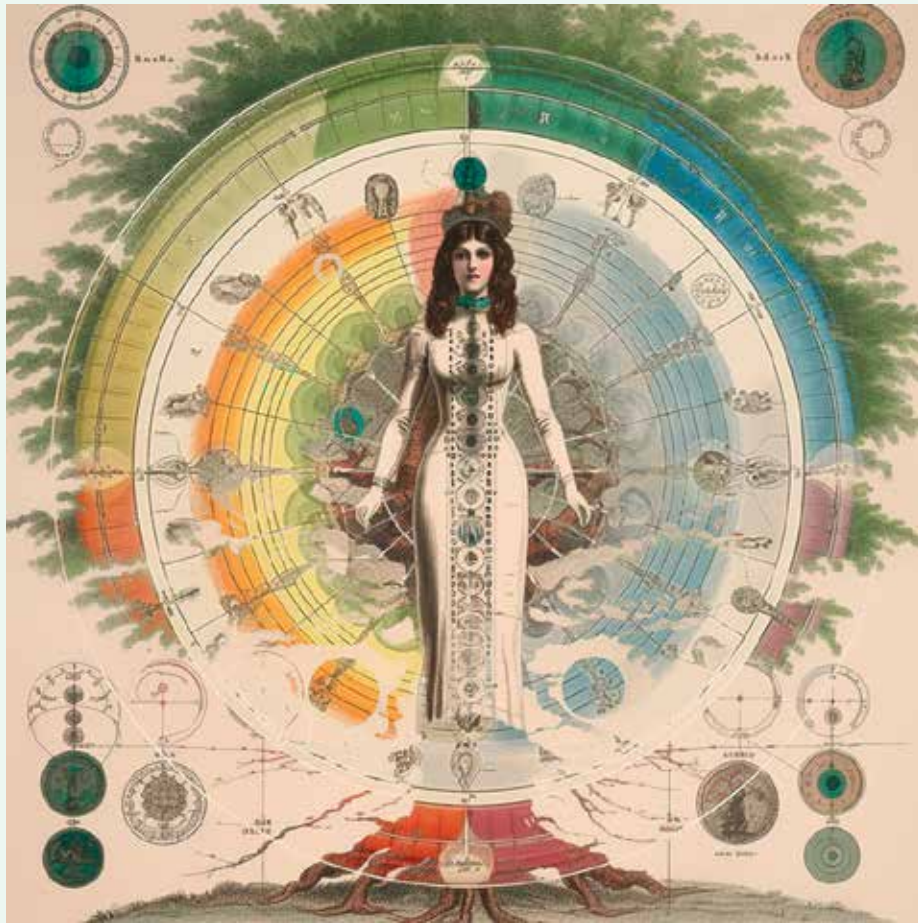
Dark green leafy vegetables such as kale, arugula, watercress, and avocados give us the green ray. Superfoods such as barley grass and wheat grass juice, blue-green algae, spirulina, and chlorella can be highly energizing and alkalizing, helping support us when letting go of addictions.

BLUE:

The fifth chakra corresponds to the base of the throat, thyroid, and parathyroid. It is the center of the spoken word and communication. Speak out more. Take time to sign petitions or write letters to the editor about community concerns.

Is there something you might like to teach others or give a class on? I taught at a university and gave herb walks to my daughter's Brownie troops. It all starts somewhere.

Have a hobby you love as a form of self-expression. Hand activities keep our brains alert and hands out of the snack bowl. Drawing, playing a musical instrument, knitting, crocheting, macramé, sewing, woodworking, origami, and beadwork can enrich our realms. Let your projects be an expression of your love and positive thoughts. Blueberries, blue corn, and plums are foods to bring



in the blue ray.

INDIGO:

Between the eyebrows, deep in the brain, the pituitary regulates the glandular function of the entire body. This is the center of intelligence and intuition.

Perhaps some old habit is getting in the way. Be clear that you want to give up your addiction. Write down all the reasons you want to let go of an addiction and post it in several places where you will see it daily. Find support with a qualified practitioner, on the net, or with a group for your concerns. Supplements such as GTF chromium which helps stabilize blood sugar

levels, B complex, and calcium magnesium, calm and nourish the nervous system and can all support one letting go of addictions. Learn about getting more alkaline. When our bodies are in a more acidic state, it is easy to feel overwhelmed with unhealthful cravings.

Keep learning new things your entire life. Is there something you have always wanted to learn? Commit to reading at least two books on the subject or take a class this year.

Listening to motivational tapes puts your consciousness where you want it. Rather than playing video games about destruction, check out some of the tools at www.wilddivine.com that have video games that inspire higher consciousness.

Black sesame seeds, elderberries, currants, and raisins represent indigo.

VIOLET:

The “crown” chakra corresponds to the pineal gland at the top of the head. It is the center of divine consciousness and spirituality.

Do you have a path that helps you feel connected to Divine Source? This might be the year that you visit a place of worship, remember to pray, learn to meditate, join a spiritual study or discussion group, create an altar or place for contemplation in your home, or read spiritually uplifting books.

Acai fruit, grapes, and purple cabbage are reminders of the violet ray.

May this New Year be filled with truth, beauty, goodness, and health!



PERHAPS IN GRADE SCHOOL, YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS HAD A CHART ON THE FRIDGE LISTING CHORES? ACROSS THE TOP MIGHT BE THE DAYS OF THE WEEK. AFTER COMPLETING A TASK AND PERHAPS RECEIVING A STAR, YOU ENJOYED A SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT. IT'S STILL A GOOD IDEA.

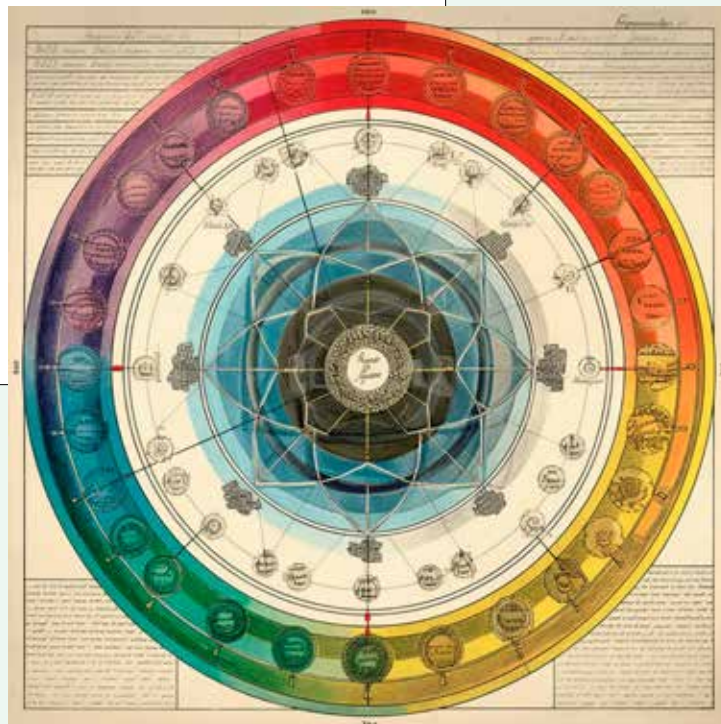
MAKE A LIST OF ALL THE HEALTHY CHORES (OR PLEASURES!) THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO YOU. INCLUDE BODY, MIND, AND SPIRIT ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TAKING AN AROMATHERAPY BATH, OR A MULTIVITAMIN, AN HERBAL SUPPLEMENT, EATING A SALAD DAILY, GOING OUTDOORS, OR ATTENDING A YOGA CLASS. ONE MIGHT HAVE AS A GOAL OF BEING SUGAR, ALCOHOL, OR WHEAT-FREE ALL DAY. SINCE YOU MOST LIKELY COULDN'T FULFILL ALL OF YOUR GOALS EVERY DAY, TRY FOR AT LEAST SEVEN THINGS DAILY.

RATHER THAN GOING TO BED AT NIGHT SAYING, "DARN, I FORGOT TO DO MY EYE EXERCISES," WE CAN AFFIRM WE DID MANY HEALTHY THINGS TODAY, AND TOMORROW THERE WILL BE OTHERS!

BRIGITTE MARS

Brigitte Mars is an herbalist and nutritional consultant of Natural Health with almost fifty years of experience. She teaches Herbal Medicine at Naropa University. She is a founding and professional member of the American Herbalist Guild. Brigitte is the author of many books and DVDs, including *The Natural First Aid Handbook*, *The Home Reference to Holistic Health and Healing*, *The Country Almanac of Home Remedies*, *The Desktop Guide to Herbal Medicine*, *Beauty by Nature*, *Addiction Free Naturally*, *The Sexual Herbal*, *Healing Herbal Teas*, *Rawsome!* and co-author of *The HempNut Cookbook*. Her latest project is a phone app called *IPlant*. She offers an online course at <https://sevenroots.com/herbal-healing-with-brigitte-mars-course/>. For a discount code: Use HERBS10

Please check out www.brigittemars.com.





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MARLO RICHARDSON

BLACK, FEMALE, AND BUILDING A CANNABIS EMPIRE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARLO RICHARDSON

INTERVIEW BY VIVIAN McPEAK

ART BY 8TH DAY CREATE

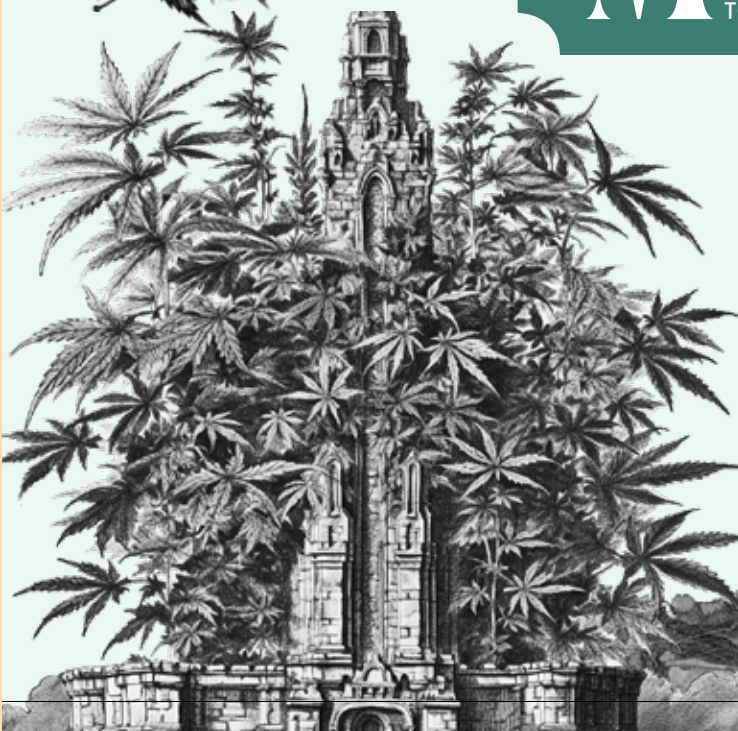


MARLO RICHARDSON IS A BUSINESSWOMAN, SERIAL ENTREPRENEUR, AND THE FOUNDER AND CEO OF FOUR CANNABIS BUSINESSES BASED OUT OF CALIFORNIA. SKUNK SAT DOWN WITH HER TO DISCUSS HER HISTORY, HER EXPERIENCES AS A BLACK WOMAN IN THE CANNABIS INDUSTRY, AND HOW SHE HAS MANAGED TO BE SUCCESSFUL WITH HER BUSINESS PURSUITS.

VIVIAN McPEAK: Let's start by you telling us a little bit about your history. You have already accomplished so much. From where did you get your business acumen and drive?

MARLO RICHARDSON: *You know, I am not sure where I got the drive from other than just knowing that I wanted to have a pretty decent life. And unfortunately, I live in Los Angeles, California, and that's pretty difficult to do with just one income. And I think for the majority of my adult life being single and just having the time to explore different passions of mine, I guess that's just how I got started, just testing the waters and seeing what I enjoyed doing.*

VM: I understand that your mother's pain condition initially influenced your



involvement in cannabis. Can you tell us some of that story?

MR: *Yes, so it's kind of odd, I spent a lot of my adult life in law enforcement, actually, and I retired as a lieutenant, and I had this preconceived notion of cannabis. And, you know, we're kind of brainwashed to think that it's bad because it is illegal, and I never really took the time to do my own research. So my mother had the most excruciating pain she'd ever felt. She said it was worse than childbirth. So I can't imagine how much pain she must have been in. It got to a point where she had trouble walking, and it turned out she needed full hip replacement surgery. I had a friend that recommended these different CBD and THC-infused salves. My mother started using them, which was really the only thing that relieved her pain and allowed her to sleep at night.*

So I started to research. And I started really understanding all the health benefits, and it blew my mind as to how I previously thought of it. I'm just really glad that I came around because I was introduced to a friend of a friend who had a business and needed a security plan to get his license. With my background in law, I was able to put together a security plan in order for him to get licensed. That was in the Palm Desert area. I started to get interested, and I started looking into the Los Angeles area, which was not yet open. He was supposed to call me and let me know when I could apply for Los Angeles.

When he called me, it was literally the last day that the applications could be submitted; within the last hour. So I put a company together, got an EIN, applied, and immediately got an invoice.

VM: You mentioned that you spent twenty years as a law enforcement manager. What does a law enforcement manager do, and what was that transition like to cannabis? Was it awkward with your comrades, or did they get it, or a little of both?

MR: *Well, no, it wasn't awkward at all, and I think at this point in the world, I think everybody gets it, even the people who don't wanna legalize it yet. I think it's more of a formality in terms of the government trying to decide how they're going to monetize it for them. And that's kind of what I see as the bigger picture in terms of legalizing it or not legalizing it.*

I don't believe in the whole deal of it being a gateway drug. To say that cannabis is a gateway drug is to say that smoking a cigar is going to turn into crack. It's absolutely ridiculous, in my opinion. I don't believe I ever thought that way. My understanding, being in law enforcement, and you asked what a law enforcement manager is, I was a lieutenant. So in law enforcement, similar to the military, you get to a certain point, and you become what they consider a manager, not a supervisor.

Once I was done in law enforcement, I was completely done. It was a sigh of relief to be able to create my own destiny and not have all of the rules and regulations that I had been forced to abide by for so long.

VM: The cannabis industry, like many industries in America, is predominantly comprised of white men, although that has somewhat been changing. What have your experiences been as a woman of color ganjapreneur, and what unique obstacles or challenges have you had to overcome to enjoy the success you have had so far?

MR: *I absolutely agree with you. First of all, I am typically the only person of color and female person of color when I go to cannabis events where executives are involved. It's kind of sad, but I'm not really sure how I feel about it. Because, to be honest with you, that's most industries, you know, unless you're talking about the MBA. Being a person of color and in a particular industry, especially when you're talking about something at a higher level that pays really well, we're typically the minority. Unfortunately, I'm kind of used to being in that position.*

VM: Has the cannabis community in general embraced you? Have you felt pushback or met obstacles? What has your experience been like being in your unique position? You really are a leader. You are a great role model for other people of color or women of color. What's that been like for you?

MR: *Vivian, that's a really good question. If I am being honest with myself, I really try not to focus on that part. I just try to do a good job and let my work speak for itself. My name is Marlo; I think when people see my name on an email or website that does not necessarily have my photo, they probably have no idea whether I'm a male or female or black, white, or green.*

I don't think I have one of those names where someone could look at it and say that's who this person is. And so, I think it's typically a surprise when people do find out that I'm a black female. So I don't think I've seen any pushback because of it. When I do have meetings, I do believe, at times, I have to put my best foot forward, and I've always been the type of person that makes sure that I know everything there is to know about it because I am a surprise. I don't ever want to be looked at as someone who was given this opportunity because of that, but because I am someone who has earned it.

VM: Can I ask how your mother is doing now?

MR: *She is doing great. She's got a new hip, and (laughs) she's like Superwoman.*

VM: I want to dive into your cannabis businesses, but first, the cannabis industry is a hodgepodge of constantly changing regulations and restrictions. You have had such a career. You have been a Committee Member of the State Bar of California, Public Safety and Justice Chair for the Los Angeles County Board of



Supervisors, and more. How challenging is the regulatory framework of California's cannabis model, and how well have your other positions prepared you to navigate the complicated cannabis legal environment?

MR: *Man, you ask great questions. I will say that having a background in laws, rules, and regulations is what has actually helped me to succeed in this business. Whether it's applying for the applications or the constant changing of the different rules and laws, it is extremely difficult to keep up. It's almost like being an accountant. And if you know any accountants or have any knowledge from dealing with them with your taxes every year, they're reading these huge books because something has changed. If they don't stay on top of it, they are out of business because they can really screw you up if they don't know what rules have changed or are different from what they were the previous year. And that's what you see in the cannabis industry.*

The worst part of the cannabis industry's changing rules and regulations is that the employees don't always know what's going on. And it's very typical in government organizations where you have people at the top who are making decisions, and by the time it gets to the person that's expected to relay that to the end-user or the customer or the clients, it's confusing, it's convoluted—it's not exact. So I've had a lot of trouble just dealing with the average person. Typically, I speak to a manager. I've had my accounts and licenses and things that were extremely vital to the success of my business compromised because someone on the back end didn't keep up with



what they were supposed to be doing. So I definitely believe that my background has prepared me for my success in the cannabis industry.

VM: Wow, I have done over 250 interviews, and nobody has articulated that one point you just made about the right hand not knowing what the left hand is doing. And that whole dynamic of the regulatory structure and accounting and everything is likely why it's easier for these white men already in the corporate sector to take all the money they already have and get involved in cannabis. And that creates a barrier for everybody else.

MR: *Oh, absolutely, absolutely, and there's a lot of companies, when you talk about social equity programs, that pride themselves on helping social equity applicants get their foot in the door. For the most part, I want to believe they're really doing that social equity applicant justice. Still, from what I've seen, when the law only requires that a social equity applicant receives 51%. They're talking ownership of the business—I myself am a social equity applicant and am very well versed in what's supposed to happen—what I've seen happen and what I've had offered to me is another company will come to help you get into the cannabis industry supposedly. They'll give you 51% of ownership in the business. Then they will have their attorneys write up a contract that eliminates you from having any say-so in the business, any oversight, or any management, and then they start charging all of these fees.*

“Oh, we're gonna employ our people, it's gonna cost this amount, that amount,” and by the time the social applicant actually sees a dollar, they're getting probably 2% of what's supposed to be 51%. So when you're looking at it from a monetary standpoint, they're really losing, but they don't know any better or have any other options. So this is a very unfortunate situation, but you are absolutely right; there are people who have the corporate background, have the money, and were able to hop right in and excel.

VM: You are the founder and CEO of four Cannabis businesses. What can you tell us about them? Can you describe them

one by one and what products or services they offer?

MR: *Absolutely, the primary business is Greenwood and Company, and that company basically serves as the license holder for all of my*

entities. I have indoor cultivation where we have approximately 200 lights. We do our own clones, we have our own mother plants, and we produce exotic cannabis and, for the most part, pretty high-end cannabis flower.

I have a manufacturing company. We do not actually own any machinery to create any type of distillates or live resin, but it allows me to infuse pre-rolls and make beverages, which is part of some of the other brands I do.

I also have a cannabis distribution company that allows me to brand and package all of the cannabis that I have, whether it's flower, pre-rolls, infused pre-rolls, or beverages. And creating the brands is kind of an ancillary business that I've been able to create with other people because I have the vertically integrated companies to be able to provide them with flower, provide them with any type of cannabis product that they want to brand. I allow them to have their own company where they aren't touching the actual plant, and I facilitate any and all packaging and allow them to market and sell. Then we would distribute it to either the end user or retail outlet. The fourth company is a cannabis delivery company. We're licensed to deliver straight to consumers. So if I'm packaging my own brands, I can deliver them direct-to-consumer or through distribution. I can then take them to a retail outlet.

VM: What advice might you have for people of color, and especially other women of color who are considering entering the cannabis industry? What would you want them to be aware of while entering the industry?

MR: *I would say work with people who really have your best interests at heart, not people who are just out for money or ownership, per se. There are enough people interested in getting into the cannabis industry, and I think a person interested really has a lot of homework to do. There's a lot of regulatory knowledge that a person has to have before trying to get in because*

“The worst part of the cannabis industry's changing rules and regulations is that the employees don't always know what's going on. And it's very typical in government organizations where you have people at the top who are making decisions, and by the time it gets to the person that's expected to relay that to the end-user or the customer or the clients, it's confusing, it's convoluted—it's not exact.”





it's expensive. And they don't give you refunds. I applied for a license in another county, and they made it very clear up front, and I'll be honest with you, I thought I'd be a shoo-in because it was based on experience and running cannabis companies.

And I felt like I had enough experience and could articulate that in an application where a board of people would say, oh, OK, she's doing A, B, and C, and she would be a good fit here. Not only did I not get that license, but they rated my application so low. I felt like that might have been one of those barriers to entry. Maybe they looked me up and said, "we don't want her here." I was unable to recover any of the money I put into applying for that license. It cost me over \$20,000. So you definitely want to know what you're doing and, if necessary, work with someone who has succeeded in getting licenses before you put your money and heart into getting into the cannabis industry.

VM: Many states, including California, have instituted social equity programs to correct racial and other inequities and assist women and people of color to participate in the cannabis industry in managerial and ownership positions. I think you already said those programs are not working as well as they could. In your mind, what could they state do differently? How could those programs do a better job at social equity?

MR: *I think if they really want to help applicants and get them into the cannabis industry and assist them with any type of*

criminal background or War on Drugs history that they may have had in the past, they need to put their money where their mouth is. There's no way you can have an effective social equity program when the minute a social equity applicant submits their documents, they are given a \$24,000 invoice. What person do you know who's been incarcerated or truly affected by the War on Drugs and can pay a \$24,000 bill within ten days? It's just not practical, but that's what they have. And that's what they're offering regarding social equity.

And then they sometimes offer these incubator programs where investors get to meet potential social equity applicants, and again, you get into these situations where you've got these large corporations that promise you the world, and they're going to cover all the expenses. And yes, they'll do that. They'll cover all the expenses and give you a title, but that's not ownership. The way that these social equity programs are designed right now, they're giving you a job. I don't think that's really to the benefit of a social equity applicant if you are looking at something that can give you some kind of ownership or help create generational wealth after you've been wronged by any sort of cannabis offense.

VM: And, of course, communities of color have been disproportionately targeted,

racially profiled, and incarcerated in the history of prohibition. And we have very poor to no reentry assistance in general, let alone assistance to get into the cannabis industry. There needs to be funding, training, and placement. And those disproportionately impacted should be prioritized somehow. Do you agree?

MR: *Oh, absolutely. When I applied, I was supposed to be a priority. It took me over a year. It's just not effective, but again, you have low-level employees responsible for moving this process along. And it's a check for them. It's not set up by people who really care to ensure these programs are successful. They don't really care.*

VM: Marlo, you add such a great perspective. While we still have a few moments left, what final thoughts would you like to leave us with?

MR: *I just want to say that this is probably one of the best opportunities I have ever had in my life. I have fallen completely in love with the cannabis industry. The people I get to work with and the ability to learn and teach people. Everything about the plant has just been an incredible experience. I learned how to de-leaf the other day. I'm not sure if you know what that means (laughs), but we're three weeks away from pulling down one of our first indoor grows, so we have flower coming. And just seeing the process of making sure that it's quality product, making sure that it's properly tested. I want to let people know how important it is to use licensed companies and buy their cannabis products from reputable retailers.*

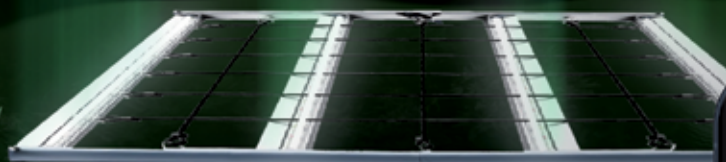
I have a couple of brands. Just Mary is my personal brand. It's a flower line. We sell ounces by the can. We have Tremendo, which is a higher-end brand that is all exotic quality pre-rolls, vape pens, and flower. We also have a couple of beverages that are going to be coming out, one by Treehouse Blends, my partner Tim Brown from Florida.

He's got a great tea-based infused beverage that's absolutely amazing. We have another one called Home School. It's more of an upscale product. My goal is to create these products here in California, and hopefully, they do so well that other distributors in other states are dying to bring them to you.



MARLO RICHARDSON

has spent nearly two decades of her professional career managing at the executive level in the areas of entertainment, law, public/media relations, social media management, marketing, advertising, and crisis management; Creating and overseeing media content in Television & Film, large-scale events, clients, and building relationships with stakeholders in the entertainment industry and government. Marlo was a 2015 Gubernatorial Appointee by California Governor Jerry Brown, chairing a State of California Enforcement section of over 250 sworn and civilian personnel. And she was recently selected to serve on the California State Bar Board governing Ethics and Professional Conduct.



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BEAUVERIA BASSIANA

AS A BIOCONTROL

WORDS & PHOTOS | BRANDON RUST

H Beauveria bassiana is an entomopathogenic fungus that attacks the exoskeleton of arthropods such as insects and caterpillars by producing mycotoxins called beauvericin and bassianolide. When these toxins enter the body of the host organism, they start to break down its cell membranes which leads to their death. The infection sometimes takes days or even weeks before symptoms are visible; however, when it does occur it causes white muscardine disease which is characterized by progressive tissue damage leading to death.

The way Beauveria bassiana infects its host organisms depends on environmental factors like temperature and humidity. If

conditions are ideal for the growth of the fungus, then it will form structures called conidia which are dispersed through air currents and land on other organisms where they will germinate if conditions are favorable. Once attached, they germinate into hyphae which penetrate the exoskeleton of the host and enter their hemocoel (the insect equivalent of our circulatory system). Once inside the hemocoel, these fungal cells produce toxins which damage tissue or inhibit growth. As the infestation progresses, these toxins spread through other organs resulting white Muscardine disease and eventual death as vital bodily functions stop working properly.

In addition to producing toxins, B. bassiana also produces enzymes that break down things like proteins and lipids within their infected hosts. This allows them access to nutrients that would otherwise be inaccessible due to the exoskeleton barrier surrounding the host's body. In fact, this process of utilizing external resources for energy production is known as saprobic nutrition - making B. bassiana an example of a saprophytic organism. However,

Beauveria bassiana is also an insect parasite and a plant mutualist. As a plant mutualist Beauveria bassiana establishes associations with plants by growing as an endophyte (lives within the plant) without inducing damage to the plant, usually in exchange for carbon. Beauveria bassiana benefits its host by protecting them from insect pests, either through direct parasitism, through the production of toxins or VOCs volatile organic compounds, that deter pests or attract beneficial predators.

As a generalist insect parasite beauveria bassiana can switch from a biotroph (living on a living host) to necrotrophic (living off of dead organisms)

In studying Beauveria bassiana infections, researchers have

found that some strains are more virulent than others when attacking certain species while some strains have a wider host range and are considered nonselective biological insecticides. Research has demonstrated that different strains vary greatly in their ability to cause mortality across different hosts but all strains cause mortality within 24 hours after invasion into a susceptible host organism.

Additionally, research suggests that some strains of Beauveria bassiana are systemic and can induce resistance in plants making them less vulnerable to further attack from

other pathogens. Beauveria bassiana is an ideal choice for pest control purposes since it not only kills existing insects but also offers protection from future infections by providing immunity against content from future exposures from similar pests and diseases caused by other species of fungi or insects.

Overall Beauveria bassiana is considered safe for use on food crops where it can be used effectively without posing any danger to humans while still achieving high levels of efficacy against targeted pests such as termites or bed bugs making it an excellent choice for pest control applications.*

“BEAUVERIA BASSIANA BENEFITS ITS HOST BY PROTECTING THEM FROM INSECT PESTS, EITHER THROUGH DIRECT PARASITISM, THROUGH THE PRODUCTION OF TOXINS OR VOCS VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS, THAT DETER PESTS OR ATTRACT BENEFICIAL PREDATORS.”

BRANDON RUST





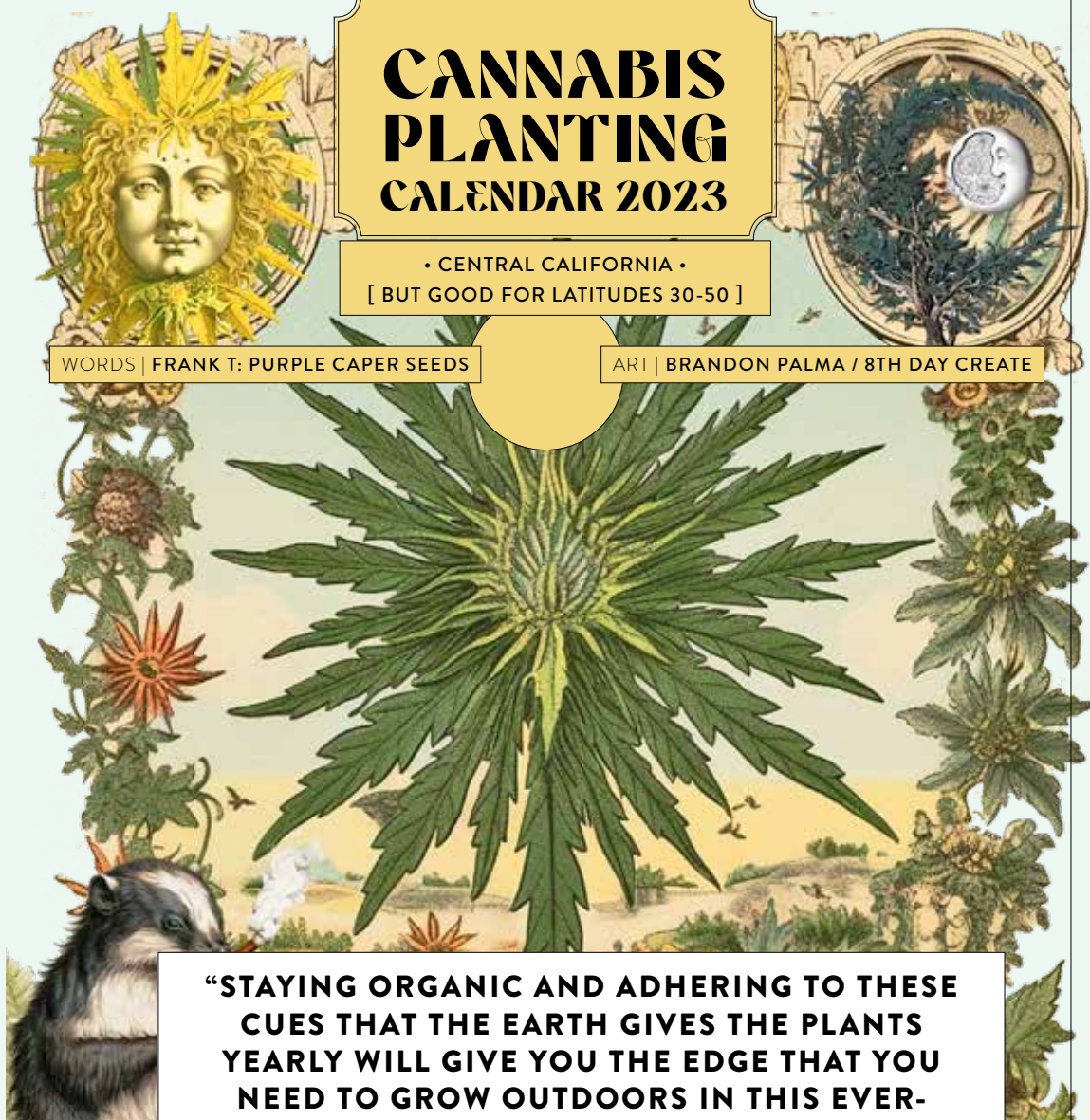
CANNABIS PLANTING CALENDAR 2023

• CENTRAL CALIFORNIA •
[BUT GOOD FOR LATITUDES 30-50]

WORDS | FRANK T: PURPLE CAPER SEEDS

ART | BRANDON PALMA / 8TH DAY CREATE

I grew up and learned Farming in the Central Valley California. Half Mexican and Half American, I learned to garden from my mother at 5. And She taught me to plant on the full moon. I am a 3rd Generation Farmer. My Grandparents farmed tomatoes and cherries in California. Arrested for indoor cultivation in 1991, I learned a very important lesson of stealth. This is the calendar that we have created from experience growing Cannabis in California for 30 years. With my knowledge learned on site and passed on to me by a network of local California farmers. When the moon is full, the light and available moisture are at their peak. Growing energy shifts to below-ground growth, making this a good time to plant. the Moon's gravitational pull causes tides to rise and fall, it also affects moisture in the soil. Seeds will absorb more water during the full Moon and the new Moon, when more moisture is pulled to the soil surface. Seeds will swell and you will have more success at germination. Fruits will also tend to ripen on these windows. This is looking to be a very bountiful year with several celestial events, happening. The earth will be in rare alignments and several meteor showers this year as well. The weather this year will yield large crops! There is a wild card with all of the cataclysmic events happening. This disrupts the system, and the plants are ever evolving to this new energy. We make our selections accordingly as the temperature swings are 20 degrees more than when I started 30 years ago. Early rains force us to grow at least half early varieties and breed out any mold or mildew prone genetics.



“STAYING ORGANIC AND ADHERING TO THESE CUES THAT THE EARTH GIVES THE PLANTS YEARLY WILL GIVE YOU THE EDGE THAT YOU NEED TO GROW OUTDOORS IN THIS EVER-CHANGING CLIMATE, AND NEW WORLD, WITH NEW PESTS, FREQUENCIES, EARLY RAINS, PARASITES, AND VIRUSES, TO NAME A FEW.”

FRANK T

These dates ease the stress and are familiar to the plants as these are the dates that they would naturally germinate and do these processes in Nature. IE: When an apex predator stepped on a branch a million years ago the broken branch would air root in the mud on these dates to make a new root system for the branch, etc.

Staying organic and adhering to these cues that the Earth gives the plants yearly will give you the edge that you need to grow outdoors in this ever-changing climate, and new world, with new pests, frequencies, early rains, parasites, and viruses, to name a few. Wishing All Bountiful Harvests!





JANUARY

As we begin the year 2023 moon is in the Waxing Gibbous phase. On this day, the moon is 9.26 days old and 75.61% illuminated with a tilt of 131.955°. The approximate distance from Earth to the moon is 392,188.00 km and the moon sign is Taurus.

JANUARY 1-8 AND 15-22

Start seeds and mothers indoors for the year.

JANUARY 6 FULL MOON

JANUARY 21 NEW MOON



FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 1-7 AND 5-22

Start seeds and mothers indoors for the year.

FEBRUARY 5 FULL MOON

FEBRUARY 20 NEW MOON



MARCH 3-9 AND 16-23

Start seeds and mothers indoors, Direct Sow if no chance of frost. Attach Air rooters, Bring seedlings outdoor for acclimation. Transplant to full term, Plant Autoflowers.

MARCH 7 FULL MOON

MARCH 20 - MARCH EQUINOX

The March equinox occurs at 21:17 UTC. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.

MARCH 21 NEW MOON



APRIL 1 Marks the beginning of the second quarter.

APRIL 1-8 AND 15-22

Start seeds and mothers indoors, Direct Sow if no chance of frost, Attach Air Rooters, Clone Mothers, Transplant Veg Clones and seedlings, bring seedlings outdoor for acclimation, Transplant to full term, Plant Autoflowers, Because of the Equinox these are very good days for success!

April 6 Full Moon Planting Moon

Tahch'atapa, Tunica, Tunica-Biloxi, O'nót'ah, Seneca Tribes.

APRIL 20 NEW MOON BLESSED EVENT AND A VERY SPECIAL DAY!

APRIL 20

Hybrid Solar Eclipse. A hybrid solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is almost too close to the Earth to completely block the Sun. This type of eclipse will appear as a total eclipse to some parts of the world and will appear annular to others. The eclipse path will begin in the southern Indian Ocean and move across parts of western Australia and southern Indonesia. A partial eclipse will be visible throughout most of Indonesia and Australia.

APRIL 22, 23 - LYRIDS METEOR SHOWER

The Lyrids is an average shower, usually producing about 20 meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by dust particles left behind by comet C/1861 G1 Thatcher, which was discovered in 1861. The shower runs annually from April 16-25. It peaks this year on the night of the night of the 22nd and morning of the 23rd. These meteors can sometimes produce bright dust trails that last for several seconds. The thin crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show. Best viewing will be from a dark location after midnight. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Lyra, but can appear anywhere in the sky.



MAY 1-7 AND 14-21 Start seeds and mothers indoors, Direct Sow if no chance of frost, Attach Air Rooters, Clone Mothers, Transplant Veg Clones and seedlings, Bring seedlings outdoor for acclimation, Transplant to full term, Plant Autoflowers.

MAY 5 Full Moon

MAY 19 New Moon

MAY 30-JUNE 6 AND JUNE 14-

20 Start seeds and mothers indoors, Direct Sow if no chance of frost, Clone Mothers, Transplant Veg Clones and seedlings, Bring seedlings, clones, teens, and mothers outdoor for acclimation, Transplant to full term, Plant Autoflowers.



JUNE 4 FULL MOON

JUNE 18 NEW MOON

JUNE 21 - JUNE SOLSTICE

The June solstice occurs at 14:51 UTC. The North Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its northernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Cancer at 23.44 degrees north latitude. This is the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Southern Hemisphere.

JUNE 28-JULY 5 AND JULY 12-19

Direct Sow if no chance of frost, Clone Mothers, Transplant Veg Clones and seedlings, Bring seedlings, clones, teens, and mothers outdoor for acclimation, Transplant to full term. Plant Autoflowers.



JULY 1 Marks the beginning of the 3rd Quarter
JULY 3 Full Super Moon
JULY 17 New Moon
JULY 19 Last Vegetative Day to put Large Seedlings Mothers, and Clones Outdoors No Greenhouse with appx 30 days left in the Vegetative phase, some strains will stunt planting this late and flower immediately while others will know to hurry up and Veg for a month before flowering. Plant Autoflowers.



AUGUST 1 Full Super Moon Sturgeon Moon
AUGUST 16 New Moon
AUGUST 18 Defoliate, Last Day to put Large Seedlings clones, autoflowers, and Mothers Outdoors No Greenhouse.
AUGUST 31 Full Super Blue Double Sturgeon Moon; This will be the only time that the earth will be in this alignment in our lifetimes, If the Sky is Clear this will be an amazing Moon View! And a Spiritual Experience. Moon in Pisces has the greatest sensitivity and perceptiveness of surroundings. You can experience feelings of insecurity, be passive and only wait and see what happens in your life. If you engage in creative or spiritual search, you will benefit from great imagination of Pisces.



SEPTEMBER 10-17 AND 24-30 Indica, and Fast Hybrids will begin Ripening and Early phenotypes can be harvested, Defoliate, Amend Earth, and Plant Cover Crops.
SEPTEMBER 15 NEW MOON
SEPTEMBER 23 - SEPTEMBER EQUINOXThe September equinox occurs at 06:43 UTC. The Sun will shine directly on the equator and there will be nearly equal amounts of day and night throughout the world. This is also the first day of fall (autumnal equinox) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of spring (vernal equinox) in the Southern Hemisphere.
SEPTEMBER 29 Full Moon Harvest moon, Hunter Moon, and/ or Corn Moon. Septembers Full Moon is named by Several Native North American Tribes; This is traditionally a time of celebration! Festivals, Feasting, and Dancing, Giving thanks for another bountiful year, and the blessings that we have.



OCTOBER 1 Marks the beginning of the last quarter of the year which will be a time for physical and emotional healing, individually and globally. Find peace from the Seasons hard work and realize the strength within.
OCTOBER 8-16 Most Hybrids will be harvested within this window, Amend Earth and Plant. Cover Crops

OCTOBER 14 NEW MOON, OCTOBER (CONT) ANNULAR SOLAR ECLIPSE. An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is too far away from the Earth to completely cover the Sun. This results in a ring of light around the darkened Moon. The Sun's corona is not visible during an annular eclipse. The eclipse path will begin in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of southern Canada and move across the southwestern United States and Central America, Columbia, and Brazil. A partial eclipse will be visible throughout much of North and South America.
OCTOBER 25-31 Harvest Sativas and Sativa Dominant Hybrids.
OCTOBER 28 FULL MOON



NOVEMBER 10-17 Harvest Landrace Sativas and Special Hybrid Haze and Thai.
NOVEMBER 13 NEW MOON
NOVEMBER 27 FULL MOON



DECEMBER 12 NEW MOON
DECEMBER 22 - DECEMBER SOLSTICE. The December solstice occurs at 03:21 UTC. The South Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its southernmost position in the sky and will be directly over the Tropic of Capricorn at 23.44 degrees south latitude. This is the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the Southern Hemisphere.
DECEMBER 27 FULL MOON

INSTAGRAM

FOLLOW OUR WRITER FRANK T FOR MORE INFO!

@CAPERPURPLE

REFERENCE:

9 PLANETS.ORG | MOONGIANT.COM | WIKIPEDIA.ORG | ALMANAC.COM |
 OLD FARMERS ALMANAC | FARMERSALMANAC.COM
 MOONCALANDER.ASTRO SEASKY.ORG | AIANTA.ORG

TRUE TO FLOWER

FARMER'S RESERVE

SAUCE CARTRIDGES



DOSI-CAKE
INDICA HYBRID

PAPAYA COLADA
INDICA HYBRID
"GUAVA CACTUS COOLER"

TOTAL THC	TOTAL TERP
THC %	TERP %

abx
absoluteXtracts

FARMER'S RESERVE
SAUCE
CARTRIDGE

CA

TASTE TERPS
ABX.ORG/SAUCE



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Roots in the Medicine

THE MARTYJUANA™ GARDEN

WORDS LAURA CLEIN AND MARTY CLEIN

A JOURNEY BEGINS WITH HEALING

Nestled in the hills above Round Valley in Mendocino County, California, is a 27-acre farm devoted to sun-grown, high-quality cannabis. The founder of Martyjuana, Marty Clein, began his journey to legal cannabis from a desire to secure natural, effective medicine for his wife, Laura. They were motivated not only by their own health challenges but also by their experiences with the negative impact of prohibition on their lives.

In the late 1990s, Laura became disabled due to cascading health issues: beginning with EBV / mononucleosis, which developed into pneumonia; then suffering a dislocated tailbone, resulting in chronic pain, followed by ongoing health conditions that have lasted for 25 years, including fibromyalgia, ME/CFS, endometriosis, IBS, Hashimoto’s thyroiditis, MCAS, dysautonomia, ankylosing spondylitis & more, all leading to management of a hypersensitive immune system and various neuropathies. The years of pharmaceuticals prescribed for her just made her sicker.

Marty also suffered from pain from an old sports injury, and he shared Laura’s belief that there are better, more natural treatments for pain and ill health. An early experience of discrimination unfairly disrupted his life. 1986, Marty was arrested at the age of 14 for having marijuana in his school locker. After court-mandated rehab, he “cleaned up his act” and became a star football player, state champion wrestler, and high school president in 12th grade. Marty then excelled at Wentworth Military Academy and planned for a future military career. After a few years, he was up for a

promotion to work with horses in the Army at Fort Belvoir. The job required top clearance, and when his background check turned up the 9th-grade pot bust, he not only did not get the job, but he was honorably discharged from the military. The experience gave him the ability to be a social equity approved cannabis license holder as someone unfairly impacted by the war on drugs. It also shaped his values to this day, applying the same determination, discipline, diligence, and duty toward his cannabis business as he does to all his endeavors.

After California passed Proposition 215 and legalized medical cannabis, Laura and Marty, who were both born & raised in South Florida, moved across the country and became legal cannabis patients. They saw themselves as medical refugees, and upon arriving in California, they immediately got medical cannabis recommendations and were designated legal caregivers. They landed just north of San Francisco in Sonoma Valley, where, for ten years, they cultivated for themselves and other medical patients within their collective with the legal limit of 99 plants per patient.

Laura’s doctor’s letter of recommendation for her medical cannabis has always included written provisions that, because she uses cannabis through so many delivery systems, such as tinctures, salves, and others, she requires a greater amount of raw plant material than regulations allow for patients. In the early days of 99 plants, it wasn’t possible to grow too much, as opposed to the current constriction to the local legal limit of 12 medical plants. As Laura puts it, “Cannabis in California had been a self-regulating legal industry of patients caring for patients for







decades. I continue to rely on this organic sun-grown plant medicine every day. It's clear that it has quite literally saved my life a million times."

While growing their medicine, Marty has always had a diverse resume, including a decade in the wine industry, from working a crush season at Benziger Family Winery to becoming a longtime Tasting Room Manager at a wine co-op in Sonoma Valley, CA. The Cleins also maintain an online business, Conscious Consignment, that sells mostly rock & roll memorabilia. That side hustle is actually helping them pay their bills and keep going in the cannabis space as the market drops & costs to keep the farm going have skyrocketed since Proposition 64.

GROWING PURE AND POTENT MEDICINES / SUSTAINABLE. REGENERATIVE. ORGANIC

By cultivating their own cannabis, Marty and Laura could be sure that there were only organic amendments and sunshine added to pure, clean soil. They plant their seeds in spring on and around the new moon nearest the Vernal Equinox. They harvest their flowers in fall on and around the full moon again synching up with nature's cycles at the Autumn Equinox. For a time, Marty worked at Fairchild Tropical Botanical Gardens in Miami in the seed department & he transferred that knowledge to cannabis. He hand pollinates and uses open pollination techniques to breed seeds of favorite cultivars from dominant males & females in the garden each year. Martyjuana™ "Plants by the Moon with Sun, Soil & Soul!" Third-party verification is an important component of quality control. Martyjuana is Sun+Earth certified & the farm is also in the process of obtaining OCAL certifications, which is as close as it comes to being able to say your California cannabis is organic.

As Marty describes, "We are attuned to the sun and moon cycles with our biodynamic focus; we love the permaculture model of seeing the entire farm as one working system, using only organic amendments, planting fruits, flowers, and veggies as insectaries so that the good bugs can fight the bad bugs. Our packaging says on it, "GMO-free, pesticide-free, worry-free," & we stand by those statements. We work very hard to be sustainable from start to finish."

They tested their products long before it was required because when competing with an indoor market, they believe it is important to prove that their outdoor cannabis is not only

clean of contaminants but contains a large percentage of cannabinoids and terpenes. "Consistent quality controls are important, with the intention of being potent, pure & proud of the product," as Marty states, "We have always tested our medicines at labs like Steep Hill or SC Labs. We wanted to know what was in it. To keep it clean and green is always our goal."

HURDLES THEY FACED

Marty and Laura moved to their first home of their own in Mendocino County in 2013. A rural residential property they'd hoped to cultivate. But the political climate soon changed. And while they did not vote for Proposition 64 in 2016, which legalized recreational and medicinal use statewide, the Cleins chose to step into the light of the regulated market. Beyond medical documentation, they have always maintained the necessary paperwork to be as legal as possible in every way, including hiring multiple consultants, land use experts, engineers, lawyers, and others to navigate the complex local and state permitting/licensing systems. They were rewarded with obstacles and onerous laws. Marty's and Laura's medical cannabis history and experience were impacted by unfair County and State regulations.

First, the County zoned them out of cultivating medical cannabis commercially at their place near Willits. They pivoted and set up a new farm in the Covelo area on a parcel that had been a grow for decades. The land was even part of the County's legal 9.31 zip tie program, the first regulation of cannabis cultivation of any kind in America, and that charged the County Sheriff with monitoring all medical cannabis growers. They applied to become a permitted and licensed farm in 2017 despite the County's requirement that

all cannabis cultivation be 10,000 sq. ft., or less, which makes the largest farm in Mendocino County a small farm at the State level. Under the new adult use laws, the Martyjuana farm was able to obtain an annual County permit initially. However, due to changes in the ordinance, they are still waiting, along with the entire cohort of phase 1 farms, for certain application and CEQA approvals from the County, which are needed to obtain an annual State license to replace their current provisional one.

It has been beyond stressful to stay in compliance with laws that are still in flux and set up to crush the little guys in these heritage regions. Unfortunately, this is what's happening across the Emerald Triangle, the legacy area that planted

"IT HAS BEEN BEYOND STRESSFUL TO STAY IN COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS THAT ARE STILL IN FLUX AND SET UP TO CRUSH THE LITTLE GUYS IN THESE HERITAGE REGIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS IS WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS THE EMERALD TRIANGLE, THE LEGACY AREA THAT PLANTED THE SEEDS FOR THE ENTIRE US CANNABIS INDUSTRY."

LAURA CLEIN AND MARTY CLEIN



the seeds for the entire US cannabis industry. Overall, the burdens of excessive regulations and requirements have had a negative impact on Laura and Marty's lives. Laura describes what this has meant for the craft they so cherish: "Until now, [cannabis] was part of our backyard garden. But our farm is now over an hour away from home. Marty is my full-time caregiver and traveling regularly so far for work puts much greater burdens on us both. Yet, we still grow with our same eco-conscious standards. When the medical cannabis we grew was in our home garden, we were able to work closely with it in a specialty, artisanal-level quality, boutique, craft farm style. Our way has always been to keep it small scale and at home so we can tend it daily with the rest of our grown veggies and herbal medicines. We are attempting to replicate that on our farm." The main force behind their original cross-county journey was for safety from the archaic rules and & to learn how to grow the best flowers. They eat organic food & wanted organic herb as well. Now they cultivate their own cannabis and share a vision that everyone should be able to grow their medicine & tomatoes side by side.

DEALING WITH THE HURDLES THROUGH COMMUNITY

Marty & Laura have known each other since childhood. They are old family friends, taught early on to always advocate for their own needs and on behalf of others. They extend this practice to the earth itself, their community, and the plant medicine they provide. One of the best feelings they've had since 2018, when the new laws went into effect, was donating products to those who need it most through cannabis compassion programs, like Sweetleaf Joe's, in many dispensaries throughout the state. "We have since day one wanted to be part of the cannabis community more than the cannabis industry. Herbal medicine, as compassion, is at the heart of our ethos. Growing up in the Reform Jewish Movement, there was a big emphasis on Social Justice called Tikkun Olam, which means 'Repair the World.' We want to share what we love and what we have found works with as many people as possible."

Marty and Laura have always been community minded. From the time they grew their first pound, they took half of it to a local collective, knowing



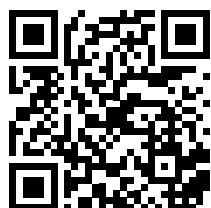
they wouldn't make a lot of money, but they wanted to be a part of the community! Now they, along with many of their friends and neighbors, had an even bigger reason to get involved. They're fighting for their very existence. As Marty puts it, "It has been expensive and arduous. I could see much confusion at the local and state levels regarding cannabis policy. So, I began to go to meetings." And over the past few years, Marty has shown up at many Board of Supervisors & other County & State government meetings whenever cannabis is on the agenda. Laura writes letters to their representatives and has watched it all online, even before Zoom was a thing.

Like many small cannabis farmers in northern California, individual cultivators have sought creative ways to share resources with their community and survive these difficult times. Marty and Laura participate in their County-wide trade association, MCA / Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, and their local advocacy organization, CCAG / Covelo Cannabis Advocacy Group. They also



support Origins Council and NORML. Marty is a founding board member of the RVCC / Round Valley Cannabis Cooperative, a dedicated group of cultivators working together toward shared goals. The RVCC has evolved through a very slow-moving process, impeded by complications inherent in the state legislative language explicitly written for cannabis co-ops. Severe restrictions that don't exist for general agricultural co-ops are imposed on cannabis farmers, largely as a residue of the Prohibition mentality. They are involved with the Mendocino Producers Guild, an organization made up of sun-grown farmers whose work upholds back-to-the-land regenerative best management practices. MPG also hosts cannabis farmers markets, where Martyjuana™ is featured among all the other small farms' cannabis. Look for the new Mendocino Producers Guild Seal of Approval to guarantee quality.

Martyjuana has a chapter, "The Martyjuana™ Garden," in The Guru of Ganja / Ed Rosenthal's newest book, "The Cannabis Handbook," in the section on "Featured Farms and Growing Styles." Their flowers will be in the Natural Cannabis Company "Best of Harvest" 2022 box. Their cannabis flowers, prerolls & solventless bubble hash are available in a handful of select dispensaries in Northern California and the rest of the state branded as Martyjuana. And they continue to benefit from collaborations with Fully Melted Hash and Rove / Featured Farms brands as well as white label for other brands throughout the past few years. Things have changed so much since adult-use legalization, and the Martyjuana™ business model has had to change as well. Marty and Laura believe that direct access between cultivator and consumer could be the savior of the small farm culture. •



INSTAGRAM

LEARN MORE ABOUT MARTYJUANA™

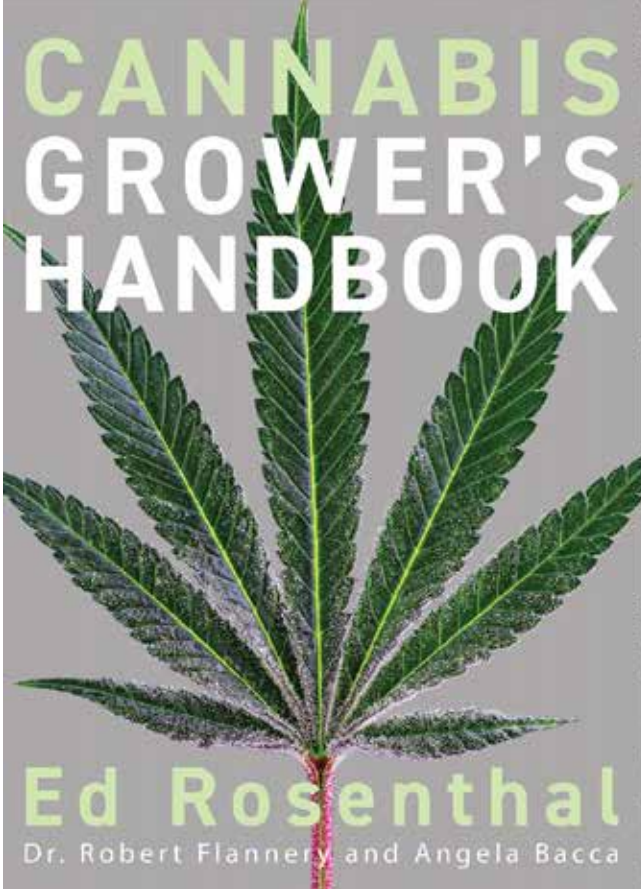
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Got Seed







CANNABIS GROWER'S HANDBOOK

Ed Rosenthal
Dr. Robert Flannery and Angela Bacca

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LETTERS TO REV

INDOOR GROWING SKILLS

WORDS & PHOTOS | THE REV

Hey-hey-hey my esteemed homeskilllets... Today's Letters to Rev is all about indoor growing skills, and good tools.

All three questions today each have very valuable information that can up your skills baybee, it's up to you to use them.

I wanted to also update all of you that have enquired about my experiments using a chicken egg in a container's soil growing cannabis. My observations have made me come to the following decisions:

I would always use a hardboiled egg for this purpose. This makes all the nutrients available more slowly than a liquid raw egg would. Raw eggs can cause problems with pH in soil that is not buffered very well. No need to crack the eggshell here either.

A 3-gallon container would be the minimum size I would use for the egg method.

You do not want to be regularly dosing your plants with fertilizers and use the egg method. The egg brings forth a ton of nutrition all by itself.

Okay, speaking of indoor growing skills, I have finished the latest book, *The Druid's Guide to True Living Organics* growing. I actually finished around Christmas last year. YaY! I have been "off-world" for a time but I'm back, and I have a lot of cool stuffs to turn you on to.

“WELCOME BACK MY FRIENDS TO THE SHOW THAT NEVER ENDS WE’RE SO GLAD YOU COULD ATTEND, STEP INSIDE, STEP INSIDE.”

EMERSON, LAKE & PALMER

INDOOR GROWING SKILLS, QUESTION #1: PPM GROWING IN SOIL?

FROM: TONY B.

“HELLO, REV., LONGTIME FAN FIRST-TIME WRITER. I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU ARRIVE AT A PPM LEVEL TO RUN YOUR PLANT WATER AT? I HEAR SO MANY DIFFERENT RECOMMENDATIONS ON PPM I’M A BIT CONFUSED. THANK YOU AND KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK.”



REV'S ANSWER TO Q1 A TDS METER WILL SERVE YOU WELL

Howdy Tony. Let me start out by saying that I know what a happy and healthy cannabis plant looks like. There are many subtle differences the plant shows when it is mostly happy but not totally happy. As a longtime fan, you certainly must know I have been growing for just shy of half a century, so there's that.

I tried a lot of PPM ranges for various mixes in the recent past. I knew when they liked what they were getting the most and I kept adjusting it until I found the sweet spot—for me, using TLO recycled soil. My soil is uber

rich with a very high value of organic matter, and I have found the low to mid 60's PPM-wise is the sweet spot there. What those PPM are composed of matters as well. If I were growing in weaker soil, one that had less rich organic matter present, I would up the PPM values a bit. Like using bagged soil. Or, if I were growing outdoors in soil that was low-ish in organic matter compared to container-type soil, and it was also good draining soil, I would use even higher PPM values.

TO SUMMARIZE

In summary Tony, your choice of PPM value to run your plant water at must be based on the soil type and structure of that soil. Generally speaking, the more organic matter as a percentage of the soil, the lower the PPM value, and vice versa. Outdoors 100 PPM might be all good, however, in pots with regular potting soil mid 70's PPM might be around the sweet spot. But using very rich—True Living Organics—soil as I do, it's low to mid 60's PPM-wise.

Higher PPM plant water will for sure (initially) will make your plants ecstasically happy looking, but that will turn around on you within 30 days or less. Speaking plainly, it's too much food/nutrients, and that extra food stays in the container's soil having a cumulative effect that alters pH and moisture levels negatively. Like in a fish aquarium, too much food (at first) makes all the fish very happy indeed, but very soon it will start killing your fish. The reasons, process, and results are very much the same.

INDOOR GROWING SKILLS, QUESTION #2: EASY OUT-VENTING OPTIONS?

FROM: MICK M.

“I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME SET UP AN EXTRA ROOM AS A GROWING ROOM, NOT WITH THE WHOLE THING, JUST THE AIR EXTRACTION PART. I RENT, SO I DON'T WANT TO MAKE HOLES IN THE WALLS, AND ALL THE WINDOW CUSTOMIZATIONS I HAVE TRIED FAILED. IS THERE AN EASY WAY TO OUT-VENT A ROOM WITHOUT PUTTING HOLES IN THE WALL AND KEEP IT LIGHT-TIGHT? THANKS, REV.”

REV'S ANSWER TO Q2

Sure Mick, and howdy. Pretty much any hardware-type store should have what you need for the window vent placement. They sell these window pieces to use for out-venting portable A/C units. It basically blocks off the window and leaves just an opening for a 4" to 10" piece of ducting to fit in. Easy peasy man, and not expensive or anything either.



LIGHTWEIGHT AND DENSE FELT TYPE FABRIC

I don't know how you black out your windows, but if you just use some of that kind of thick and lightweight felt type fabric you can do this with push pins. This fabric can be very lightproof, you might need two layers with some types, but if you are running tents in the room, you'll only need one layer for sure. Just pin it up all around the edges of the window, like a foot or so beyond the window borders. You can just cut a hole a little smaller than your ducting diameter and it fits through perfectly and light-tight as well. Remember to always run your actual extraction fan as close as possible to the actual out-vent—you want to be mostly pulling air out rather than pushing it out. This limits back pressure, making your fan much more efficient.



INDOOR GROWING SKILLS, QUESTION #3: FLOWERING TOPS HURTING?

FROM: DONNY B.

“GREETINGS REV. MY GROWING SKILLS ARE OKAY, I HAVE BEEN GROWING FOR ABOUT 3 YEARS NOW. I HAVE ABOUT 3 WEEKS LEFT UNTIL HARVEST AND MY PLANTS HAVE TAKEN A BAD TURN. THE TOPS OF ALL THE BUDS WHERE ALL THE GOOD LIGHT IS ARE ALL FRYING OR SOMETHING. THEY ARE TURNING YELLOW THEN BROWN AND CRISPY FROM THE OUTSIDE INWARDS AND AT THIS RATE, MY BUDS ARE GOING TO BE WORTHLESS IN A WEEK OR TWO. HELP REV, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED? I USE LIVING SOIL AND ORGANIC NUTRIENTS. THANK YOU.”

REV'S ANSWER TO Q3



A LASER THERMOMETER IS A SOLID GROWING INVESTMENT AND NOT TOO SPENDY

abolism. It could also be an overdose of nutrients, but if your lights are closer than 18” from your flower tops then this is likely your culprit. Lemme ‘splain...

When temperatures are high and lights are too close, the parts of the plant closest—too close—to the light will start growing at unsustainable rates compared to the rest of the plant. Effectively the tops starve—hyper starve. Get a laser thermometer and you don’t want your tops exceeding 86 deg F. for very long if possible. Even if they do exceed that and you can’t change it, raise the lights to about 2.0 to 2.5 feet above plant tops for the duration of the high heat. This information will likely add to your growing skills in a big way. Hope so, cheers.

AFTERWORD

That’s it for today man. Stop over at Kingdom Organic Seeds and grab yourselves some very exotic stuffs. Check out this article: Dark Forrest F1 Hybrid, and maybe think about grabbing some of these gems. I have heard great things about the Dark Forrest and you don’t need high-level indoor growing skills to pull this one off either, pretty bulletproof from what I am hearing. Cheers, and L&R G8rs.

REV

The Cannabis Songbook

WORDS | CHRISTOPHER CORBETT ART | BRANDON PALMA / 8TH DAY CREATE



“FELA KUTI EVEN STATED, IN THE LINER NOTES OF AN ALBUM HE WAS WORKING ON IN 1969, THAT HIS EMBRACE OF CANNABIS AT THE AGE OF 31 HAD BEEN THE PRIMARY CATALYST FOR THE AFROBEAT SOUND THAT WOULD MAKE HIM A GLOBAL SUPERSTAR.”

CHRISTOPHER CORBETT



When we look back at the American Songbook, marijuana has played a crucial role in its music’s composition, performance, and appreciation, spanning back as far as the mid-1920s New Orleans jazz scene. It was an herbal tonic for the weary, hustling musician who often left a factory job or dishwashing gig to join a rhythm section or blow on the front line, improvising their way through another late night in a brothel or on the grandstand. Louis Armstrong and Dizzy Gillespie were some of the most dedicated proponents of the muggles. Satchmo even took it with him on the road, eventually spending nine days in LA Country Jail for passing the dutchie in public.

In modern times, Lindsey Buckingham of Fleetwood Mac once said, “If you’ve been working on something for a few hours and you smoke a joint, it’s like hearing it again for the first time.”

Unlike cocaine, it didn’t eat up studio time and blow entire recording budgets in search of the perfect snare mix. Weed put the jam in jam bands, the mustard on the hot dogs, and the asses in seats.

Back when Coca-Cola was made with genuine Peruvian marching powder, it was common for people to order up a couple of doubles at the soda fountain and talk over each other well past closing time. Of course, you could double up with weed as well, and all you needed was a boombox and something to blaze up with. Music releases a cascade of dopamine amplified by THC’s effects. The two together have put millions of people in an ecstatic state of mental and physical awareness and have opened up avenues of cathartic healing and self-examination.

Fela Kuti even stated, in the liner notes of an album he was working on in 1969, that his embrace of cannabis at the age of 31 had been the primary catalyst for the Afrobeat sound that would make him a global superstar. His music was a red ax, calling out the corrupt

institutions and crooked leaders that plagued Nigeria. In retaliation, the Nigerian Authorities raided his compound and planted a joint on him, which he wasted no time-consuming. His song Expensive Shit chronicles a three-day standoff in prison in which Fela evaded a longer sentence by swapping shit with one of his sober prison mates.

Previous studies have shown that cannabis speeds up our internal clocks, making external “real world” time appear to pass slower. For example, one study demonstrated that a 15-second time interval was “expanded” to an average of 16.7 seconds while under the influence of cannabis (while sober controls correctly estimated this interval). This came in handy for the modern emcee spitting bars and flowing over a dope beat in the same way it helped the early Dixieland players improvise and trade solos into the morning hours.

The Chronic, for Dr. Dre, is a lifestyle, a recipe for success rather than a hedonistic escape. Those who embraced a similar ethos—acts like Cypress Hill, Method Man, Redman, Ludacris, and The Pharcyde—rose to the top of the game. They, in turn, inspired the next generation of artists who’ve grown and evolved with cannabis culture, releasing signature strains and investing in the cultivation and distribution of premium product. Acts like Wiz Khalifa, who released his free mixtape Kush and Orange Juice in 2010, rallying a massive, grassroots fanbase and ranking as both the #1 trending topic on Twitter and #1 hot search trend on Google. The investment was clearly paying off.

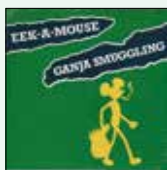
So here we are in 2022, and there’s no theme more central to the music than cannabis and cannabis culture. In celebration of its most original and enduring music, we’ll highlight some of our favorite artists and songs as we move forward, honoring the listener, the reader, the audience, and the creative muse at large. •

SELECTIONS FROM THE SONGBOOK:



FELO KUTI
‘EXPENSIVE SHIT’

Fela’s 12th Full-Length Album, A 1975 Release. See Above For Details On Its Origin.

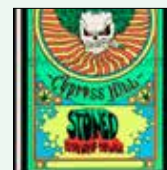


EK-A-MOUSE
‘GANJA SMUGGLING’

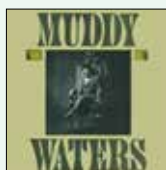
A young jamaican tries to provide for his family by trafficking weed overseas.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG
‘MUGGLES’
“Muggles” was a slang term for marijuana among jazz musicians in the 1920s and 30’s.



CYPRESS HILL
‘STONED IS THE WAY OF THE WALK.’
The attention they received from the weed industry helped launch them as an act.



MUDDY WATERS
‘CHAMPAGNE AND REEFER’
Off his 1981 album, King Bee, produced by Johnny Winter.

THE



Emerald Cup

DOES
NOT JUST
REFLECT

CALI
CANNABIS
CULTURE,

IT SHAPES & PRESERVES IT

WORDS | TIM BLAKE AND JACK RIORDAN PHOTOS | THE EMERALD CUP ART | BRANDON PALMA / 8TH DAY CREATE

Since 2004, the Emerald Cup has gathered grassroots cannabis culture in California to celebrate the fall harvest and for a friendly competition to see whose headstash or branded product would rise above the rest. As an honest reflection of Cali cannabis, the changes we have seen in the marketplace over the past few years have been matched, move for move, by the Cup. We caught up with the event's highly respected co-Founder, Tim Blake, and his team to see what's changed and what's the same about the 19th Annual Emerald Cup.

Brooklyn's most beloved street philosophers, The Beastie Boys, said it best, "You gotta fight... for your right... to party!" Well, we have definitely fought hard for that right, not only for us but for all public consumption events that have followed the trail that we have blazed with the Emerald Cup.

The past five years have been incredibly difficult for our entire cannabis community here in California, and the Emerald Cup has not escaped that suffering. Our events are certainly iconic - large, loud, and packed with great cannabis, of course - but we would never have made it to our 19th year without the support of our attendees, our contestants, our vendors, and our sponsors, all of whom have been impacted by a tough economy and an overregulated and increasingly impersonal cannabis industry.

A recurring bit of feedback, from attendees and vendors alike, at every Emerald Cup event in recent years has been, "I needed this... our community needed this."

The Emerald Cup has certainly evolved over the years, but that sentiment has remained unchanged; we provide respite and recognition to the farmers, craftspeople, and connoisseurs at the root of this diverse and inclusive culture.





Many changes to the Emerald Cup that our community has witnessed over the past five years have been compliance or regulation related. We work directly with the Department of Cannabis Control and local officials to ensure that our events are safe and legal while advocating for the aspects of these events that make them successful and fun to attend. Public sales and consumption are not given under Prop 64, but through the work that we are doing and the ongoing collaboration with state regulators, the Emerald Cup continues to widen this lane for future events, whether they are ours or not.

Traditions die hard, however, and although we have outlined this story before, we want to clear the smoke on the now yearlong schedule of Emerald Cup events and why two events (or more!) are always better than one.

THE EVOLUTION OF THE EMERALD CUP

Today, the Emerald Cup Competition features seven subcategories under the main Flower category. These include Sungrown, Sungrown Greenhouse, Mixed Light, Indoor, Personal Use, Third-Party Certified Sungrown, and Third-Party Certified Mixed Light.

We have come a long way since we started out in 2004 with one personal use outdoor/sungrown flower category that made up our entire competition.

You need to remember, though, that was 19 years ago, and while we had limited protections under Prop 215, anyone in the Triangle can tell you that we didn't feel "protected"... it was quite the opposite. None of this was safe, but everyone would bring their entries to my place at Area 101 in Mendocino County, the heart of the infamous Emerald Triangle and the original home of the Emerald Cup.

We only asked for an ounce of your best bud back then. Talk about "anonymous entries." These days that means putting hundreds of

samples in blank jars and assigning codes to them to keep the judges guessing. Back then, it meant competitors showing up wearing bandana masks, not for health purposes, but to hide their identities!

In the beginning, the eight judges that we had assembled would get together a few days before the show and spend an evening going over the various entries. Then they would come back a couple of days later and spend another evening deciding the winners. It was a simple, easy-to-run competition with an all-important human touch in the judging.

That evolved over the years to where we are today with over four dozen unique entry categories, over 100 judges, cutting-edge science to back us up, and countless challenging issues.

The one constant for so many years was that the Emerald Cup was an end-of-year celebration and competition culminating with a weekend-long December event full of food, vendors, music, and the presentation of the annual Emerald Cup Awards.

Yes, farmers would harvest in Coptober and have an award in December. It was pretty crazy, now that I look back on it all.

However, with the flood of regulations that came with the passage of Prop 64 in 2016, we could no longer accept entries at Area 101. They had to be delivered to a licensed cannabis facility, and they had to come from the competitor's distribution company. This started a domino effect that led to a complete rethinking of how we run the Cup.

For the Sungrown Flowers competitors and our Judges, the incredibly long supply chain in the newly established recreational adult-use market posed quite a challenge. By the time the farmers harvested, dried, and cured their flowers, then delivered them to the processors or distributors, then got them tested by a third-party laboratory, then packaged, then delivered to the compliant Emerald Cup-partnered dropoff location, and then to our Judges, they were left with an inadequate amount of time to actually judge them.



It was impossible for the late-season flowering cultivars to even make the timing work. In addition to those challenges, some of our Judges and farmers felt that there was not enough time to properly cure the flowers that were harvested so late in the season. The volume began to rise on requests to reshuffle our event schedule.

We had grown from having a couple of dozen entries in the beginning to having hundreds and hundreds at our current level. With so many entries, we had evolved from eight judges to 12, then 15. Now we have nearly two dozen judges just assigned to the Flower category, with about 80 of their peers from throughout our community tackling the remaining categories.

ONE BECOMES THREE

The old way of doing things simply did not work anymore.

Guided by that heartfelt sentiment that the Emerald Cup provides a year-end retreat for those who need it the most, we stuck to our December dates and created the Emerald Cup Harvest Ball in 2021. But, for the first time in our event's history, this epic weekend of top-tier music and top-shelf weed did not include the presentation of the Emerald Cup Awards.

Instead, the Harvest Ball served a dual purpose as both a kickass weekend festival and the opening of the Emerald Cup Competition instead of the finale.

Today's Emerald Cup features three distinct facets spanning each cannabis grow season.

The Emerald Cup schedule begins each spring, with the launch of the annual Emerald Cup Competition.

For several months the Cup navigates through the various Judging stages, hosting virtual and in-person Judges meetings and retreats.

An initial in-person Emerald Cup Flower Judges Meeting was put in place to go over all the entries together. This gave each of the Judges time together, face to face, so they could thoroughly inspect the full, blank jars of flowers before heading home with their boxes full of blind/anonymized samples. Being able to analyze the full jars also gave them a better chance to experience the true jar appeal of each cultivar.



At home, each Emerald Cup Judge spent a couple of weeks grading each sample, smoking them up, and coming together for several online rounds of judging as a team. Judging teams from all Competition categories followed suit. All official Judges then came together for a final in-person Emerald Cup Judges Retreat. In 2022, Mendocino Grasslands graciously hosted this Retreat at the stunning Yokayo Ranch in Ukiah, California.

This thoughtful process culminates with the Emerald Cup Awards in May, which were held at the Montalban Theater in Hollywood in 2022 and are set to light up the stage at The Midway in San Francisco in May 2023.

As you see, the Emerald Cup goes to great lengths to ensure the rightful winners are chosen. It was for all these reasons that it was decided, for the benefit of the Competition, that we should back up the entry dates to February and then give our judges ample time to judge them. This meant breaking down all the flower entries after



the entry window closed, packing up the samples for each judge, and giving them several weeks to spend time with all the entries.

Separating the Harvest Ball and the Awards presentation was a



game-changer. Pushing the Competition back into the late winter and spring of the following year gave everyone from the farmers to the judges, our testing partners at SC Labs, and our team here at the Emerald Cup some much-needed breathing room.

By the time the judges decide on a top twenty, a tremendous amount of time and effort has gone into the process. Every time a winner is decided, a collective sigh of relief and a well-deserved round of applause is always pumped out from the Judges.

This process is replicated for each category. The Edibles Judges needed the extra time to judge even more so than the Flowers Judges. In the early days, those poor Judges had to consume hundreds of milligrams a day just to get their jobs done in time. We used to say we should provide each of them with a caretaker, with many of them barely able to function during the process.





Giving them the extra weeks ensured they could spend quality time working with each entry. The same can be said for the intrepid Concentrates Judges and the dedicated Judges who commit to each Emerald Cup category.

The extended timeline also meant that our humble team did not have to spend days and nights on end with little sleep packaging and distributing all the samples to all those Judges. It gave us more time to physically drive around the state picking up hundreds of entries from several partner dropoff locations. The Emerald Cup competition is a very detailed, well-thought-out process where, from start to finish, every pertinent issue has been dealt with to ensure we do things right.

At the Emerald Cup, the bottom line is that product integrity is our highest priority. Therefore, we have the utmost respect for the chain of custody on these samples, and we go to great lengths to ensure that they remain in climate-controlled environments so that the Judges receive a safe and representative sample of what each competitor entered.

A huge shout out to every former and current Emerald Cup Judge, to every former and current Emerald Cup team member, to all the folks along the supply chain who work diligently to see things run smoothly, and to all the competitors over the years. Together we are the Emerald Cup Harvest Ball. We are the Emerald Cup Competition. We are the Emerald Cup Awards. It takes a community, and as you can see, we have an amazing one.

INDOOR CANNABIS HAS ENTERED THE COMPETITION & SO HAS TERPENE TESTING

The 2021 competition quite literally redefined how official Emerald Cup Judges sort, sample, and rank certain categories with a new focus on terpenes and their role in delivering an optimal experience with cannabis.

Though there is still a lot of educating and reprioritizing to do in California's recreational cannabis marketplace, the effort put forth by the Emerald Cup and

SC Labs for the 2021 competition set in motion a wave of knowledge all the way up the supply chain, from cultivators to consumers, that potent cannabinoid profiles are important, but that the all-natural aromas, flavors, and effects of terpenes play an equally important role in achieving the highly sought after entourage effect.

With a goal of deepening the market's understanding of the importance of terpenes, the Emerald Cup once again partnered with SC Labs in 2022, bringing NAPRO Research into the fold as well in a collaborative effort to create what is now known as the Emerald Cup Cannabis Classification System based on PhytoFacts® powered by SC Labs.

This user-friendly system takes cannabis classification beyond the antiquated and inadequate duopoly of Indica vs. Sativa using industry-applied science to quantify the subtle nuances between various cultivars and phenotypes that make the cannabis plant so unique. As a result, we can finally answer the once hypothetical question, "What's in a strain name?" Well, now we can show you exactly what's in each one, or what ought to be.

The 2021 Emerald Cup attempted to presort categories like Flower and Concentrates into the six most common terpenes, based on which one was most dominant in that entry.

This year, those entries are being analyzed for 17 different terpenes, with the top 1-3 most dominant terpenes being used to determine which category that sample should be sorted into. To simplify this process and the language associated with it – not only for Emerald Cup Judges but for everyone in the marketplace – the Emerald Cup Cannabis Classification System based on PhytoFacts® powered by SC Labs is broken down into six categories:

These categories make use of all 17 terpenes that SC Labs had tested for, highlighting and honoring the way that they interact with one another to create the familiar flavors that connoisseurs crave in cannabis, using sensible category names that everyone from seasoned smokers

to the canna-curious can relate to and likely gravitate toward.

Jaded cannabis consumers are finally tuning in to the fact that buying cannabis products based on THC totals alone rarely leads to an optimal experience.

HOW THE EMERALD CUP IDENTIFIES TRENDS & OPPORTUNITIES

The test results provided by SC Labs for Emerald Cup entries in 2022 highlight how even the slightest changes in terpene profile ratios mark the only difference between some of the most popular and best-selling buds and extracts on the market.

These results also confirm what many savvy cannabis consumers have come to realize – that the Cali cannabis market is being flooded with similar

“TODAY, THE EMERALD CUP COMPETITION FEATURES SEVEN SUBCATEGORIES UNDER THE MAIN FLOWER CATEGORY. THESE INCLUDE SUNGROWN, SUNGROWN GREENHOUSE, MIXED LIGHT, INDOOR, PERSONAL USE, THIRD-PARTY CERTIFIED SUNGROWN, AND THIRD-PARTY CERTIFIED MIXED LIGHT.”

TIM BLAKE



caryophyllene and limonene dominant terpene profiles. The inevitable result of this increasing homogeneity is a lack of variety on dispensary shelves which provides one more reason for flavor-seeking consumers to opt out of the regulated market if every product looks, smells, and tastes the same.

As a near mirror reflection of the state’s cannabis market since 2004, the Emerald Cup was traditionally a competition that drew a wide variety of entries and terpene profiles, with myrcene-dominant cultivars like OGs making up the majority of samples. For many years, this trend lined up with the hundreds of thousands of terpene tests that SC Labs was doing in the marketplace, revealing that myrcene dominant samples made up 43% of their overall market data, the highest total of the six main terpenes being analyzed.

In 2021, however, the Emerald Cup entry data deviated from broader marketplace data for the first time, and we saw myrcene-dominant samples decline and be replaced by a massive influx of caryophyllene-heavy cultivars that would generally fall into our “Dessert” category – your Ice Cream Cakes, Wedding Crashers, Gelatos, etc. Those sorts of terp profiles made up 54% of all Flower entries in the 2021 Emerald Cup and, sure enough, the main Flower category winners last year were Gelonade, a cross of Lemon Tree and Gelato #41 (caryophyllene dominant), Ice Cream Cake, a cross of Wedding Cake and Gelato (caryophyllene dominant), and Gorilla Snacks, a GG #4 and Girl Scout Cookies cross (caryophyllene dominant).

Since the Emerald Cup sets the trends for California, and California sets the trends for the rest of the country, it should have come as

Conversely, in the terpinolene-heavy “Jacks & Haze” category (think Durban Poison, Trainwreck, S.A.G.E., Super Lemon Haze, etc.), this year’s Indoor Flower competition received only two entries. Not only does this present an opportunity for cultivators with diversified stables



of strains to stand out more easily in a competition like the Emerald Cup, but it could also reveal an underserved niche in the overall cannabis market where money is perhaps being left on the table.

The PhytoFacts® reports produced by SC Labs for 2022 Emerald Cup entries contain a plethora of information, including precise cannabinoid and terpene breakdowns.

As Alec Dixon from SC Labs so astutely points out, however, the variance between those two totals can separate the winners from the losers both in Emerald Cup competitions and in the marketplace.

“The Emerald Cup is almost a snapshot of the larger market, as well

Emerald Cup Cannabis Classification System based on PhytoFacts® powered by SC Labs

Jacks + Haze

Tropical + Floral

OGs + Gas

Sweets + Dreams

Dessert

Exotics

no surprise to those paying attention that cannabis markets from coast to coast were inundated with these “Dessert” strains.

Instead of seeing this as an opportunity to do something unique and different, too many cultivators doubled down on the trend, and in the 2022 Emerald Cup, anywhere from 65-80% of the Flower entries were caryophyllene/limonene dominant “Dessert” strains.

PhytoFacts®
sc labs
S Lemon Sponge Cake - Farmer and the Felon

GENERAL

Cannabinoids: 52.25%

Terpenoids: 2.78%

Moisture: 13.6%

Class: C1K15

Sample Type: Flower

Business Name: Emerald Cup 2022

License Number: CE14-0000004-CC

Sample ID: 220108056

Date Collected: March 2nd, 2022

Date Issued: March 6th, 2022

CANNABINOIDS

Ratio of top two cannabinoids

Cannabinoid	Weight %
THCA	28.4%
THC	2.7%
CBGA	0.5%
CBGA	0.4%
THCVa	0.1%
CBG	0.1%
CBGA	0.1%

AROMA & FLAVOR

ENTOURAGE EFFECTS

*May vary with individual dose, and time of administration.

PHYTOPIANT®

- limonene 0.05%
- alpha-pinene 0.03%
- beta-pinene 0.03%
- carene 0.23%
- terpinolene 0.13%
- alpha-pinene 0.13%
- beta-pinene 0.13%
- terpinolene 0.13%
- alpha-pinene 0.13%
- beta-pinene 0.13%
- beta-caryophyllene 0.03%
- limonene 0.03%
- caryophyllene oxide 0.03%
- myrcene 0.06%

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as a forecast of the harvest season,” says Dixon. “So, if 65% of all weed grown in the state this year is caryophyllene/limonene Desserts, it’s going to be a really difficult year to sell your Gelato or Zkittlez unless your total terpenoid percentage is well above the market average of 1.4%.”

Again, this tracks directly from the market at large right down to the Emerald Cup competition.

This year’s 1st Place winner for Sungrown Flower – Lemon Sponge Cake by Farmer and the Felon – came in with a whopping 2.78% total terpenoids providing a flavorful punch that had the Emerald Cup Judges grinning from ear to ear and propelled this outdoor entry to the esteemed title of “Best in Show” in 2022.

All cannabis products sold in the regulated marketplace in California must be third-party lab tested for potency and purity. However, there is currently no mandate from the state that products must be tested for terpene content. As the importance of terpenes in the full spectrum consumer experience with cannabis comes more clearly into focus, smart brands are requesting and compiling this data and using it to fine-tune almost all aspects of their operation.

“There has been this massive loss of biodiversity in this chase toward THC,” says Dixon, adding, “Everyone has bailed on their cherished and unique genetics to grow nothing but Gelato, and, as a result, it’s leading to the homogenization of cannabis.”

It is no coincidence that the market demand for high THC has led to a flood of caryophyllene-dominant “Dessert” strains as their naturally lower total terpenoid content (typically maxing out around 4% in dried flower) leaves room and resources in the trichome for increased cannabinoid production.

Compare this to categories like “Jacks & Haze,” “Tropical & Floral,” or “Sweets & Dreams,” which tend to house monoterpene-dominant strains that can top out at 5-7% total terp content but balance that with THC totals in the 20-25% range. The latter is grossly underrepresented in today’s cannabis marketplace and in today’s cannabis competitions.

Will the “Dessert” trend continue into 2023, or will farms begin to diversify their selection of plant genetics? Will more brands – particularly Distributors – focus on terpene preservation in the supply chain? The Emerald Cup, SC Labs, and California’s top cultivators and craftspeople are all committed to finding out.

OLD SCHOOL EXPERIENCE & CUTTING-EDGE SCIENCE CONVERGE IN THE EMERALD CUP ALMANAC

Though still very much a work in progress for what will be an evergreen resource, beginning in 2022, all Emerald Cup Award winners are featured in the Emerald Cup Almanac. Entries into the Almanac feature studio photography of the winning product, information about the category and placement of the product, information regarding terpene and Phytofacts™ profiles (when applicable), Emerald Cup Judges notes (when available), a link back to the competitor’s website, and more.

As The Emerald Cup Almanac takes its true form, it will expand not only with future Emerald Cup Competitions and entries but also back in time as we sort through years of analytical data related to thousands of past entries, with a newfound understanding of exactly what we are looking at.

The trends set in the Emerald Cup Competition each year fuel the tastes of the California cannabis market and beyond. The Emerald Cup Almanac will highlight those trends in vivid detail and will

only grow in value as time passes, and more entries are added.

TOGETHER WE RISE - HOW THE EMERALD CUP HELPS OTHERS

Watching the cannabis farmers across the state suffer greatly under the repressive weight of the effects of Prop 64, this past year, I came up with the idea to produce a “Bulk Flowers” event the day before the 2022 Emerald Cup Harvest Ball with a goal of pairing California’s craft cannabis farmers with the state’s most active wholesale buyers for an afternoon of high level, face-to-face networking and compliant cannabis sales.

Anyone assessing the situation was well aware of the desperate position most of the farmers were in. It was quite clear that they needed to move some of their flowers - and fast - to have a chance to get through winter.

Figuring most farmers and buyers would be in town for the annual year-end Emerald Cup event, my daughter Taylor and I set out to turn this dream into reality.

Gathering together a very diverse group of cannabis folks, including select members of the Small Farms Initiative Council, including Chris Roberts (Redwoods Roots Distribution), Nick Smigly (Mendocino Cannabis Distribution), Genine Coleman (Origins Council), and Michael Katz (Mendocino Cannabis Alliance).

This influential group along with Donnie Madden (EC Products), Nick Gaulin (Champs Trade Show), Larry Michelson (SF Buyers Club), Ali Jamalian (Sunset Connect), Ken Loo (Chapter 2 Agency, the Emerald Cup’s PR firm throughout 2022), and Dustin Moore (Embare), we had several meetings to flesh out the idea.

We thought it would be good to stage the event at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds, where the Harvest Ball would take place in the days to follow, but with Friday being a heavy load-in day for Harvest Ball vendors as well as a setup day for the show production staff, that idea was met with reasonable resistance from my team.

Then we thought about producing it at a local commercial space, but the advisors on our team felt that it would put us in jeopardy with the Department of Cannabis Control. Considering that compliance, safety, and transparency were our top priorities, we had to scratch that off the list as well.

Donnie suggested a potential collaboration with a popular NorCal two-store cannabis dispensary chain called Mercy Wellness.

The buyer for Mercy Wellness is Joe Sullivan, one of the most highly respected and knowledgeable members of our Emerald Cup Flower Judges team, so they had already been heavily supporting sungrown farmers at their retail locations.

Reaching out to Joe, he immediately presented the idea to his manager, Ray Gonzales. They both loved the idea.

Mercy had recently rented the former brewery space directly next door to their dispensary in Cotati. By utilizing that space as a meet n’ greet area, farmers had a unique opportunity to speak to buyers one-on-one to pitch their products authentically.

Mercy arranged for additional space within their licensed premises for both buyers and farmers to do business in a compliant manner, and within days we were working every connection we had to ensure a successful first event.

You have to understand all of this was coming together with a month or less remaining before the Emerald Cup Harvest Ball,





which requires months and months of work by a full team of professionals, so this last-minute idea was hard to manifest.

With time running out, we hurriedly worked our connections up and down the state to get top-quality farmers and influential wholesale buyers in place.

Miraculously we ended up with close to 50 farmers and 35 buyers. This project was put together so quickly that I showed up at the space the morning of the event without a clue as to what it would look like once we got inside.

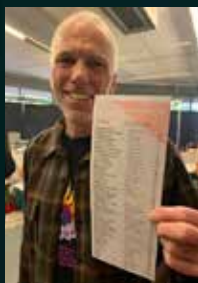
Walking through the front door, I was taken aback by how stunning the space was and how it had been turned into a full-blown mini-Emerald Cup.

I thought the farmers would be crammed in next to each other, and there would be a basic bartop filled with rows of sample jars of cannabis. Instead,

everyone showed up with their own folding tables that they covered with banners and keepsakes, and mementos that helped them tell their brand's story, along with small sample jars of flowers and any marketing literature they had.

The combined effect was a site to behold.

The idea behind working with Mercy Wellness was to have a private place for the buyers and farmers to meet and mingle



and to give the buyers a chance to look over everyone's flowers.

Mercy Wellness is one of the busiest cannabis retailers in all of Sonoma County, and their building in Cotati has a really sweet room for their buyers to meet with farmers and brands trying to sell them their flowers and products.

For our event, each participating farmer delivered a pound of their finest flower to Chris or Nick, both of whom run successful cannabis distribution companies, which allowed them to transport those 1lb samples to Mercy compliantly.

The individual pounds were on the shelves in the room Mercy uses for the same purpose, and if the buyers wanted to look at a larger sample than what the jars on the table held, they could go in there with the farmer and cut deals.

This might sound like a relatively simple thing to pull off but, in actuality, it was a logistical nightmare for the weeks leading up to that Friday in mid-December.

The day arrived, though, and it was magical.

Everyone was stoked. Buyers and farmers got the chance to know one another, many doing substantial deals together, and our proof of concept turned into a concrete reality that will be duplicated over and over across the state.

I ran back and forth between Mercy and the fairground to help with the setup there, and by the time 4:20 pm came around, I was exhausted, and the main event wasn't even until the next day!

Needless to say, it was well worth it. A huge shout-out goes to Brandon Levine, the owner of Mercy Wellness, along with Joe, Ray, and their staff.

Everyone involved in organizing the event threw down for free, ensuring the farmers would get everything, not the much smaller shares they normally would after paying the distro, the state, and people like us.

It is incredible what a small group of dedicated altruistic souls can do when they come together as this team did. My deepest appreciation goes out to everyone involved.

The Emerald Cup will continue to grow, but that organic growth allows us to branch out with other, smaller events and opportunities to help our entire community thrive, and there will be more of these private wholesale events for our farmers.

THE EMERALD CUP EMPOWERS FARMERS THROUGH THE SMALL FARMS INITIATIVE

Since 2021, the Emerald Cup has partnered with key leaders in our Northern California communities to create

the Emerald Cup Small Farms Initiative. The Small Farms Council includes Michael Katz of the Mendocino Cannabis Alliance, Genine Coleman of Origins Council, Chris Anderson of Redwood Roots Distribution, Nicholas Smilgys of Mendocino Cannabis Distribution, Traci Pellar of the Mendocino Producers Guild and Brandy Moulton of Sovereign 707.

Another successful proof of concept that continues to grow each year, The Council works with the Emerald Cup to evaluate license distribution among Northern California's heritage cannabis-producing counties with active ordinances, allocating a proportional





number of participants to each county, including Humboldt, Mendocino, Trinity, Nevada, Sonoma, Lake, Calaveras, and Santa Cruz counties. The Emerald Cup Small Farms Initiative licensed cannabis farmers who have 10,000 square feet or less of sungrown or mixed light canopy and who meet other criteria to apply for the chance to be granted free booth space at our public-facing events like the Emerald Cup Harvest Ball. This same offer is extended to a select number of equity operators as well.

The Craft Cannabis Marketplace is always a main attraction at Emerald Cup events, and the space reserved for these grassroots, legacy farms and equity operators who participate in the Small Farms Initiative is where you will find some of the best weed - and vibes - of the weekend.

As with the Cup itself, the Small Farms Initiative continues to evolve, and the larger it gets, the more people it can help.

The tradition will continue in 2023. The 19th Annual Emerald Cup Competition offered a 90% discount on all second entries submitted by anyone who qualifies for the Small Farms Initiative program, any equity grant operator, and all "Personal Use" / Homegrown entries.

FINAL THOUGHTS FROM EMERALD CUP FOUNDER TIM BLAKE

The state of legal cannabis, at least in California, is a complete disaster. My favorite unattributed saying in regard to this critical issue is, "They've done more in five years of legalized cannabis in California to destroy our way of life and community than they did in 50 years of chasing us around as outlaws."

The farmers in the Emerald Triangle and around the state are decimated. There's an extinction event taking place right before our eyes, and with it, the

demise of small mountain towns like Garberville and Laytonville. It is not only the farmers who are feeling this pain. The manufacturers, distributors, and retailers are all going under, as well as the grow shops and the grocery stores in these regions that have depended on cannabis-fed cashflows for decades.

When the powers that be saw the inevitable, that the legalization of cannabis would take place across the country, they did their homework and leaned heavily on an archaic tax code labeled 280e, a little-known loophole that was used against the old alcohol moonshiners the feds wanted to get rid of after alcohol prohibition ended back in 1933.

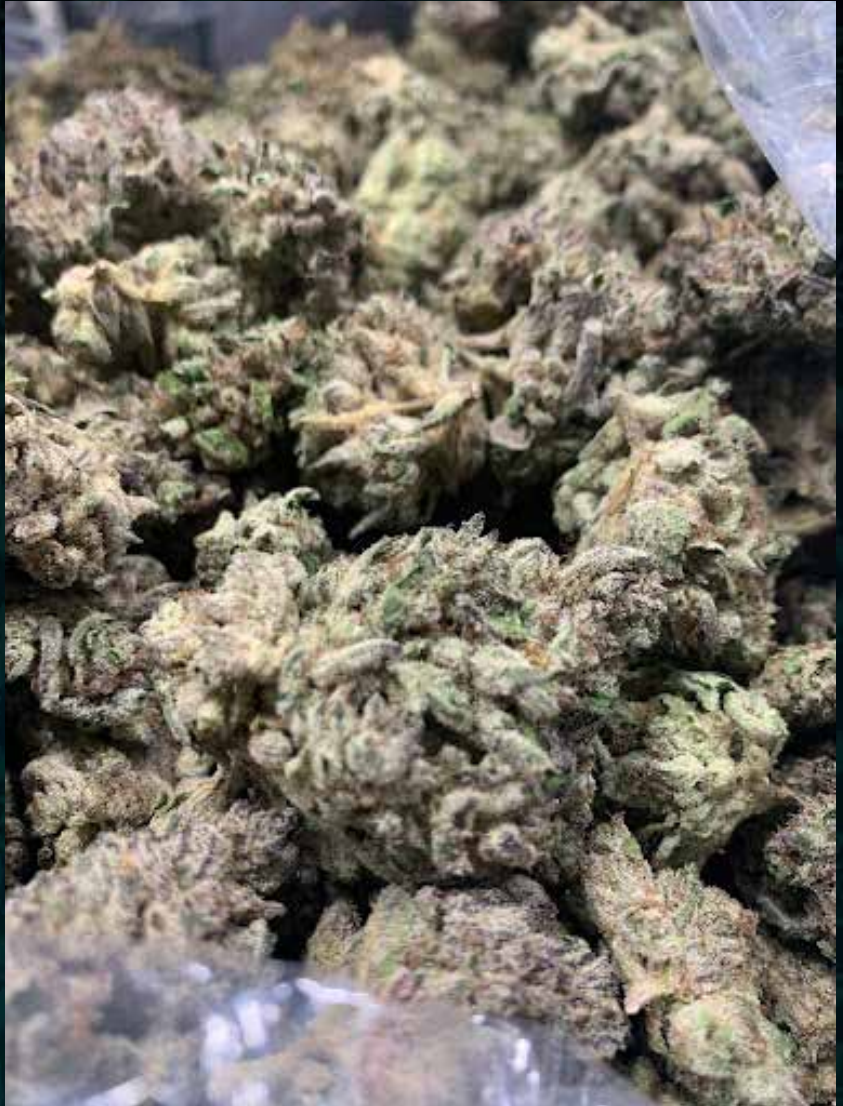
Technically speaking, 26 U.S. Code Section 280e is the federal statute mandated by the IRS opposing "illegal" business. In the eyes of Uncle Sam, Section 280e forbids businesses from deducting any expenses from their gross income when it involves "trafficking" schedule I and II controlled substances.

Simply put, you can only deduct the cost of goods from your taxes. No rent, payroll, power, or insurance; nothing that so-called "regular" businesses deduct to survive can be deducted from a cannabis-related business, even one that is licensed, regulated and taxed by its home state.

There isn't a traditional company in the country that could make money with just that one draconian measure laid in front of them. In California, we are already the most taxed and regulated state in the nation. On top of the unreasonable taxes already being shoved down our throats, Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, hung us all out to dry, adding on a per-pound Cultivation Tax of over \$150/lb. Struggling growers are forced to pony up this added tax before their product even hits retail shelves. In other words, they must front every deal.

This was just one of the many taxes the state, the counties, and the





cities piled on. Today, 90% of the farmers are going under, as well as over half the manufacturers, distributors, and retailers. The ones left standing are holding on for dear life.

But perhaps the most nefarious plot of them all was that after promising to uphold the one-acre cap on cultivation for five years to give small farmers a headstart versus the corporate growers, the powers that be went against the will of the people, opening up a loophole for “license-stacking” for large scale farming just months into legalization.

The moment this was done, it spelled doom for the small farmers. How were they going to compete pricewise with a quarter acre of cannabis against farms that were growing up to 100 acres?

I am a truth seeker, and I have watched the people in power in

the United States strip the middle class of their livelihoods over the past 50 years. I watched as our once mighty country was brought to its knees. I know clearly that they had no intention of allowing the “little guy” to thrive. But even I, and pretty much everyone else, never saw what a masterful job they planned to dismantle and destroy most of the righteous legacy folks that fought for and created the once booming cannabis markets in California. I have to hand it to them; they are brilliant—evil, but brilliant.

The other side of the equation is that I have also been saying that the 10% of the farmers who can hold on will do quite well over the coming years, as there will be shortage of quality craft cannabis being produced. It’s simple math. Remove 90% of the





small farmers, and you are going to be left with a marketplace full of midgrade, flavorless, mass-produced biomass.

I predict that we will continue to see mergers in the other aspects of the industry and within years there will only be a few manufacturers, a couple of distributors, and chain stores will take over the retail. It's the American Way, right?

But, just as craft beer has carved itself a multibillion-dollar niche in the alcohol industry, I hope that worthy craft farmers will survive to see similar recognition and success. Those who can remain in operation will likely get a tremendous lift when federal legalization takes place, and the Emerald Triangle and the rest of California-grown cannabis are sought out across the country and around the world.

Cali cannabis is hitting bottom this year, and then we will climb out of this mess and take our rightful place at the top of the greater cannabis food chain.

However, after living through the past 50 years of ups and downs in the cannabis industry, my thoughts and prayers go out to all our fallen brothers and sisters who won't make it to the promised land. You deserved your piece of the pie. When they write the history books in the decades ahead, it will be you that are the heroes in the story. You fought for our right to use cannabis against every form of repression and the law, which put countless of you in prison for long-term sentences. You will not be forgotten for your sacrifices to see our sacred plant freed across the country and the globe. I salute you. •



EMERALD CUP COMMUNITY Q&A'S

HI, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Dan from Rebel Crown

WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED?

Palo Verde appellation of Southern Humboldt

HAVE YOU WON ANY EMERALD CUP AWARDS IN THE PAST?

*Breeders Cup and 2nd Place Sungrown in 2022 and 2018.
7th place Sungrown 2022
2nd Place Personal Use 2022
12th Place Sungrown 2018
Our genetics won 4th and 8th place Sungrown in 2022, 4th Place Sungrown in 2019, and 2nd Place Personal Use Flower in 2019, grown by other farmers
7th Place Personal Use 2018
16th Place Sungrown in 2017
16th Place Sungrown 2012
10th and 14th in Sungrown in 2011*

WHAT WAS THE FIRST YEAR YOU

HI WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Reese Benton

WHAT'S THE NAME OF YOUR BRAND?

Posh Green (www.poshgreencollective.com)

WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED?

828 Innes Avenue, Suite 110 in San Francisco, CA

HOW DEEP ARE YOUR ROOTS IN CALI CANNABIS?

I am a San Francisco native that has been smoking and selling cannabis for over a decade.

ENTERED THE EMERALD CUP?

2011

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE EMERALD CUP MEMORIES?

The entire night of the 2011 Emerald Cup. It was the last time the event was held at Area 101 in Mendocino County. I'll never forget the vibe and energy in the room during the awards ceremony. I wrote an article about the whole experience, which is on our website and was published in Grow Magazine.

HOW HAS YOUR BRAND BENEFITTED FROM ITS EMERALD CUP WINS AND APPEARANCES?

We've had the opportunity to meet a lot of folks in the community over the years and form friendships with growers who buy our seeds and grow our genetics. It's been great to receive recognition for our hard work and the quality of our genetics. Winning the Breeder's Cup was a life goal achievement, and we've done it twice now.

*How many years have you served as an Emerald Cup Judge, and in which category(s)?
2023 will be my third year as an official Emerald Cup Flower Judge. It's a big deal representing women.*

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE EMERALD CUP MEMORIES?

Yes, when my fellow Flower Judge Joe Sullivan started calling me 'Day 2' because I missed the first day of in-person Flower judging! Now I am just known as Day 2!





HI, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Victoria Shea

TITLE/ROLE AT THE EMERALD CUP?

Competition Director

HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED WITH THE CUP?

Since 2016

DID YOU ATTEND THE EMERALD CUP BEFORE YOU WORKED THERE?

Kind of crazy, but no! I did work with Tim at Healing Harvest Farms and was buds with longtime Emerald Cup fam Chad and Jordan, though, so it was only a matter of time.

WAS WEED BETTER BEFORE OR AFTER PROP 64?

I don't think I would look at it in terms of better or not, but what I would say is that I feel like it was easier to come across a wider variety of cannabis, a greater variance in effects and flavors.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO CONSUME CANNABIS?

Joints win the game for me. I love to roll joints.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE

STRAINS/FLAVOR PROFILES LATELY?

Normally, my preference is for a terpinolene dominant cultivar - Molecular Farms' Strawberry Jam is a new favorite. However, my all-time favorite is Lamb's Bread, which is myrcene dominant.

THINKING BACK ON THE VERY FIRST TIME YOU SMOKED, HOW DID THAT GO?

I felt like I was taking a step into the unknown, having grown up overseas and not being familiar with cannabis and its effects. I smoked before going into a large, crowded event, and instead of my usual feeling of apprehension, everything felt light and balanced. I knew it was the right fit for me.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR CANNABIS COMPETITIONS?

I look forward to the time when there is a pathway for products to move across state lines. It's so exciting to see what is produced in California; being able to have national representation will be epic.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE EMERALD CUP MEMORIES?

SO MANY! Our Competition has 1000 moving parts, and so much happens in a small window of time. My favorite memories are problem-solving with our tiny, dynamic team, seeing how stoked Judges are to receive their kits, and celebrating with our community at the end of it all.

HI, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Colin Wells, Founder/CEO of Veterans Walk and Talk

WHERE ARE YOU LOCATED?

Crestline, California

WHAT WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU ATTENDED THE EMERALD CUP?

2019, it's when my wife and I first got together. Magical time.

WHY DO YOU MAKE THE TRIP TO MODERATE AND SPEAK ON EMERALD CUP SESSIONS PANELS?

Because I believe in amplifying those who have worked in cannabis for generations. Emerald Cup always cultivates an eclectic and impactful group of humans. I am proud to be counted among them and to learn from so many pioneers.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE

EMERALD CUP MEMORY(S)?

My wife and I were just friends when we attended in 2019. We worked on VWAT together but had not hooked up. We fell in love on our trip to Emerald Cup and made love for the first time, by a fire, in my van (which I lived in). We have been together ever since.

CAN YOU SPEAK ON THE IMPORTANCE OF ADVOCACY; BOTH AT CULTURAL AND INDUSTRY EVENTS AND IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES?

Living truthfully through cannabis and other sacred teachers is my way of advocating. Changing the narrative of cannabis and psychedelics is crucial, especially in the veteran community. True advocating starts with the self before it can remediate a community.

WHERE CAN FOLKS LEARN MORE ABOUT VETERANS WALK AND TALK?

You can follow us on Instagram @veteranswalkandtalk and check out our website at veteranswalkandtalk.com





HI, WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Taylor Blake

WHAT IS YOUR TITLE/ROLE AT THE EMERALD CUP?

Associate Producer

HOW OLD WERE YOU THE FIRST TIME YOU ATTENDED AN EMERALD CUP?

23

HOW OLD WERE YOU THE FIRST TIME YOU OFFICIALLY GOT BAKED?

15

BE HONEST, DID YOU EVER PINCH WEED OUT OF TIM'S STASH?

As a kid, no. As an adult, I may have once or twice when he has had really bomb herb.

WHAT IS YOUR EARLIEST CANNABIS-RELATED MEMORY?

Whenever I think back to my childhood home in Santa Cruz, the smell of cannabis was almost always in the air. It's a smell

so familiar to me that it can bring about a sense of nostalgia because it's a part of so many memories growing up.

DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVORITE EMERALD CUP MEMORIES?

I have so many favorites over the years. One of my more recent favorites was this past award show. Hearing the cheer from the crowd when our competition director Victoria Shea came on stage was amazing. She works so unbelievably hard, and it was really sweet to watch her receive that recognition. The competition team truly moves mountains every year (BIG LOVE to Kelly, Carlton, and Reba too!)

WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT GROWING UP, VISITING AND NOW LIVING IN THE EMERALD TRIANGLE?

I have had a connection to Mendocino County my whole life. I have the fondest memories from when I was little. We used to take frequent trips up to Willits to visit family. I moved up to my dad's property in Laytonville in 2007 and worked my first sungrown cannabis farm. That year also happened to be the first Emerald Cup I attended. I fell in love with the beauty of these mountains and the community of people who live in The Emerald Triangle...and those are still my favorite parts about living here. Plus, I love sungrown cannabis so it's a great place to be!



8THDAYCREATE.COM

Emerald Cup x Skunk Magazine by 8th Day Create 2023

EMERALD CUP FUN FACTS

DID YOU KNOW EC JUDGES APPLY EVERY YEAR FOR A SPOT ON ONE OF NINE JUDGING TEAMS?

This year there were more Emerald Cup Judge applications submitted in the first 24 hours than the total submitted over a full two-week period in 2021!

This is a highly respected and sought-after position to hold!

Each Emerald Cup Judge brings their own unique perspective and experience to the competition, where we provide additional insight on everything from notetaking to terpene appreciation.

Judges are assigned to a team, and each team tackles a specific category for the duration of the competition. Judges are given weeks to sample, analyze, and rank the entries from their category on their own, in online meetups with fellow judging team members, and face to face at multiple in-person Judges meet-ups where, collectively, the next crop of Emerald Cup Award winners will be decided.

The diversity woven throughout our roster of official 2023 Emerald Cup Judges is reflective of the beautifully inclusive culture that we want to help preserve.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE EMERALD CUP COMPETITION HAS THREE CATEGORIES THAT ARE BLINDLY JUDGED AND FOUR THAT ARE TESTED BY SC LABS FOR TERPENE PROFILES?

All Flower entries are totally anonymized by our team by placing them in blank glass jars devoid of any branding. Each jar has two labels. One has a letter that tells our Judges if the Flower is Sungrown, Mixed Light, or Indoor, followed by a short numerical code that lets our team (and our team only) know exactly which entry each sample jar contains.

The other label is a color-coded sticker that denotes the dominant terpene class that the buds inside belong to according to the Emerald Cup Cannabis Classification System based on PhytoFacts® and powered by SC Labs.

This differentiation adds another layer of authenticity to the judging process and helps to inform the retail marketplace of the importance of recognizing the role that robust terpene profiles play in one's overall experience with the plant.

The Emerald Cup Classification System based on PhytoFacts® and powered by SC Labs gives consumers a way to communicate with budtenders in a language they both understand and a more relatable way to seek out and find the most effective terp profiles for their needs.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE EMERALD CUP FEATURES A BREEDER'S CUP AWARD IN THE CATEGORIES OF SUNGROWN FLOWER, MIXED LIGHT FLOWER, INDOOR FLOWER, AND ALTERNATIVE CANNABINOID FLOWER?

The highest-placing entry in each category that was bred by the grower receives this award.

Everything we love about this culture starts with a seed and these breeder-cultivators are spreading the love one harvest - and one Emerald Cup Award - at a time.



THE 2022 EMERALD CUP BREEDER'S CUP WINNERS WERE:

SUNGROWN:

Rebel Grown, Double Chem OG

MIXED LIGHT:

Healing Herb Farms, Lemonhead OG x Zkittlez

INDOOR:

Fig Farms, Holy Moly

ALTERNATIVE CANNABINOIDS:

Pure Beauty, Terry T & Gelato 33

Much love and respect to the farmers who keep the terps flowing!





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THE CLASH

A TRANS-ATLANTIC
TRADITION BUILT BY
HARDWORK & HASH

WORDS & PHOTOS | MATT JACKSON

PART 1 “HOPLAND CALLING”

When you ask people about the cannabis competition scene, a cast of usual suspects always makes the top of the lists, but none have established a worldwide presence quite like Ego Clash. The epic one-day gathering is the brainchild of Brandon Parker, a third-generation Mendocino cannabis farmer who is well-known for the awards he and his family have collected as Third Gen Family Farms, Dying Breed Seeds, and Moonshine Melts.

The rules are simple, bring a jar of your finest and compete against the biggest names in your field. Divisions award first and second place for Full Melt, Rosin, and Flower, along with a Connoisseurs Choice Award. Ego asks for nothing except that a person leads with their best foot forward and respects the competition. Every contestant is also a judge. Scores are watched in real-time for inconsistencies, and whatever is left over is returned to the maker/grower at the night's end. If that doesn't sell you, they also collect toys from attendees to give to local and international charities.



Just like some kind of hash-inspired Hogwarts, you've got to have your wizard skills on point to get into Ego Clash. Guests receive their invitations after being scouted and vetted by Brandon himself. Everyone there seems to feel the opportunity they've been given to get together and uphold this special tradition. Since starting in 2017, Ego Clash has evolved into a highly respected invitational and international duel that starts in the foothills of the Emerald Triangle and ends in a Spanish chapel from the 1700s.

Because our story spans both time and space, to tell it properly, we'll have to jump back a full six years. It's 2017, and at a house party in Santa Rosa, Brandon is hosting the first version of the Ego Clash. He described the scene as "an industry house party that started a winner takes all session of BHO vs. Hash. People had been

complaining that money and clout were the real reasons they didn't have any awards, so I thought, why not make a day where none of that shit matters?" The party, which included people like Berner, Wookerson, Dougie Dracup, and Jigga, was intended as a parliamentary debate, with Brandon acting as leader of the House of Commons.

"I sat in the middle. Each person brought a five-gram jar, it didn't matter if it was branded, and we'd line them all up. Then I would turn around, the crowd would dab up, and when I turned back around, five jars would have to be cut." When they had debated the choices down to three from each category, the final six battled again for the crown. The night was a huge success, and it wasn't long before everyone asked about next year. Focused on his business, Brandon had borrowed a large sum using his land as collateral in the hopes of increasing efforts, but new



“FOR COMPETITORS, EC IS AS MUCH A CHALLENGE TO THEIR ENTRY AS IT IS FOR THEIR LUNGS SINCE ENTERING ALSO REQUIRES YOU, OR A CHOSEN CHAMPION, TO SIT DOWN AND JUDGE OVER 30 DIFFERENT ENTRIES BACK-TO-BACK. YOU SEE THE LOOK OF DEDICATION ON EVERYONE’S FACES. THE GLAZE ON THEIR HALF-OPENED EYES TELLS YOU THAT THEY UNDERSTAND, AT THE END OF THE DAY, THIS IS ABOUT MORE THAN JUST NAMING A WINNER.”

MATT JACKSON

changes in the California Cannabis market, along with a whole host of new regulations, meant he could not have their usual presence at Emerald Cup.

Needing to make something happen, he began planning a larger, more organized version of the house party. Despite outside pressures, he found the perfect location just outside of Hopland, and when December 2018 came around, he was ready to host The Ego Clash at its new official home. That first year on the property was a Hail Mary, funded almost completely by that loan he’d taken out. The prospect was scary, but he couldn’t help but see this as an opportunity to take a piece of everything he’d ever loved about the competition scene and stitch together his amazing event about fun, fellowship, and bragging rights.

The Clash represented a sort of anti-hero, top-dog energy mixed with a healthy dose of swagger. A Fight Club for brands and artisans suddenly divided by these new rules to battle without restrictions. Brandon’s not known for being quiet or timid. It’s this outspoken, sometimes off-putting energy, along with his work in the industry, that’s helped him to hold the torch and rally the community around the idea that Ego Clash is THE put up or shut up moment for anyone out there who thinks they’ve got what it takes.

Over the next few years, things would shift into focus, adding a scorecard in year three, eventually dropping the BHO battle aspect in favor of separate Full Melt and Rosin divisions, and creating a flower category. The scoring system was turned into an electronic spreadsheet where judges can enter answers, and everything can be tracked in real-time (shoutout Kimo). But the legend of what each entry is can still only be found in a tiny notebook kept in Brandon’s back pocket.

By 2021, Ego Clash had become the premiere Hash competition in the country and was seeing a greater demand from talented new personalities who wanted to join in. For anyone curious about how

to make it in, the invitation process has stayed the same for years. Months before, @3rd_gen_familyfarms will ask Instagram users to suggest who they believe would be a great addition to the party. Each suggestion is reviewed and looked at to help compile a list of potential hitters. Brandon whittles this list down into the core group invited to battle, often including a few names you’ve never heard of before.

That’s become a big part of Ego Clash, bringing the community together from across the country. In 2022, Ego Clash had around 500 attendees that came from as far as Maine. The event now stretches over the property like a Candyland game board, with locations to stop at like The Cave, Glass House, Weed Lodge, and the Hash Barn. Each location has a specific vibe and rhythm, and while there’s a fair amount of walking, one of the most treasured parts of Ego Clash are the golf carts that take you around like a game of Mendocino Mario Kart. As the event has grown, they’ve added more amenities like food, coffee, and fresh-squeezed sugar cane juice.

But the rough and rugged spirit of the North Coast also gives Ego Clash a sort of rustic charm. For many, it gives them a first taste of what it’s like to feel that NorCal cold seep into your boots. The surrounding hills remind us all how robust and fragile this important section of the Cannabis Industry is. In that magic environment, you understand how important it is that we protect small-label farmers and hash makers.

For competitors, EC is as much a challenge to their entry as it is for their lungs since entering also requires you, or a chosen champion, to sit down and judge over 30 different entries back-to-back. You see the look of dedication on everyone’s faces. The glaze on their half-opened eyes tells you that they understand, at the end of the day, this is about more than just naming a winner. And that’s what’s allowed this competition to spread from a little spot in California all the way to the Catalonia region of Spain.

PART 2 “HASHANISTA”

For the next part of the story, we have to jump a bit from the town of Hopland to the vibrant city of Barcelona. It’s 2018, and for the last three years, Giuliana Roldán has been working alongside different high-profile groups on the yearly Spannabis expo. For the last three years, she’s been watching a growing crowd of Americans coming over from California. Brandon and the crew from Third Gen. Family Farm were among this group, who had made their splash onto the European market when they released high-priced seed packs with Cookies. Along with this, the word had reached Spain about the Ego Clash and how it bucked the convention of how a cannabis contest was run at that time.

Being so tied in with so many different elements of the cannabis communities in South America, Europe, and the US, Roldán saw Ego Clash’s potential to reach a larger stage. In an interview, she told us, “I’ve traveled all over Europe and South America, and I just felt like this was the kind of event that could be worldwide. Most of the people I know who grow or smoke have a passion for Hash, and this model represented the most even opportunity for a community to determine whose stuff was the best.

That year she went to Ego Clash in California and made her pitch to Brandon about holding a second competition overseas and how she believed there was just as high a level of competitors in Europe as in the US. Since production in Europe is still mostly illegal, she felt the gathering of so many private and small-batch producers mirrored their own scene. “I wanted to lift up all the people I knew in the space, especially all the women hash makers I knew that were doing such incredible things but didn’t feel like they had a place to compete.”

Giuliana’s dream was to bring everyone together to create a second Clash in Spain that wouldn’t impede any other events surrounding Spannabis but also bring the spirit and structure of this friendly battle to a worldwide stage. After coming to a tentative agreement, she returned home in December, ready to put her plan to full speed. By February, she invited Brandon out to see what the event would look like and what kind



of final adaptations they’d wanted to make for the European Clash. Brandon mentions this would be the final sign that he knew her plan would work since, just like Mister T’s character in the A-Team, he hates to fly, and this would mean an additional trip to Spain right before Spannabis.

March 11th, the Third Gen. crew returned to help Roldán kick off the first Ego Clash Barcelona. “The first one was little,” she admits, “nobody expected this to go global, and some people weren’t sure what it would even look like.” Brandon talks about how they were there to show support and keep the competition true to form but that Giuliana was responsible for making the whole thing happen. She had secured a historic and lavish Masia just outside of the city (Americans can picture it as something between a large farmhouse and a small castle), complete with an attached chapel for the awards ceremony. She had even convinced the owners of the spot

to let everyone smoke by showing them how a Puffco Peak works.

Combustion is one of the key differences between EC and ECB. Surrounded by a structure built in the 1700s, safety is paramount. So instead, judging is encouraged through the use of Puffco’s flagship e-rig, the Peak Pro. Flower is judged out on the patio alongside dry sift and a DJ who keeps music running throughout the day. Another difference is the prize, with the custom glass rigs and bubblers awarded in the US switched out for championship wrestling belts (which honestly still feels very on-brand for The Clash). Just like the original event embodies the spirit of the land around it, the feeling at ECB carries that laidback, chic Catalanian vibe. For one thing, judges are allowed to talk about the various entries, a practice frowned upon in California. Giuliana expressed that, in a smaller setting, there’s more time to talk about the entries and less need for speed. “The growers and the hash makers love it. You go there and put what you have in front of the community. If you have something to say, it’s face to face, you have to say it with love, but we encourage people to share it.”

She also talked about how food is just as much a part of the show for them as the golf carts are for Cali. A large part of the

EGO CLASH INVITATIONAL 2023 BARCELONA

1 HAVE HASH/HANDMADE HASH
OGZ (MENDOJA FARMS)

2 MASTERBALL MELTS
GRAPE GAS (WILLARD FARMS)

3 YETI MELTS
TURQUOISE TIGER #19

4 DAMMIT BOBBY
OISHII (ARCHIVE SEED BANK)

5 KOOKI MONSTER GENETICS
TROPAYA

ROsin

EGO CLASH INVITATIONAL 2023 BARCELONA

MELT

1 OGRE FARMS
STARBURST OG

2 ALICE REIS / WOOKSAUCE WINERY
GRAPE GAS 120-149U (WILLARD FARMS)

3 DOC HAZED
PEACH 'N' LIME / BANALIMA

4 COLOMBIA EXOTICZ
MILKRUNTZ

5 NUGS 420
DUCATTI MINTS 90U



budget for Spain’s Clash is in the three meals they feed everyone. “I truly love food. I’m a Columbian who grew up in Spain, but after 15 years around Italians, I consider myself at least 35% Italian.” There are vegetarian options and even real Neapolitan pizza. One last notable difference is the Dry Sift category, which is a nod to the rich tradition of Hashish production within Europe.

In creating ECB, she says the easiest thing to transfer over was the competition. Surprisingly, the difficult task is keeping things low-key in a country where all of this is still frowned upon. Brandon and Giuliana told Skunk in previous years, Americans have made up around 10% of the entries at the European Clash, but now that number has risen closer to half. On the day of ECB, attendees meet at a private club in Barcelona. Once there, they are picked up by bus for the forty-five-minute trip to the Macia. Once you’re on the street, you’re no longer in private and are subject to having your bag searched, resulting in a fine or even jail. “Sometimes in the fun and excitement of what we’re all gathered together for, people forget that we still have to keep things under wraps when we’re outside.” As one of those people who’s been known to hit his vape pen in a Target, I can see where she’s coming from.

Setting this up across multiple continents and making sure everyone knows what they need to do, is a humongous task of organization. It takes someone with impressive skills to tame the chaos, and Roldán has proven

herself a powerhouse of planning. Last year 200 people showed up, and there were around 91 entries. This year had so many competitors that an unbelievable 16 entries for rosin were disqualified before the competition even got underway. Like the US Clash, this is all created by the community and funded by the goodwill of sponsors. It’s this combination of trust that has kept things from having to go the route of chasing corporate endorsements or opening attendance to the public, but the duo is realizing that the interest in the event is even bigger than they imagined.

Both individually expressed the same sentiment that Ego clash just keeps growing, and they’ve had to do some uncomfortable growing along with it. This year Roldán was able to secure a small staff to support the organizing, but the event is still mainly her efforts until the Third Gen crew arrives right before the show. With California now at 500 people and Barcelona hitting closer to 300 this year, plus the sudden addition of the DQ round, both America and Spain will be navigating some new territory next time.

Competitions are popping up in Germany, Thailand, and the Canary Islands. With so many hash makers coming over from Chile, Argentina, and Mexico, the question is, where will Ego Clash go next? With so much global interest, there’s no telling where this battle of the titans will land next, but knowing these two, there’s no doubt lightning will strike a third time. •

EGO CLASH INVITATIONAL 2023 BARCELONA

- 1 WEED CAN ALL 420
Z HEAD (GRATEFUL SEEDS ORIGINAL CUT)
- 2 FEMME FATALE
FROSTED BLESSING (GRATEFUL SEEDS)
- 3 LURPE NATURAL SOLUTIONS
GARLIC VIBES
- 4 LOS PRESAS

DRY SIFT

EGO CLASH INVITATIONAL 2023 BARCELONA

- 1 BASK TRIANGLE FARMS
ZORTZI
- 2 BTY TERPLANDIA
FRESA
- 3 GWA
RUNTZ
- 4 SATIVA ENGINEERING
BLUE ZUSHI
- 5 SERGE CANNABIS
BLACKBERRY GARY

HERB





BLUNT BRUNCH

UNITES WOMEN IN CANNABIS

WORDS | RACHELLE GORDON PHOTOS | ERVINAS MEDIA

Being a woman is not always an easy feat, especially in cannabis. Women entrepreneurs face myriad challenges, from lack of access to capital to limited e-suite representation. The boys club atmosphere that often permeates the culture leaves many women feeling shut out, objectified, or alone.

Fortunately, there is a place where women in cannabis can gather to share their experiences, empower one another, and have blunt conversations.

Blunt Brunch has emerged as a beacon of light in a space filled with insurmountable barriers. The events provide a supportive environment for women in cannabis to gather, celebrate each other's achievements, make impactful connections, and of course, have fun. While they may not be the only women-centric group and events organizer in the game, they're certainly the most exuberant.

What first started as a small gathering meant to promote and strengthen the bonds of sisterhood in our space has grown into a powerhouse series, attracting women from across the vertical (and the country). Everyone has a seat at the table, from industry veterans to relative newcomers, all striving to empower and unite.

Established by Adelia Carrillo and Parisa Rad in 2021, Blunt Brunch aims to curate positive and authentic networking among women in cannabis. Subscribing to the law of abundance, the events flip the

script away from competition and encourage collaboration instead.

"Our goal is to provide a safe space for women to speak candidly with each other over brunch, to offer advice, to learn from each other, and to be there for each other when times are tough," Carrillo told Skunk.

Blunt Brunch has exploded in its short tenure, quickly emerging as a must-attend gathering on both local and national levels. Skunk explores their meteoric rise to fame and how the founders hope to foster equitable practices in the cannabis landscape.

One brunch leads to another, and another...

Carrillo and Rad both understand the importance of building community within the cannabis space. Both began their journeys for therapeutic reasons; Rad became a pediatric medical cannabis advocate after her teenage daughter became a patient with life-changing results. Carrillo turned to cannabis while recovering from emergency surgery, the result of an ectopic pregnancy.

"Cannabis allowed me to heal both emotionally and physically, which in turn made me want to help this plant and do more to spread knowledge and education," Carrillo explained.

Carrillo soon launched her first business called Direct Cannabis Network (DCN), an online news network highlighting the latest tech, entrepreneurs, and innovation within the cannabis industry. While that business eventually closed, Carrillo quickly pivoted.



She co-founded EventHi, a cannabis event tech platform that allows event organizers to efficiently and compliantly promote and sell tickets and sponsorships; event-goers and brands can find all the latest cannabis-related events happening nationwide. Carrillo also acts as the company's CMO.

Rad is president of a cannabis edible manufacturing brand named FourTwenty Collections in Arizona. The company recently expanded into New Mexico, where Rad is a partner in the brand's retail manufacturing and grow operations.

By 2021, Carrillo found herself relocating to Arizona. She reached out to Rad, a local, and they decided to invite a few women colleagues over for a brunch to help foster friendships and create new ones. The get-together was an instant success, and a lightbulb quickly went off in the pair's collective consciousness.

"After that first brunch, we both knew we had to do it again!" Carrillo exclaimed.

MsKindness Ramirez, MA.Ed, a cannabis educator, author, holistic health coach, the CEO of Club Kindness, was present at an early iteration of Blunt Brunch. She was immediately taken by the extraordinary energy present, going on to emcee their recent national event in Vegas.

"Adelia and I are really good friends, so when she first started Blunt Brunch after moving to Arizona, I was fortunate enough to visit her and experience it," Ramirez recalled. "I knew right then she and Parisa had something special."

It wasn't long before Blunt Brunch was born, holding regular gatherings (called "socials") in the southwest to great fanfare. The event series soon spread across the country, with the first national event occurring during the week of MJBizCon in Las Vegas.

It couldn't have come at a better time.

AN OASIS FROM THE DARK SIDE OF CANNABIS

For many women working in weed, MJBizCon is a beautiful week filled with chance meetings, an epic expo floor, and plenty of Vegas flair. For others, it's an overwhelming and intimidating experience filled with masculine energy and potential dangers.

Blunt Brunch offers women the chance to connect, partake in meaningful conversation, and enjoy themselves without fear of disrespect or ulterior motives. At a time of collective trauma for women in cannabis, Blunt Brunch is a breath of fresh air.

"Environments like Blunt Brunch allow professional women in cannabis the chance to feel safe while fostering genuine connections and building long-term business relationships," Ramirez said. "This is a vital component of an equitable industry of the future."

Carrillo agrees, touting the unique setting Blunt Brunch provides women across the vertical.





“OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE A SAFE SPACE FOR WOMEN TO SPEAK CANDIDLY WITH EACH OTHER OVER BRUNCH, TO OFFER ADVICE, TO LEARN FROM EACH OTHER, AND TO BE THERE FOR EACH OTHER WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH.”

RACHELLE GORDON

“Events like Blunt Brunch are necessary because they create a space where we can support each other and allow vulnerable dialogue while also learning from each other,” Carrillo explained. “They also provide the opportunity to network and connect with other women in business in a more intimate setting allowing for opportunities to further business partnerships and career advancements.”

Rad argues that events like Blunt Brunch can also help erode barriers that exist for women in cannabis, offering them a chance to level the playing field by fostering genuine working relationships that strengthen the industry overall.

“As we see more corporations grow in the industry, we also see females in executive roles diminish,” she said. “We feel that these blunt and honest conversations will lead to more solutions and more opportunities for women to support each other and act as allies rather than competition.”

INSPIRING MOMENTS, TEARS, AND PLENTY OF DANCE BREAKS

For those who have never had the privilege of attending, a typical Blunt Brunch affair consists of a few main components: thought-provoking conversations, powerful speeches, diverse brand representation, delicious

food, and high-octane entertainment.

Last year, the national Blunt Brunch in Las Vegas saw hundreds of women gather for an afternoon of discussions, one-on-one networking, and a jubilant dance party no one expected. The vibes were off the charts, kicking off Cannabis Week in style and offering hope for positivity in the future.

Rachel Kane, the owner of Sure Lock Packaging, was a first-time attendee at this national Blunt Brunch event.

After hearing about the incredible

group of women involved, she knew she wanted to participate, going so far as to contribute to the swag bag in addition to joining the fun.

“I was not disappointed!” she told Skunk. “What amazed me was the amount of energy and potential I felt—women embracing others at all stages in their careers. Too often, I have seen others react negatively when they think of another’s success, talents, looks, products, or business growth, like it’s somehow taking from their own. It was refreshing to connect with a group of women who were not limiting the potential of those around them.”

Chelsea Mulligan, co-founder and COO of Open Dor Dispensaries and a frequent Blunt Brunch supporter, always finds herself reinvigorated by Blunt Brunch gatherings. She tells Skunk that the ripple effect created is always significant and far-reaching.



“I leave every Blunt Brunch event feeling empowered, seen, and heard,” Mulligan expressed. “To have that kind of community where I can both impact newer people in our industry but also be impacted by my peers and people that have been around in business longer than I have is so special.”

The feedback expressed by Kane, Mulligan, and several others means the world to the Blunt Brunch team, affirming their mission and inspiring them to continue the journey for years to come.

“The reaction has been life-changing,” Carrillo said. “Hearing about how each of our events, whether it is a social or our large national event, is providing women in cannabis with opportunities that further their business, with conversations that lead to new positions.”

She adds that the dialogue is often impactful in ways not everyone sees, helping women persevere in their darkest times.

“We have received so many emails sharing how our blunt conversations have reassured attendees that they are not alone and given them a safe space to work through or regain control of situations or experiences they have experienced within this space.”

“THE FUTURE FOR BLUNT BRUNCH IS BRIGHT!”

While still relatively young, Blunt Brunch is already ramping up in a big way.

The series is exploring expanding their co-hosted socials into the East Coast this year while at the same time collaborating with a number of industry conferences and expos to host their women in cannabis meet and greets, where

women come together for quick networking meetups and group photos. The end-of-year Blunt Brunch national gathering during Cannabis Week is already in the works, expecting to draw double the amount of attendees as in 2022.

Carrillo and Rad also plan to continue their Blunt Conversations live on Facebook each week to provide opportunities to women who may not be able to join in person just yet. They also hope to expand their local Blunt Brunch socials in a wide array of cities, encouraging those who wish to sign on as co-hosts to visit www.bluntbrunch.com/cohost-social to learn more.

“I am so excited to see the evolution of communities for women in cannabis and how so many of these organizations are based on collaboration and working together as a whole, which in the end furthers the vision and mission to empower more women to executive and leadership positions within the cannabis industry,” Carrillo said proudly.

While the co-founders of Blunt Brunch may not have known the impact their efforts would ultimately have, the event series is resonating with industry women in a big way, offering a rich reward of solidarity.

“Blunt Brunch was formed out of our own needs to connect in a safe and intimate way with our colleagues coming out of Covid,” Rad said. “We never imagined it to grow to what it’s become today. But we believe that speaks to the magnitude of how many other women were also in need of this exact same support.”

When asked what’s ahead for the event series, Rad said:

“The future for Blunt Brunch is bright!” •

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We Just Want to Watch the World Burn.

BIG GENETICS IN A LITTLE HOUSE

Rich Dean a Midwest cannabis breeder since 1975 and host of his annual New Year's Eve Pollen Thon show is offering for the first time his private genetics in regular seed only for the first to the home growers market



	<p>Fabulous 5 Ultimate Purple x Gorilla Cake \$60.00 12 pack of Regular Seeds</p>		<p>Lady Seal Wedding Cake x Gorilla Cake x Chem Valley Kush \$60.00 12 Pack of Regular Seeds</p>
	<p>Gold Train Columbian Gold x Night Train x Chem Valley Kush \$60.00 12 regular seeds</p>		<p>Girl Fight Good Girl x Skunk #1 x Columbia Gold x Hawaiian \$60.00 12 Pack of Regular Seeds</p>
		<p>Night Fighter Fabulous 5 x Night Nurse x Night Nurse back cross \$60.00 12 Pack of Regular Seeds</p>	



Peeling Back The Layers Of Your Cannabis Experience

WORDS | TONY BOWLES

Everybody knows about THC, the substance that's primarily responsible for the psychotropic effects of cannabis. But did you know Terpenes possess the ability to take your cannabis experience to higher dimensions?

Terpenes, also known as terpenoids, are aromatic compounds found in many plants. However, many people associate them closely with cannabis because it contains high concentrations of them. These aromatic compounds create the characteristic scent of many plants, such as grapes, pine, and lavender, as well as coffee.

Possessing the ability to peel back the layers by properly interpreting the unique smells and tastes that go along with each terpene combination is an important tool in ensuring your cannabis experience is pleasant.

It's all about the balance of cannabinoids, terpenes, and other phytochemicals acting together in what's called the entourage effect. No one phytochemical alone can recreate the same experience as the whole plant; that's why it's become important to retain the full spectrum.

Flavors in cannabis are created through balanced combinations of cannabinoids, terpenes, and other phytochemicals. The perception of these flavors comes together through all of the senses when we consume, particularly through taste, aroma, and physiological effects. Each person's ability to distinguish flavor is different, and some people are more sensitive than others.

Often overlooked, the redheaded stepchild to THC and the cannabinoid family, terpenes and other compounds such as flavonoids, proteins, phenols, sterols, and esters are finally starting to be recognized more and more through the mist and haze of misinformation.

Terpenes are the largest group of natural fragrances. Terpenes are classified into hemiterpenes (C5), monoterpenes (C10), sesquiterpenes (C15), and diterpenes (C20). Based on the functional groups, terpenes and other aromatic compounds have been classified into hydrocarbons, alcohols, aldehydes, ketones, phenols, esters, ethers, etc.

Thousands of different terpene and aromatic structures occur in perfume ingredients, both natural and synthetic. Monoterpenes are the most abundant molecules of essential oils (about 90%) with a great variety of structures.

Studies have shown the positive effects of terpenes, showing they could contribute to human health in very beneficial ways. Some terpenes act as anti-inflammatory, antitumor, antidepressant, antimicrobial, antiviral, and sedative agents.

Terpenes influence almost everything we do.

According to the majority of the research, it would appear that olfactory cues often influence various aspects of a person's perception, typically operating at a subconscious level.

That includes everything from forest ecosystems to everyday household items, such as cleaners, detergents, air fresheners, perfume cologne, and your food as well.

Terpenes contribute to the experience.

It turns out that terpenes play an important role in shaping not just your cannabis experience, but almost every experience you've ever had and ever will have. Unless maybe you end up living in the vacuum of space because terpenes are all around us here on Earth.

When the temperature heats up, plants and trees release terpenes causing the scents of nature we enjoy so much. Numerous medical studies have shown the positive effects of forests on different aspects of human health.

When I first got into cannabis, it was such a mystery. The lack of information caused by the drug war was not only irresponsible but harmful too. All we had to go on was what the budtender said, along with the look and smell. And the only cannabinoid the general public knew about was THC. Then we learned of CBD, and we are slowly but surely learning about all



the phytochemicals, one by one, peeling back layer after layer until we are at the center of our cannabis experience.

Cannabis aroma predicts user experience, so being able to smell before you purchase is very important. The presence of even a single additional aromatic molecule totally changes our perception of an aroma.

And where does it all begin?

One might say with the Terroir. Terroir is a French term used to describe environmental factors. All plants, whether you're talking about grapes, cannabis, or coffee, will express themselves in different, nuanced ways. The Terroir directly influences the taste, smell, and pharmacological effects every individual cultivar provides.

Terroir is also affected by the soil the plants are grown in. Therefore, creating soil that is the best for terpene production is vital. Terpenes are initially produced to protect plants from their natural enemies.

It goes all the way from the trichome glistening tops down to the healthy soil-covered roots.

It's time for consumers to become more aware of the cannabis they purchase, whether it's rich in THC, CBD, or other cannabinoids, and what the primary terpenes are.

Only a balance of all will truly fit in with one's particular situation. Everyone is unique biologically, so one person's perfect ratio may be a horrible high for someone else and negatively impact the experience or health benefits they are trying to create and achieve.

Americans have reported rates of depression and anxiety six times higher than in 2019. The endocannabinoid system allows us to change our focus from invasive pharmacological interventions (i.e., SSRIs for depression, benzodiazepines for anxiety, and chemotherapies for cancer) to uncover the mystery of why the body's internal system of homeostasis is failing us. Understanding the roles of ECS in these diseases presents a new direction for medicine which may eradicate the use of some of the less tolerable therapeutics.

Terpenes have the power to uplift and soothe. The simple act of breathing in terpenes helps us cope. Plant aroma components have been used for mental, spiritual, and physical healing since the beginning of recorded history. Numerous studies have scientifically supported the beneficial use of various aromatic plants in aromatherapy.

I encourage you to keep peeling back those layers until you master your cannabis experience. •

“OFTEN OVERLOOKED, THE REDHEADED STEPCHILD TO THC AND THE CANNABINOID FAMILY, TERPENES AND OTHER COMPOUNDS SUCH AS FLAVONOIDS, PROTEINS, PHENOLS, STEROLS, AND ESTERS ARE FINALLY STARTING TO BE RECOGNIZED MORE AND MORE THROUGH THE MIST AND HAZE OF MISINFORMATION.”

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THE DIVERSITY VILLAGE TAKEOVER AT MJBIZCON 2022

A SIT DOWN WITH BLACK CANNABIS MAGAZINE

WORDS INTERVIEW | VERONICA CASTILLO



MJBizCon: the largest cannabis business conference and expo in the industry with 35,000 + attendees, 1,400 exhibitors, 180 + speakers, and an abundance of networking opportunities, celebrated its 11th anniversary in Las Vegas, Nevada this year.

The Las Vegas Convention Center was packed – inside, outside, and on all sides – with cannabis industry professionals and cannabis consumers. On and around the Las Vegas strip were industry parties, meet and greets, brunches, dinners, and groups of people filling the skies with clouds of cannabis smoke.

Cannabis industry professionals met many of their connections for the first time, virtual teams got together for the first time this year, business meetings were held in coffee shops, and deals were closed over many dinners. MJBizCon 2022 was a first for many, an annual business trip for others, a conference where fate awaited for a few, and something like Shark Tank for inventors and investors.

Some first-time experiences included Sesh with Friends, scholarships: the Social Equity Scholarship Program, and takeovers: Diversity Village. In a place where black and brown were the minority, what Hazey, Black Cannabis Magazine, and the sponsors put together and supported was one of the biggest impacts of MJBizCon 2022.

ABOUT THE DIVERSITY VILLAGE: THE PURPOSE

The Diversity Village was born from the reality that ‘it takes a village.’ Hazey, the founder of Black Cannabis Magazine and the Diversity Village, says: “We must find a way to work together and unite for the plant. The village was established to create diversity inside cannabis trade shows and events”.

The Diversity Village is a non-profit organization that accepts donations from cannabis companies. Donations will help support first-time exhibitors via grants that will help with the costs of space, display, travel, food, and promotional items so that entrepreneurs can do high-level business and be ‘in the room.’

“THE VILLAGE IS ABOUT BRINGING TOGETHER THE BEST TALENT IN THE NATION AND HAVING CONVERSATIONS THAT UPLIFT AND MOTIVATE THE VILLAGE.”-

HAZEY, BLACK CANNABIS MAGAZINE

**Q & A WITH THE DIVERSITY VILLAGE
FOUNDER: THE JOURNEY TO MJBIZCON**

VERONICA CASTILLO: How was The Diversity Village pitched to MJBizCon organizers?

HAZEY: *In April, MJBiz asked me to do a pop-up magazine (www.popupmagazine.com) and asked me to help them hire the keynote speaker (Jay Z). We had been in chats since MJBizCon 2021 about how to make the conference and expo more diverse. So, I presented them with a pitch deck that I pitched in May.*

My pitch included a week of events that started with an Urban Golf Challenge, an all-black panel, 3 Days of Diversity Village, and a 90's inspired afterparty with Lil Kim, Method Man, Redman, The Lox, and the Luniz.

They agreed to let me do my own panel, giving me their booth for a day and the opportunity to put on the first official afterparty. This was my first Co. Marketing Agreement with a cannabis company, one worth 100M+.

VC: Diversity Village may come across as only welcoming the BIPOC community. Can you explain the vision and intention behind the collaborative melting POT?

HZ: *When I attended MJBizCon in 2021, I walked away feeling like I wasn't included. I have seen so many companies on display, but few looked like me. I knew many others related to my experience, and some people felt left out by Black Cannabis Magazine. I wanted to create*

a space where all could feel inclusive regardless of race, gender, preference, life, and professional experience. We want everyone to feel included in everything we do moving forward.

VC: Over eight panels, more than 20 panelists, some firsts in the industry, some celebrities, and an audience that had the area packed out; how did you feel watching all of this?

HZ: *It was amazing to see my black and brown brothers and sisters united, coming together to educate and inform our peers. Our voices need to be heard, and this was definitely the platform for it. It gives me hope, knowing that this is only the beginning of something greater.*

Eight panels, and everyone had so much to offer, and the audience learned so much. The biggest takeaway was the smiles on everyone's faces. It was good to see. I can't wait to drop the recap videos.

VC: The sponsors, some big names in the industry, supported the village. How does it feel to be supported by these names?

HZ: *I almost like to say partners instead of sponsors because we aren't doing this to make money or profit. The involvement from our Diversity Village Partners lets me know that our future is bright and that our voices won't go unheard. I hope the involvement of sponsors this year allows for more sponsors/ partners to be involved. As far as the people who came out to support, it was amazing to be supported by my peers because it amplified our overall message. I think MJBizCon and other conferences will understand our presence and our power going forward.*

VC: Can you share plans for the future of Diversity Village?

HZ: *Plans for the future are bigger and better. I'm actually talking with a group to bring The Diversity Village to Phoenix, Arizona, for the Super Bowl. We would have more space and opportunity to make a bigger impact. I hope all goes well and we can come to an agreement to make this happen for February 2023."*

VC: Will MJBIZCON see Diversity Village in 2023?

HZ: *MJBIZCon will definitely see The Diversity Village.*

VC: How can people support the village?

HZ: *The Diversity Village is now a non-profit organization, and people can donate money towards helping us pull off the next one. I hope that more people get involved next year so that we will be able to give out grants to entrepreneurs who haven't exhibited in a tradeshow or cannabis events. We would like to purchase their space on the floor, promotional items, food, and lodging. The ultimate experience to equip them to do high-level business during the conferences.*

“WHEN I ATTENDED MJBIZCON IN 2021, I WALKED AWAY FEELING LIKE I WASN'T INCLUDED. I HAVE SEEN SO MANY COMPANIES ON DISPLAY, BUT FEW LOOKED LIKE ME. I KNEW MANY OTHERS RELATED TO MY EXPERIENCE, AND SOME PEOPLE FELT LEFT OUT BY BLACK CANNABIS MAGAZINE. I WANTED TO CREATE A SPACE WHERE ALL COULD FEEL INCLUSIVE REGARDLESS OF RACE, GENDER, PREFERENCE, LIFE, AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE. WE WANT EVERYONE TO FEEL INCLUDED IN EVERYTHING WE DO MOVING FORWARD.”

VERONICA CASTILLO



CLOSING WORDS FROM THE DIVERSITY VILLAGE TAKEOVER PANELISTS AND MJBIZ

This was my first year at MJBIZCON, and overall, it was a very impactful experience. I was honored to be a part of the MVP- Most Valuable Partner panel at the Diversity Village takeover this year. It was surreal sitting next to brands I respect and have watched grow so much in the industry. Partnership got me into the cannabis industry and working through my partnerships has opened more opportunities than I could have imagined.

The Diversity Village was a space where our words fell upon ears that wanted to hear our stories, journeys, and how we became the business owners we are today. We need these impactful conversations and panels to help inspire and guide us to better. •



"We were so glad Black Cannabis Magazine agreed to do pop-up experiences at the MJBiz Central booth at MJBizCon in 2022. It's a way for MJBiz to literally provide a platform for more voices in cannabis and add to the overall MJBizCon experience. It was great for both sides. Black Cannabis Magazine brought incredible creativity and energy to the project."

**PAMELA MOORE,
SVP, CONTENT & AUDIENCE, MJBIZ**

"I have been part of many companies, organizations, and panels surrounding diversity. None held a candle to this. Whenever diversity and inclusion are given a platform, it is premised on awareness, not presence or commerce. This event showcased them both. It showcased resiliency and culture. It was not a 'we need more people with brands and licenses'; it was, 'here are the people with brands and licenses coast to coast, their stories, and triumphs.' The energy and star power were palpable. The paradigm shift Black Cannabis Magazine and Haze brought was seismic! I have never seen that much culture in a traditionally 'boardroom corporate' event."

**MARGEUX BRUNER,
M.S., POPM- HOLI SMOKEABLES**

"From a panel of big reputable brands to rap artists to entrepreneurs all in the cannabis industry, we shared one space with similar goals: inspiration, collaboration, and support."

**SAHIR AL SALAM,
CO-FOUNDER/CO-OWNER OF
DETROIT LIFE LOUNGE**

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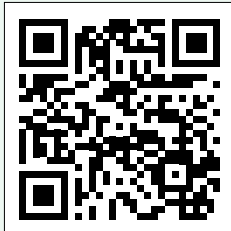
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GROWING TIPS SERIES PART 1

WORDS | ED ROSENTHAL



Few things in life are more satisfying than lighting up a joint rolled with your own home-grown weed. I have assembled some tips to help you grow better buds. Here are the first two of five tips in this series that can save you time and labor or increase potency and yield. Some of these might be on your check-off list. Consider introducing others to your cultivation. Improve your skills and get a bountiful harvest of our favorite crop! More tips to come in future issues.

TIP # 1: USE MYCORRHIZAE

Mycorrhizae are fungi that live in the root zone and form close associations with roots. The endo mycorrhizae penetrate the roots, while the ecto form close associations with the roots in the rhizosphere, the soil area surrounding the roots.

When mycos dissolve the nutrients, they become available to the roots, which sip but don't eat. Roots can uptake them only when they are dissolved in water. By making these nutrients available, mycos increases plant growth. Mycos also form a shield around the roots protecting them from pathogens.

There are many brands of mycorrhizae available. Some researchers think that supplementation with a broad range of mycos is more effective than applying a supplement with only one or two species. The jury is out on that, but not on the effectiveness of their use. Using mycos will result in larger, healthier plants with more vigor and increased yield.

When transplanting, adding a mycorrhizal inoculant increases root growth and plant vigor. Mycorrhizal fungi, or mycorrhiza, are beneficial fungi that live in symbiosis with plants. The earlier in the plant's life, the better.



PHOTOS | 1) INTRO_ED ROSENTHAL_PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN PEACOCK
2) THE PLANTS ON THE LEFT WERE INOCULATED WITH MYCORRHIZAE. THE PLANTS ON THE RIGHT WERE GROWN WITHOUT MYCORRHIZAE.
3) EVEN YOUNG PLANTS HAVE GREATER ROOT DEVELOPMENT WITH MYCORRHIZAE.



4



5



6

TIP # 2: USE WICK SYSTEMS

Would you like to use a gardening system that's easy to construct, inexpensive, irrigates the plants automatically, and saves water and nutrients? Whether you're growing a few small plants or a field with 200-gallon grow bags, the wick system is for you. These systems work using capillary action, the same way that tissues and sponges draw up water.

The system uses a nylon or cotton rope as the wick. For small containers up to 8" diameter, use 1/4" woven rope. For larger containers, use 3/8" or 1/2" rope. If the container has a single drain hole, place one end of the rope in the inside bottom of the container, making a circle. The other end hangs from the bottom hole and stretches down into a tray with sides 3"-6" deep, depending on the size of the planting container. With larger containers that have holes on 2 sides, the wick stretches across the bottoms, and both ends of the wick hang down into the trays. If there are 4 holes use two wicks.

WICK SYSTEM SUPPLIES:

- Nylon Rope 3/8"
- Fabric Planter Pots
- Wood Pallets
- Tray or Kiddie Pools (at least 3" deep)
- Panda Plastic
- Water Pump
- Irrigation Hose

WICK SYSTEM ADVANTAGES:

It's automatic with no moving parts, so you won't have to fix it and tend it daily.

When attached to a reservoir, it is easily automated.

No over or underwatering. The system passively provides water to the roots as needed.

The condition of the garden soil or surface that the tray is sitting on doesn't matter. Just use planting mix in the containers.

Conserves both water and nutrients.

PHOTOS | 4) THE BIGGER THE TRAY MORE NYLON WICKS CAN BE ADDED.

5) THE CONTAINER SITS ABOVE THE TRAY RESTING ON A BLOCK SUCH AS AN INVERTED PLANTING CONTAINER, RUBBER/PLASTIC PALLET, PIECE OF STYROFOAM OR UNTREATED WOOD BLOCKS. A FLOAT VALVE REGULATES THE WATER LEVEL IN THE TRAY. ADD NUTRIENT WATER. YOUR SYSTEM IS READY TO GO.

6) WHITE PLASTIC COVERING STOPS MOST EVAPORATION AND KEEPS CONTAINERS COOL.



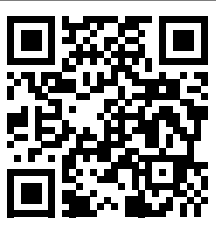
ENLARGING AND ENHANCING THE SYSTEM

A reservoir is placed above the level of the containers. A tube or pipe delivers water to each tray individually. A float valve is installed for each tray, so they are filled individually as needed, all the containers are irrigated from the one reservoir, saving time and energy. One reservoir can serve different size containers at different elevations, as long as the trays are placed below the reservoir level.

The moisture may have difficulty reaching the top if the soil planting container is more than 12" deep. A small submersible pump (100 gals/hour) can be placed in the bottom tray with tubing and emitters to moisten the soil surface. It should be controlled by a timer and on for a short period daily. Any excess water will drip back into the tray.

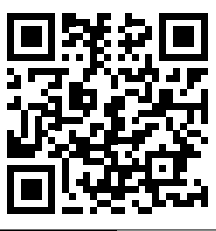
Terra-Cotta Auto-Waterers are useful for irrigating containers from the top. They are attached to irrigation tubing and then placed in the soil. Water slowly flows from the device until the soil surrounding it is moistened. This saturates a plastic that swells and blocks the water line. It shrinks as the area becomes drier, allowing the water to resume flowing.

I hope that you find these ideas and techniques helpful. Look for more in the next issue. •



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FRENCHY DREAMS OF HASHISH

A DOCUMENTARY FILM BY JAKE REMINGTON

WORDS | KIMBERLY HOOKS, JAKE REMINGTON, FRENCHY CANNOLI PHOTOS | JAKE REMINGTON

backstory in three parts:

A **MADAME CANNOLI:** As I remember it, after Frenchy started offering his Lost Art of the Hashishin* workshops in early 2015 to teach people how to make traditional hashish using the ice-water sieving methodology he perfected, we began receiving requests to create a video version for people who were not able to attend a workshop in person.

FRENCHY CANNOLI: I did not want a video of the workshop I was giving to an audience; I wanted to do a workshop specifically for the individual watching on a screen, a one-on-one through space and time. I wanted to make it personal, interesting, and beautiful so that while many will not have the ability to share a workshop

with me, they will nonetheless have access to the knowledge.

It finally came together at the beginning of last year (2017). My daughter introduced us to the cinematographic work of two very talented friends of hers, Jake Remington and Lance Steagall. We watched a ten-minute sizzler they made on Thai boxing in the Mecca of Mua Thai, a little island on the west coast of Thailand. Madame Cannoli and I lived long enough in Thailand to know the country well, and Belle, my apprentice, practices Mua Thai; we felt qualified enough to judge their work. It was impressive to see how much of the Thai culture they absorbed and how powerful their portrayal was. As for the struggle, hardship, and dedication to Thai boxing, it was so intensely represented that Belle was crying; the clip touched her to the core. We were sold.

We decided to meet and start shooting in Barcelona during Spannabis 2017. Quickly the project took a new dimension with a second

PHOTO | 1) FRENCHY WITH SMOKE



project. We wanted to create a video of yours truly making hashish that showcased the farmers who grew the plants as well. It was not to be just any video. I was looking for the type of intensity, beauty, and imagery impact I experienced watching Jiro Dreams of Sushi.

JAKE REMINGTON: This film didn't start as a film. It started as a walk, wandering around the streets of Barcelona with Frenchy, Kimberly, Océane, and Leo. I was there with my partner Lance to meet Frenchy and film his hash workshops at a few of the local cannabis clubs. The first thing I noticed about Frenchy was the maze of laugh lines that appeared on his face when he smiled and gave me a hug. I thought: this is a man who has been smiling his whole life. And his smile was contagious.

Frenchy, Leo, and Kimberly's knowledge and obsession with cannabis and hashish immediately blew my mind. I realized it was their life's work - day in and day out. They were in love with the plant. And their relationship was inspiring. During this trip to Barcelona, they told me stories of the Emerald Triangle - the good, the bad, and the ugly - and explained the confusing mess impending legalization had been causing. We agreed this moment in time must be documented because nobody knew where it was headed, and we may be witnessing the final days of the Emerald Triangle as it had been known.

MADAME CANNOLI: Watching Jake follow Frenchy around Barcelona,

an idea emerged - wouldn't it be cool if others could experience this too! To witness Frenchy's passion for the plant, how he extends that to everyone, a kind of secret cannabis community handshake where he passes "the overall sense of well-beingness" that he felt from smoking hashish to new friends as he traveled from one cannabis event to another spreading the message that for some people cannabis consumption just makes you feel better in your skin.

JAKE REMINGTON: A few months later, I rented the first of many rental cars from Hertz in Richmond, California, and Frenchy and I took our first of many trips to the Emerald Triangle together. Now the film had begun. It was a dimension brand new to me. The natural beauty of the place was stunning, and Frenchy introduced me to farmer after farmer and friend after friend. They all took us into their incredible homemade homes, welcoming us with big fat farmer joints. The characters I met and the conversations I witnessed felt like a film. There was so much passion and wisdom found in all topics of conversation. Frenchy and I would drive from farm to farm through bucolic landscapes and wild dirt roads, tasting the latest buds gifted by Casey or Leo or Swami sprinkled with Frenchy's immaculate, turbo-charged hashish - usually created from those same buds. Those joints were masterpieces, and I will always cherish the endless conversation Frenchy and I had in those rental cars. But once we hit Bell Springs Road, or we were deep in the Lost Coast, we would turn off the music and roll down the windows - we would sit in comfortable stoned silence,



PHOTOS | 2) FRENCHY EVALUATING PLANTS • 3) FRENCHY SMOKING CHILLUM
4) FRENCHY WITH HOOKAH



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driving slow, listening to the sounds of the paradise that surrounded us.

MADAME CANNOLI: Quickly, our collaborative effort went from creating a series of educational videos on how to make and smoke hashish to documenting Frenchy’s work with the outdoor, organic cannabis farmers of the Emerald Triangle. The first year was magical. Then legalization went into effect, and the fires came. The magic evolved into heartbreaking betrayal and community tragedy.

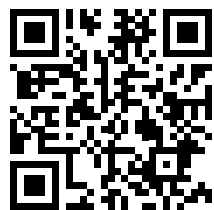
JAKE REMINGTON: The intention of the film is to highlight the ethos of sustainable farming and dedication to quality sun-grown cannabis shared by Frenchy and his farmers. During filming, California’s cannabis industry experienced waves of change that negatively affected and threatened the livelihood of the small farmers Frenchy worked with. This maelstrom of bureaucracy and hypocrisy forms the context of the film in which Frenchy and the farmers’ fight for quality – and survival – intensified. Unfortunately, the mistreatment of small cannabis farmers

“WE DECIDED TO MEET AND START SHOOTING IN BARCELONA DURING SPANNABIS 2017. QUICKLY THE PROJECT TOOK A NEW DIMENSION WITH A SECOND PROJECT. WE WANTED TO CREATE A VIDEO OF YOURS TRULY MAKING HASHISH THAT SHOWCASED THE FARMERS WHO GREW THE PLANTS AS WELL. IT WAS NOT TO BE JUST ANY VIDEO. I WAS LOOKING FOR THE TYPE OF INTENSITY, BEAUTY, AND IMAGERY IMPACT I EXPERIENCED WATCHING JIRO DREAMS OF SUSHI.”

FRENCHY CANNOLI

is still happening today, and with the release of this documentary, we hope to bring awareness and change to the situation.

MADAME CANNOLI: It took us five years to get to the point where we were ready to share the film with other people. The film has been shaped by dead-ends and the kind feedback from a theater director friend who watched the footage when it was a multi-part series and sent me 12 pages of notes that became a friendly wake-up call to redirect us. The pandemic gave Jake the space and concentration to craft the voices of our farmer friends into this amazing dialogue, a communal love song that encompasses so much more than just cannabis. It’s a beautiful testimony to who Frenchy was as well as a collective celebration of community and a warning for the future of this plant and the planet. I think we’ve done well, and I’m so proud to share Frenchy’s love story for the farmers of the Emerald Triangle with the world. •



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We hope to release the film via online streaming in the spring of 2023. Sign up to receive an alert when it is available at frenchydreamsofhashish.com/streaming

PHOTO | 5) FRENCHY LOST COAST



STRAIN REPORT

SOUR AFGHAN

WORDS & PHOTOS | NIKKI LASTRETO

We feel blessed to have received these precious seeds from our friend and breeder extraordinaire, Daniel Morford from Heartrock Mountain Farm in Mendocino County. It is an honor to carefully cultivate them into big luscious plants. Both Swami and I have deep memories of being in Afghanistan in the 1970s, on the exotic “Hippie Trail,” when they still had a King. We smoked the best hashish in the world there and now it feels we have come full circle, from Kabul to California.

As told to me by Daniel, Sour Afghan is a Big Red x Blueberry Northern Lights x Sour Diesel mix. That’s a lot going on. I highly recommend these flowers for the sophisticated smoker who appreciates a complicated layered smoking experience. You can expect to kick back, get cozy, listen to music, and let your sensations overtake you.

The lineages of this farm and this cultivar read like a novel. Heartrock Mountain Farm is a multigenerational family operation, established by Father and Son in 1976. Now Father is a grandfather and Son a father of three. They have bred their own seeds for decades and pride themselves in their craft. “We put our hearts and souls into the dirt here. When someone loves what they do, you can really tell the difference.” This level of care is obvious in the quality of their seeds.

About the Sour Afghan, Daniel explained, “The Big Red is a heritage cultivar from the “Jade” stock my dad made by crossing a South America / Mexican with an Afghani. I used a male from that line to cross into the BBNL5 and then crossed in Sour Diesel. Then I inbred several generations, choosing females that smell like the old Jade lines & Afghani Skunk with hints of spice.”

The results made the years of dedication well worth it. The seeds have developed into healthy and happy plants with great structure. They are strong even in high winds and produce heavy sticky buds as big as a water bottle. If rains come early, we do need to keep a close eye on those dense buds but so far they seem quite resilient to mold, Mildew, and pests.

Sour Afghan is popular with trimmers too because she is easy to manicure. This is our second year growing her and her numbers hang steady in the mid-twenties for THC. Her Terpenes hover around 2% and are made up of slightly more than half beta-Myrcene and about 1/5th beta-Caryophyllene, with a few other terps in there. The heavy Myrcene makes you loosen up and feel very relaxed - a perfect end-of-day chill-out delight, that if you let your mind wander, you just might find yourself in a bazaar in old Kabul ...

As Daniel Morford, who is also a poet, told me, “When you cultivate love, it grows... and where love grows, so does everything else.” •



BREEDER:

DANIEL MORFORD AT HEARTROCK MOUNTAIN FARM

HEIGHT:

7’ -8’ HIGH AND BUSHY WITH LARGE BUDS EVEN ON LOWER BRANCHES

WEIGHT (YIELD):

AVERAGE 2-½ LBS. - 3 LBS.

FLOWERING TIME IN DAYS:

55 DAYS

SATIVA/INDICA/RUDERALIS/ ETC. RATIO:

75% INDICA AND 25% SATIVA EFFECTS

TASTE:

DRY HIT - MILD SOUR LEMON DROP / BURNED FLAVOR: MESQUITE, SOUR CREAM ,AND AIRPLANE GLUE ,AND MILD CHOCOLATE MINT - FLAVORS EVOLVE OVER THE JOURNEY OF THE JOINT

SCENT - BURNED/UNBURNED:

EARTHY, SOUR MILK, FINE LEATHER, YUZU JAPANESE TERIYAKI SAUCE, OVERRIPE ORANGE. ONCE BROKEN UP IT SMELLS OF CANDIED ORANGE PEEL AND SOUR LIQUEUR. BURNED, IT SMELLS LIKE GHEE BURNING IN A TIBETAN TEMPLE

WHAT THE DRIED BUD/ CRUMBLED BUD LOOKS LIKE:

THE DRIED BUD IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF MENDO MOUNTAIN CANNABIS - LOADED WITH TRICHOMES AND GLISTENING DIAMONDS, EQUALLY AMBER AND CLEAR, VERY SOLID HARD BUDS THAT ARE KHAKI GREEN AND RICH MILK CHOCOLATE BROWN HAIRS - CRUMBLED: BREAKS UP BEAUTIFULLY AND HAS AN OILY RESINOUS TEXTURE

SPEED OF HIGH ONSET:

EASY BODY RELAX RIGHT AWAY AND THEN MEDIUM LENGTH ONSET

DURATION OF HIGH:

ABOUT 90 MINUTE. QUALITY/TYPE OF HIGH: A VERY SMOOTH SMOKE WITH A CHILL BODY HIGH THAT WORKS ITS WAY UP FROM YOUR ANKLES TO YOUR CROWN. GIGGLY WITH A COZY LOVING FEELING. MELLOWS OUT INTO A SPACEY BLISS.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES:

SEDATING, RELAXING EFFECT, CAN HELP REDUCE PAIN AND INFLAMMATION, IT HAS ANALGESIC PROPERTIES, AND IS EVEN SAID TO BE ANTI-AGING.

STRAIN REPORT

HINDU LIGHTS AUTO

WORDS & PHOTOS | MARTIN WUEST



I came up with this idea after I had already hunted through the Hindu Kush Skunk stock for females to work with. Into the second week of flower, I discovered the most incredible HKS that I've ever seen in my own test grows, and I decided to start a reversal so that I could use her for pollen.

The next step was to check the vault for anything I have set aside that would pair well with the HKS. The Northern Lights that I had acquired in a trade caught my eye. I dropped a handful of seeds and found two identical and equally colorful, pungent, and impressive plants to rehome with the HKS reversal.

It wasn't easy waiting for these plants to finish their cycle so that we could harvest the seeds. Testing the progeny revealed what we already expected from the cross; the old heads are gonna love this. Everybody is gonna love this. •

STRAIN NAME:
HINDU LIGHTS AUTO

BREEDER:
SOFEM GENETICS

HEIGHT:
MEDIUM HEIGHT, BUSHY

WEIGHT (YIELD):
HIGH YIELDING, AVERAGE
4-6 OZ PER PLANT DRY.

FLOWERING TIME IN DAYS:
90 DAYS IS THE AVERAGE
FLOWERING TIME IN 5 GAL
BUCKETS. LARGER POTS
MAY EXTEND HER SIZE AND
LIFE CYCLE BY KEEPING
HER IN VEG LONGER

**SATIVA/INDICA/
RUDERALIS/ETC. RATIO:**
INDICA DOMINANT HYBRID
AUTO-FLOWERING

**TASTE (BURNED
AND UNBURNED):**
LIGHT, SMOOTH, EARTHY

SCENT (BURNED/UNBURNED):
ON THE LOUD SIDE WITH
SOME FRUIT AND CITRUS
UNDERTONES. CLASSIC
HINDU KUSH SMELL BUT
LOUDER. SOME WILL LEAN
MORE ON THE CREAMY
SIDE THAN OTHERS

SPEED OF HIGH ONSET:
QUICK, ALMOST IMMEDIATE
DURATION OF HIGH: 3-5
HOURS FOR MOST SMOKERS

QUALITY/TYPE OF HIGH:
MINDFUL, CALMING, CREATIVE

MEDICINAL QUALITIES:
MAY HELP WITH SLEEP
RELATED ISSUES, PAIN,
AND ANXIETY. POUND
GENETICS 2020



STRAIN REPORT

NIGHTMARE COOKIES X BLUE POWER HASH RESIN

WORDS | KATHERINE WOLF PHOTOS | STACK'D PHOTOGRAPHY

SKÖRD has become a household name amongst Washington stoners, known for their extensive pheno hunting processes for flower and in-house solvent extraction method dubbed “Phö.” While the brand’s current focus in the concentrates space is on Terp Sugars & Badders made with hydrocarbon extractions, SKÖRD recently ventured into solventless territory with a limited-time rosin drop in collaboration with SinCity Seeds.

Blue Power is the flagship strain over at Las Vegas-based SinCity Seeds—a household name in its own right when it comes to the world of breeding—crossing (Sour Dubb x Master Kush) x (The White x Blue Moonshine). The taste and smell are extremely unique; sweet and sour on the inhale with a burst of kushy notes on the nose, followed by flavors of rich vanilla and ripe blueberries on the exhale.

Nightmare Cookies (Platinum Girl Scout Cookies x White Nightmare) is a classic in the SKÖRD flower lineup, responsible for much of the cultivator’s early success after stepping onto the recreational scene back in 2015. Initially bred by SinCity, they also did the crossing to create Nightmare Cookies x Blue Power as an unreleased variety exclusively for the SKÖRD team.

This new creation carries over many of the original sweet cookie terps with a fresh new funk from the blueberry. First impressions are reminiscent of Cookies & Cream ice cream, followed by undertones of gas and a sugary



yet slightly earthy aroma of berries and Haze from the White Nightmare.

She’s not a huge yielder in the grow room, but the nugs produced are of the utmost quality—boasting dense, super frosty buds that take on a platinum hue with very slight purpling during flower. Once washed and pressed, the rosin has a terp profile that pairs deep cookies gas with fruit and funk. Opening the jar smells like stumbling onto a pick-your-own berry patch, but

those sour and spicy undertones get more robust with each agitation. The smoke is thick and creamy on the exhale with an aftertaste of fruit, just like slurping down the sugary milk after a bowl of Blueberry Frosted Mini-Wheats.

Nightmare Cookies tends to be very uplifting, while Blue Power is more relaxing and sedative, combining to create a perfectly even-keeled hybrid effect. So, this strain’s suggested use depends on your mood and environment: the euphoric energy can help you power through the mundane tasks on your to-list after a wake-and-bake sesh, or you may find yourself couch-locked with cartoons after a few post-work globs. •

STRAIN:

NIGHTMARE COOKIES X BLUE POWER

BREEDER:

SINCITY SEEDS

CULTIVATOR:

SKÖRD

HEIGHT:

4-5 FEET, REALLY STRETCHES DURING FLOWER

WEIGHT:

LOW YIELDER

FLOWERING TIME:

56 DAYS

SATIVA/INDICA RATIO:

50/50 HYBRID

ONSET TIME:

IMMEDIATE

LENGTH OF EFFECTS:

2+ HOURS

MEDICINAL PROPERTIES:
UPLIFTING AND RELAXING

TASTES LIKE:

THE FIRST BITE OF A FRESH-BAKED BLUEBERRY PIE

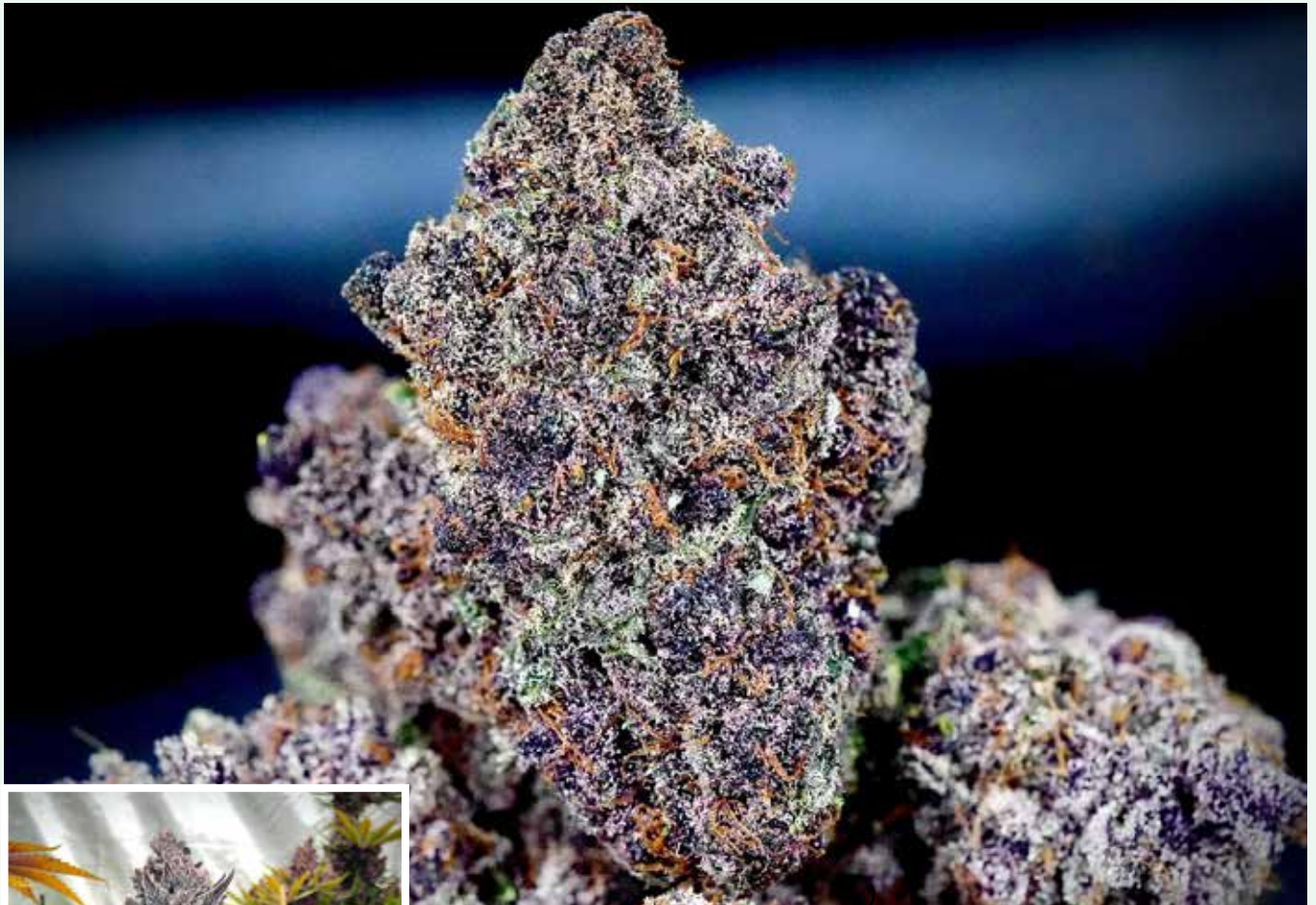
SMELLS LIKE:

PULLING UP TO A GAS STATION NEXT TO THE BERRY PATCH

STRAIN REPORT

SUPER BUFF CHERRY 26

WORDS | INSANE SEEDS PHOTO | GROW MORE



Super Buff Cherry #26 was created by crossing Blockberry - Super Boof Cut (Black Cherry Punch X Tropicanna Cookies) with Relentless Genetics Tropicanna Cherry (Tropicanna Cookies x Cherry Cookies f3).

Firstly I want to give a huge shot out to the breeders of those incredible genetics I cross. As you can observe from the lineage, there are a lot of Tropicanna Cookies & Cherries in the mix.

I'm very confident that with this cross, I took the best of those incredible genetics, pushed them to the next level, and created something spectacular, Super Buff Cherry!!!

Hunting Super Buff Cherry was a fantastic experience, and I stumbled on a lot of unique phenotypes that were bursting with color and flavors.

I ended this pheno-hunt by finding my keeper on pheno #26 out of 33 seeds.

Super Buff Cherry #26 it's a fantastic vigorous plant on Veg that will create thick lateral branches.

She is a pleasure to Veg her since she is so easy. She gives us growers many beautiful tops and an easy-to-manage flat canopy.

She transitions into flower very quickly, and you will find some beautiful purple flowers as soon as day 14.

Later in flower, she starts packing quickly, putting out a show.

You can expect a lot of color and frost out of her.

She is an early finisher, and she is ready to harvest by day 56, an actual eight weeks flower plant.

The buds are pink, dense, and super frosty with a tropical fruity smell & taste.

She is a perfect 50/50 hybrid that tests around 26%+ THC and washes very well. •

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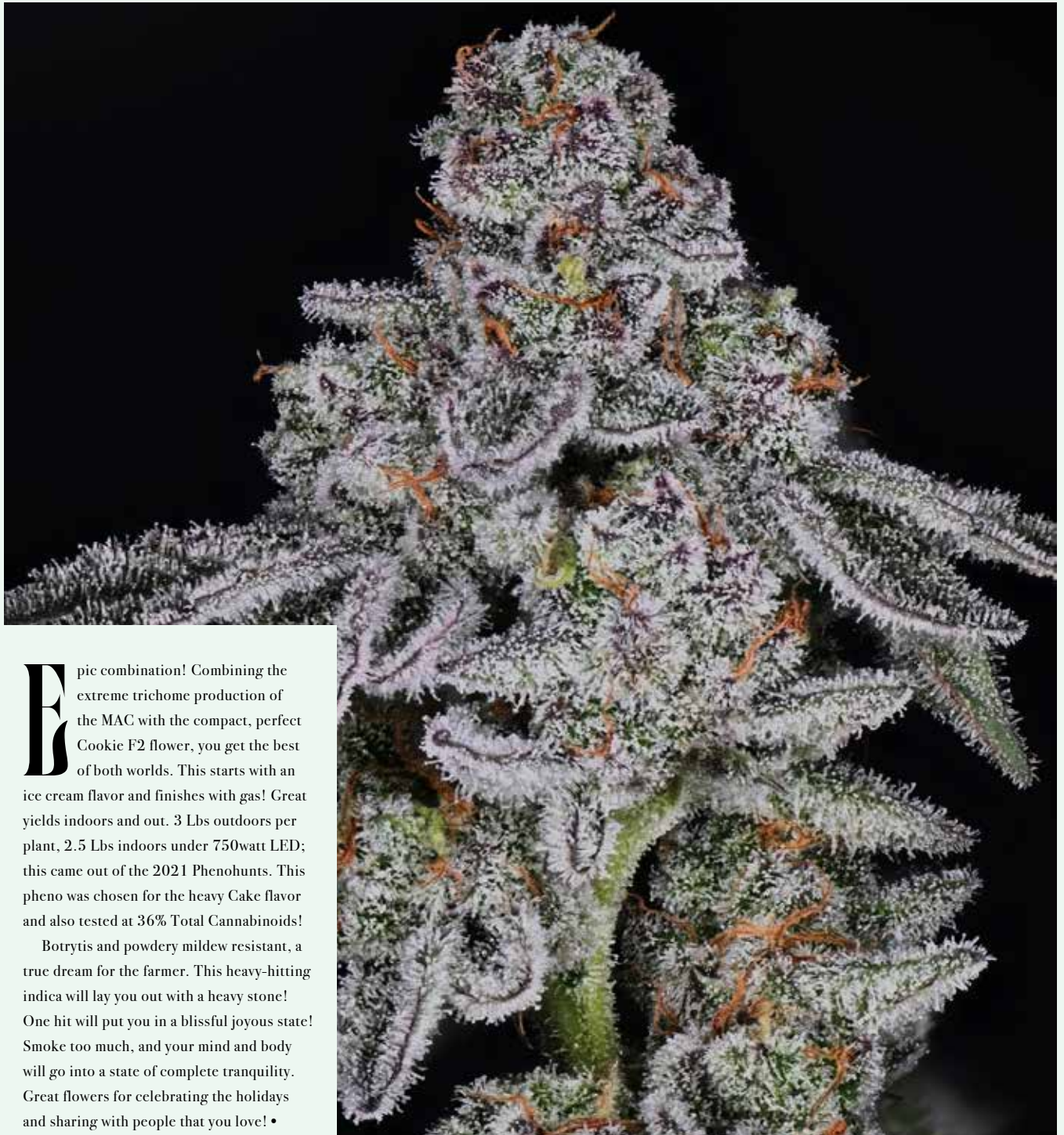
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STRAIN REPORT

MAC CAKE

{MAC X COOKIE F2} 9 WEEKS

WORDS | FRANK T PHOTO | @XENOGROWS



Epic combination! Combining the extreme trichome production of the MAC with the compact, perfect Cookie F2 flower, you get the best of both worlds. This starts with an ice cream flavor and finishes with gas! Great yields indoors and out. 3 Lbs outdoors per plant, 2.5 Lbs indoors under 750watt LED; this came out of the 2021 Phenohunts. This pheno was chosen for the heavy Cake flavor and also tested at 36% Total Cannabinoids!

Botrytis and powdery mildew resistant, a true dream for the farmer. This heavy-hitting indica will lay you out with a heavy stone! One hit will put you in a blissful joyous state! Smoke too much, and your mind and body will go into a state of complete tranquility. Great flowers for celebrating the holidays and sharing with people that you love! •

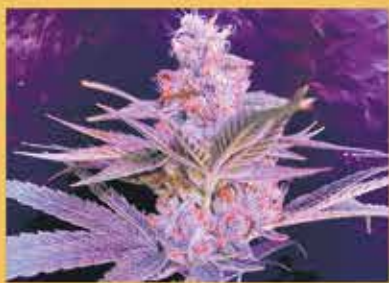


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STRAIN REPORT

COMMUNION {F7} FEMINIZED
TASTES LIKE WINE, FEELS LIKE HEAVEN

WORDS | J. WARD | PHOTOS | JAKE W. - ROMULAN GENETICS





Romulan Genetics has been making cultivars since 2017 with a focus towards creating Cannabis with medicinal qualities as well as finding unique effects, tastes, and smells unlike anything experienced before. One of their most popular original creations, Communion, has been creating quite a buzz since its release several years ago. Known for its exquisite Wine tastes and smells, as well as its incredible hybrid effects, Communion is excellent for consuming any time of the day without bringing you any negative side effects that could make you regret your decision.

Communion in flower, puts off a wonderfully intoxicating fruity smell that is extremely pungent and can be experienced very far away from your greenhouse. Even in the vegetative stage Communion has a very potent and delicious smell, giving hints of things to come for growers who are giving her their first try. But in the flowering stage, which lasts from 9 to 10 weeks, she puts off such a strong odor that you may find even your

brand-new carbon filters are no match for containing the stench. Her yields can be on the average to high side, but the gorgeous bag appeal and strong odor are what truly set her aside. Frosty white buds, with hints of purple hues, and bright orange hairs pair well with a strong nose tingling grape-wine smell that people find to be

very unique to this strain alone. Commercial growers and dispensaries have reported that even though she is mostly unknown by name, she sells herself by looks and smell alone. Several have said it has become difficult to keep Communion stocked on shelves for those distributing this strain, due to her popularity and high demand. Communion grows similar to the old dwarf Sativas of the 1980's. Her leaves show off her strong Sativa lineage, but her effects and overall stature will remind growers of the Indica dominant strains from the 1990's.

You will remember smoking Communion from the very first time you try it. With a truly unique terpene profile, her smells and tastes are unlike any other strain. Its rare these days to find a unique smell or taste of Cannabis, as so many breeders seem to be using the exact same clones and genetics for all of their different breeding projects, and when you do find something truly different it stands out. Communion definitely stands out with her looks and her smells, but her effects are also special and truly a blessing to experience. Happy is the best word I can find

for how it makes me feel. Stress and anxiety melt away within seconds of the first toke, and as it settles into you waves of relaxation flow through your body. Its like doing yoga on top of the highest mountain at sunset on the most beautiful day ever. You feel at peace, at ease, and able to smile at just about anything. No lack of patience with anyone or anything, no anger or animosity can arise, everything feels like it should; serene. It is reminiscent of taking Communion for me. That feeling of being washed clean, inside and out, like your soul has been refreshed and your mind made new again. The effects of Communion last for hours, with a gentle taper down and no real side effects to be experienced. High consumption will only exacerbate these feelings, and smokers who prefer feeling completely saturated will truly enjoy Communion and her ability to satisfy even the stoniest of the stoners.

When Romulan Genetics started out creating this project they had every intention of making something special. Nothing created at

Romulan Genetics is done without specific intentions and goals in mind, and many projects have been scrapped and moved on from simply because the high standards and expectations fell short. But not with Communion, she was special and it was clear from the first stages of her creation. Starting off with a Durban Poison selection, hunted from older seeds, Romulan Genetics mated it with a Grapestomper OC. Those plants

were eventually hunted through for the absolute best selection with the most unique flavors and smells, before being paired with Romulan in an effort to bring her very desired effects into the genetics. The outcome was better than what was hoped for, and the F1 progeny has created some of the most stable and beautiful plants to come from a feminized strain that Romulan Genetics has ever made. The focus at Romulan Genetics is almost solely on the creation of regular photoperiod seeds, and feminized seeds are just something that they rarely release. The last time was in 2020, and it wasn't until September of 2022 that the high demand for more of these feminized Communion seeds forced Romulan Genetics to release a new batch. Its available now at many of their seed banks and also through their own website which delivers worldwide. But with the popularity growing, only time will tell how long it will remain available. If you're lucky enough to get your hands on some of these seeds, you too will understand why they gave it the name: Communion. •

STRAIN NAME:
COMMUNION (F1) FEMINIZED
(GRAPESTOMPER OG X DURBAN POISON) X ROMULAN
(INDICA DOMINANT) HYBRID

HEIGHT:
AVERAGE

WEIGHT:
ABOVE AVERAGE

FLOWERING TIME:
63-70 DAYS

TASTES:
SWEET, CANDY, WINE, GRAPE,

BABY BREATH, EARTH

SCENTS:
FRUITY, CANDIED GRAPE, AND SWEET WINE

VISUAL:
EXTREMELY FROST COVERED, PURPLE ACCENTS AND BRIGHT ORANGE HAIRS

EFFECTS:
QUICK ONSET, LONG-LASTING EFFECTS THAT ARE REMARKABLY UNIQUE.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES:
PAIN, NERVE ISSUES, DEPRESSION

STRAIN REPORT

LUNAR CHEESE

WORDS & PHOTOS | LUNA WHITCOMB

VARIETY NAME:

LUNAR CHEESE F1

AVAILABILITY:

LUNA SEED

BREEDER/ORIGIN:

LUNA WHITCOMB

SIZE:

MONSTER POTENTIAL. VERY WIDE

WEIGHT/YIELD:

HIGH YIELD

FLOWERING TIME:

6-65 DAYS

SATIVA/INDICA RATIO:

80/20 INDICA/SATIVA

LINEAGE:

UK CHEESE X BLUE KRYPTONITE

FLAVORS/SMELLS:

DEEP ROUND COMBINATION
OF FRUITS AND CHEESE

BAG APPEAL:

HIGH TRICHOME DENSITY

ONSET TIME:

IMMEDIATE

LENGTH OF EFFECTS:

3 HOURS PLUS

MEDICAL PROPERTIES:

PAIN KILLER, MUSCLE RELAXER

LINEAGE AND HISTORY

BREEDING MALE DETAILS:

A single male blue kryptonite was meticulously selected during a huge phenotype hunt. He was very wide and vigorous and surrounded himself with a substantial aroma. To the touch, his limbs were firm and hearty. Structure-wise, his node spacing was tight and did not overly stretch like males tend to. His overall appearance was comparable to a female plant, shaped like a candelabra or menorah. Blue kryptonite is a cross of the legendary DJ Short's Blueberry on the rare and mysterious Kryptonite. Many well-known and respected genetics have been bred from the Blueberry line. The strong smell and flavor, in combination with high yield and bud size, have made blueberry a solid breeding choice. Kryptonite is very rare. Her origins and breeder are unknown, but her reputation makes her a sought-after and desired cultivar among familiar people. Potent and pungent, she leaves a long-lasting impression on the few who are privileged to encounter her. This particular cut of Blue Kryptonite, also known as Blue Nite, was acquired in the hills of Concow, California. A hot and humid climate. Since then, tragically, the area has experienced a serious wildfire. Whether the original cross and cut have survived is unknown.

BREEDING FEMALE DETAILS:

A single selected UK cheese clone was used as the breeding female. UK cheese is an original Skunk 1 phenotype. Selected for its unique cheese smell and mold-resistant characteristics. Making her an ideal choice for high humidity and colder temperatures. UK cheese is also known for monster-sized plants and heavy yields. Skunk 1 is another legendary genetic. Bred from a diverse family line, Skunk 1 is the product of persistent generational breeding. Her family lineage is Acapulco gold, Afghani, and Columbian gold. She is a true breeding achievement, making her a fantastic choice for a breeding mother.

LUNAR CHEESE GROWING INFORMATION

Lunar cheese is a monster. Her family line is radical, her bag appeal is phenomenal, and her aroma is unique. She yields like a bodybuilder, and she eats like one too. Give her a huge soil volume and watch her blow up. Feed her heavy, and make sure she has what she needs in late flower. She has a high demand when grown large. She likes it hot and humid outdoors. Once into flower, she will easily double in size horizontally and vertically. Don't underestimate her, prepare your trellis structures properly, and you won't be stuck with big buds breaking limbs late into flower. She brings out amazing purple and pink hues late into flower if nitrogen levels are low enough for proper senescence.

AFTERWORD

If you're interested in placing an order, please email me at Lunawhitcomb@gmail.com you can find my payment links here <https://linktr.ee/lunallday> Thank you for taking the time to read about this exciting new genetic to hit the scene. I'll be releasing other lunar cheese crosses that are truly magnificent in the future. Watch out for those, as their numbers are limited. Please follow my Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/lunallday/> and watch out for my new website coming out in the next couple of months. I'll be compiling and releasing killer grow tech and strategies. Much love!!! •





STRAIN REPORT PLEASURE

WORDS & PHOTOS | MICHAEL STRUPP AKA MENDO MIKEY LION

STRAIN NAME:
PLEASURE

BREEDER:
CRANE CITY GENETICS
DWEEBZ X ZHIT //
DWEEBZ= RUNTZ X
ITS FIRE // ITS FIRE=
ITZ X FIRE AS FUCK
// ZHIT= ZKITTLES
X UNDISCLOSED

HEIGHT:
SHORT TO MEDIUM
SIZED BUSHED WITH
GOOD LATERAL GROWTH

WEIGHT (YIELD):
MEDIUM YIELD
60-70 G/FT2

FLOWER TIME IN DAYS:
48-54 DAYS

**SATIVA/INDICA/
RUDERALIS:**
INDICA DOMINANT

DESCRIPTION:
THE PLEASURE IS AN EASY TO CLONE BUT AVERAGE VEGGING PLANT. IT LIKES TO GROW Laterally along with its vertical growth and tends to price nice medium sized bushes. It only stretches 25%-40% after flip. Under the LED light she offers an early bud set which helps to lend to her shorter flowering times. The seeds were gifted by the homie and Crane City Genetics and popped in early December 2021. What really stands out is the incredibly unique and complex candy gas terpene profile that is truly different from everything else currently on the market. It's rare to find such a complete exotic strain with such short a flowering time. A pleasure for grower and consumer alike.



TASTE (BURNED/UNBURNED):
ONE OF THE BEST THINGS ABOUT THIS STRAIN IS HOW MANY LAYERS THERE ARE TO THE NOSE AND FLAVOR. EVERY TIME I STICK MY NOSE IN THE JAR SOMETHING NEW POPS OUT AT ME. WHEN BURNED THERE IS A DOMINANT CANDY GAS FLAVOR WITH SOME DEFINITE NOTE OF CAKE AND LEMONS. A LITTLE TARTS FROSTING WITH FRESH MINT AND FUEL. THE DRY HIT EXPRESSES A LOT OF THE FLAVORS COMING THROUGH IN THE NOSE- PLEASE SEE NEXT LINE

SCENT (BURNED/UNBURNED):
THE UNBURNED SCENT HAS NOTES OF LEMON POUND CAKE WITH TART ICING, ORANGE SKITTLES, FRESH CUT GRAPEFRUIT GUMMIES, DRIED APRICOT, PINK LEMONADE, WHITE

NECTARINE, STONE FRUIT, AND A SLIGHT MINTINESS. THERE'S GAS THERE BUT ITS HEAVILY OVERSHADOWED BY ALL THE CANDY TERPS. WHEN BURNED YOU SMELL A LOT MORE OF THE CANDY, CAKE, GAS COMING THROUGH

WHAT DRIED CRUMBLED BUD LOOKS LIKE:
THE BUDS ARE MORE ROUNDED THAN ELONGATED AND HAVE POINTS COMING OFF LIKE A CROSS BETWEEN SFV OG AND RUNTZ. IT HAS A GREENER DOMINANT COLOR WITH PURPLE CALYXES AND IS SO FROSTY IT GIVES EMITS A SILVERY SHEEN. WHEN BROKEN UP AND GROUND THE COLORS REALLY COME OUT AND IT LOOKS WAY MORE PURPLE THAN WHEN IN FULL FLOWER FORM. LOTS OF PINKS AND MAGENTA'S ARE ALSO PRESENT. A TRUE RAINBOW PHENO. SPEED OF HIGH ONSET- THIS ONE HITS YOU

FAST AND HARD WITH A HEAVY PRESSURE APPLIED BEHIND THE EYES. NOT UNCOMMON TO PUT OUT THE DOOBIE TO COME BACK FOR A LATER SESH

DURATION OF HIGH:
2-3 HOURS

QUALITY/TYPE OF HIGH:
THIS STRAIN PRODUCES A LONG CALMING NARCOTIC HIGH WHILE KEEPING YOUR THOUGHTS CLEAR ENOUGH TO BE SEMI PRODUCTIVE.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES:
GOOD FOR RELAXATION, SLEEP, AND WINDING DOWN. ENJOY WITH GREAT FRIENDS AND GOOD FOOD. PAIRS WELL WITH QUALITY PEOPLES •

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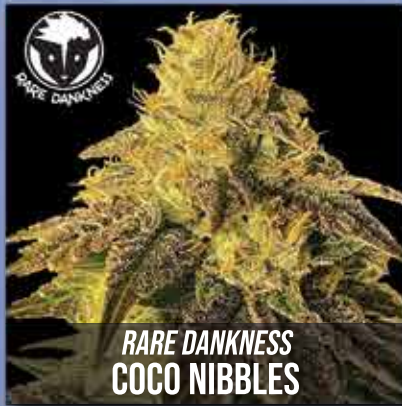
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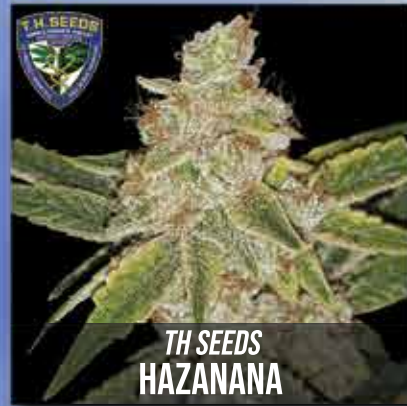
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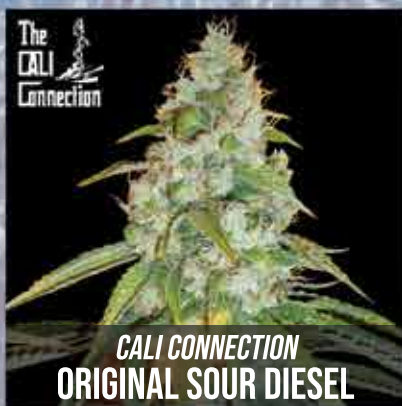
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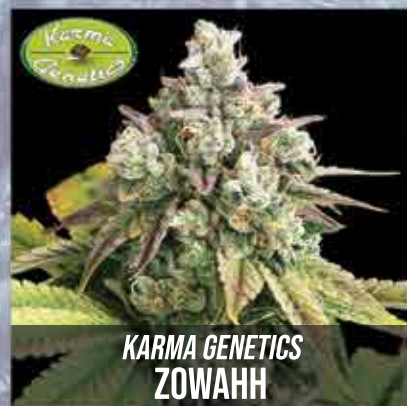
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STRAIN REPORT

SUPREME GELATO

WORDS & PHOTOS | LAURA & MARTY CLEIN (MARTYJUANA FARMS)



Supreme has been the baseline of cultivars at Martyjuana for 20 years. Our very 1st year as medical patients in California our friend & mentor, Mark Chapman, shared 15 Supreme plants with us grown from seeds he ordered out of Cannabis Culture magazine and sent from Canada. One of them was male & that was beginning of the road for our cannabis breeding project.

The Church seeds were gifted by a confidential LA source whose warehouses stored rock band equipment, including at the time Melissa Etheridge, Guns & Roses & Cypress Hill, among others. Smoking the Church blew us away, this indica heavy cross was the best high we'd had since encountering the Supreme.

At a seed swap in 2020 Marty lucked into Jet Fuel Gelato as well as Blueberry Octane seeds from Compound Genetics. Both quickly became house favorites!! Bred originally for indoor rooms, but they showed their versatility & strength in our sungrown garden. And their potent fire can be felt immediately while smoking in our glass bowl. Tall sturdy plants & big sticky stinky buds, those guys are creating powerful hybrid genetics.

We were able to cross a Supreme Church male into Jet Fuel Gelato females for these Supreme Gelato funky flowers. •

STRAIN NAME:
SUPREME GELATO

BREEDER:
MARTY HAND POLLINATES
DOMINANT MALES WITH
DOMINANT FEMALES
EVERY YEAR.

HEIGHT:
APPROX 9 FOOT IN 6X6"
RAISED PLANTER BED.
WEIGHT (YIELD):
APPROX 5LBS.
FLOWERING TIME IN DAYS:
SUNGROWN SEASON.

**SATIVA/INDICA/
RUDERALIS/ETC. RATIO:**
INDICA DOMINANT HYBRID.

**TASTE (BURNED AND
UNBURNED):**
GASSY ON THE FRONT END
BUT SMOOTH FINISH.

SCENT (BURNED / UNBURNED):
GASSY, SWEET, EARTHY,
SKUNKY FUNK TERPENES (TOP
3) BETA- CARYOPHELLENE,
LIMONENE, ALPHA-BISABOLOL.
WHAT THE DRIED BUD/
CRUMBLLED BUD LOOKS LIKE:
STICKY TIGHT MED SIZED
NUGS, NEEDS A GRINDER.

SPEED OF HIGH ONSET:
IMMEDIATE.

DURATION OF HIGH:
LONG LASTING, MAY
NEED A NAP.

QUALITY/TYPE OF HIGH:
HEAVY DUTY.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES:
PAIN RELIEF, CALMING
ANTIDEPRESSANT, SEDATIVE.

PRIOR TO MOVING TO CALIFORNIA, MARTY WORKED AT FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDENS LOCATED IN MIAMI, FLORIDA. HE WAS EMPLOYED IN THE SEED DEPARTMENT THERE & WAS EASILY ABLE TO TRANSFER HIS KNOWLEDGE OF HAND POLLINATION TECHNIQUES & HE BREEDS FOR POTENCY.

SUPREME SEEDS FROM CANNABIS CULTURE MAGAZINE IN 2000 (SUPER SKUNK #1 X NORTHERN LIGHTS #4) X CHURCH SEEDS FROM B-REAL / CYPRESS HILL IN 2007 (BUBBA KUSH X OG KUSH) X JET FUEL GELATO SEEDS FROM COMPOUND GENETICS 2020





STRAIN REPORT

WESTPORTS GRAPE JUICE

WORDS & PHOTOS | CHAD WESTPORT



from each of the tightly stacked nodes, but the plant itself requires only minimal defoliation. The terpene profile develops early in flower and is reminiscent of a cotton-candy grape aroma. The flowers and surrounding leaves begin to turn purple later in flower, which is when the aromatic properties also begin to mature. Westports Grape Juice exhibits many desired qualities working in tandem to take consumers on a blissful wave of relaxation. Bud density, trichome coverage, bag appeal, and profile are all positive attributes people enjoy.

As a grower, the short flowering time, solid yields, and high calyx-to-leaf ratio make it a desirable option for the garden space. Concentrate producers will enjoy gazing at the sheath of trichomes enveloping each swollen flower. The flavor profile of Westports Grape Juice begins with a smooth, creamy inhale before it transforms itself on the exhale. The back end of the hit is where this strain earns its reputation. Consumers can expect a matured, earthy grape essence that coats the palate and lingers on the taste buds. On a dry hit, both the creaminess and grape flavors rise to the top.

Westports Grape Juice exhibits a similar terpene profile, although the grape is more pronounced in the jar. The odor wafting from the dried flowers is smooth and rounded. There are no sharp corners to disrupt the oncoming wave of relaxation. The onset of the effects is immediate. As the smoke rolls away from the lips, sensors all over the body feel a warm and comforting sensation. The mind remains clear, but Westports Grape Juice is great for slowing down those rushing thoughts. As you enjoy your next hit, worries begin to melt away, and the couch seems a little squishier. It's common to unwind the day and enjoy your favorite show while consuming Westports Grape Juice. These effects comfortably remain for a solid few hours before gently ramping down. Westports Grape Juice is primarily reported as an "evening" strain which denotes the potential benefits it offers with muscle pain, relaxation, sleep, and a general calming of the mind. •



Westports Grape Juice is an aromatic and trichome-capped strain from Twin Peaks Cannabis in the PNW. Using a common vegetative duration of 30 days, this plant grows to a medium height indoors. She is an excellent producer, with average yields of around 250-300 grams of dried flower. Flowering finished within 55-60 days after flipping the Westports Grape Juice into flower. Although the origins remain a trade secret, we can confidentially guesstimate the genetic influence as 80% indica/20% sativa.

Westports Grape Juice is a compact plant with strong limbs and performs well under many of the common plant training techniques. Vibrant green, wide-fingered leaves reach out

STRAIN REPORT

ZIPLOCK SEEDS

PINK TRUFFLES

WORDS | SHANOAH STANLEY | PHOTOS | SHANOAH STANLEY ZIPLOCK SEEDS



Pink Truffles is a unique strain that I created in Southern Oregon. It is very resilient to cold and wet climates where mold can be an issue, therefore it thrived in the Southern Oregon climates. It is a beautiful flower creating a top-notch strain, which uses both the best qualities of the parent genetics - which are Pink Runtz and White Truffle cut of Gorilla Butter f2. It grows fast and tall, which combined creates one of the larger yielding sativas of the season. THC hitting from 25 to 30% and CBD around 2% making this ideal for recreational market.

The flower is beautifully stunning cone shaped flowers, covered in large white heads - pink violet and purple colors. Sure to look amazing in your jar.

Four dominate phenos to be found in the seed hunts. Great washers with large sandy like heads.

Pink Truffles features an aroma that is sweet glue candy and gear oil terpenes. Analytics show it is dominate in Myrcene Caryophyllene Limonene Humulene & Bisabolo. Hops cinnamon orange lavender & chamomile. •

STRAIN NAME:
PINK TRUFFLES AKA
PINK PANTHER

LINEAGE:
WHITE TRUFFLE X PINK RUNTZ

ANALYTICS:
30% THC & 2.3% CBGA

HEIGHT:
ABOVE AVERAGE

WEIGHT (YIELD):
MEDIUM TO LARGE
FLOWERING TIME IN
DAYS: 8 TO 9 WEEKS

**SATIVA/INDICA/
RUDERALIS/ETC. RATIO:**
SATIVA

**TASTE (BURNED AND
UNBURNED):**
CHOCOLATE DIESEL AND
MARSHMELLOW PEEPS.

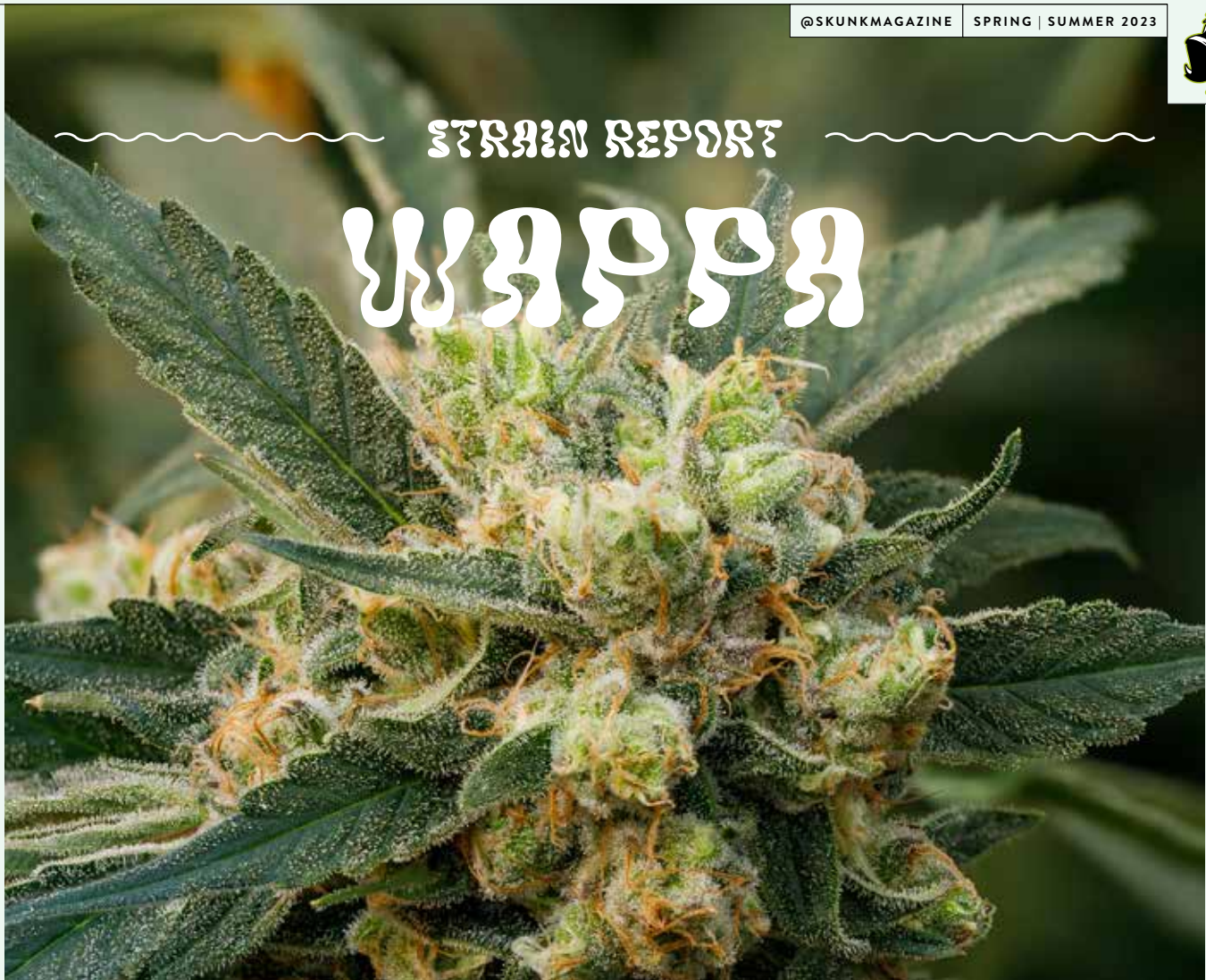
**WHAT THE DRIED BUD/
CRUMBLD BUD LOOKS LIKE:**
BUBBLY DENSE DARK VIOLET
WITH PINK FUZZ COLOR.
LARGE WHITE TRICHOME
HEADS COVERING EVERY
SURFACE OF FLOWER.
LARGE POINTY BUDS WITH
A LOW LEAF RATIO.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES:
UPLIFTING STRESS RELIEF
ANTI-INFLAMMATORY,
SMOKERS LIVING WITH
CHRONIC PAIN MAY WANT
TO GIVE THIS STRAIN A TRY IF
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR RELIEF.



STRAIN REPORT

WAPPA



WORDS | TIM PARADISE | PHOTOS | PARADISE SEEDS

Wappa was something of a slow burner when she was first released by Paradise in the 2010s. She took a bit of time to gain popularity, but once she did, it became a snowball that kept on rolling. Her all-around qualities, fast finish and adaptability to a range of climates, temperatures, and altitudes have cemented her following in the European growing community.

Skunk runs through the heart of Wappa (Sweet Skunk x Afghani Skunk), which leans slightly to the indica side. She's a hybrid renowned for being incredibly easy-going in the grow room, forgiving for beginners but providing the potential to maximize for experienced growers. This has made her a go to choice for many growers, from home cultivators to commercial producers.

While she thrives in Mediterranean zones, she also has many fans in northern European regions where its pest and mold resistant qualities and no-fuss performance sees it just as happy slumping it in cooler and wetter Fall conditions.

Her taste is sweet and fruity, and the high is quick and long-lasting, with a euphoric mindfulness and a body stone this is relaxing without throwing the user into a couch lock. •

STRAIN NAME:

WAPPA

BREEDER:

PARADISE SEEDS

HEIGHT:

120 CM

WEIGHT (YIELD):

110 GMS

FLOWERING TIME IN DAYS:

56 DAYS

SATIVA/INDICA/RUDERALIS/ ETC. RATIO:

60% INDICA, 40% SATIVA.

SPEED OF HIGH ONSET:

QUICK RELEASE INTENSITY.

DURATION OF HIGH:

2+ HOURS.

QUALITY/TYPE OF HIGH:

UPLIFTING AND FEEL GOOD WITH PLEASANT RELAXATION SENSATION.

MEDICINAL QUALITIES:

BRINGS POSITIVITY AND GOOD PAIN RELIEF TO WORK THROUGH THE DAY.

TASTE:

SWEET, CITRUS, CHERRY, STRAWBERRY.

SCENT:

INTENSE, CITRUS STINK BOMB.

APPEARANCE:

HARD, LONG THICK BUDS, LIGHT GREENS, AND PALE COLORS OFFSET WITH GINGER PISTILS

THE RETURN OF ORANGE TURBO

IN HONOR OF

DJANGO



&



FRENCHY

WORDS | NIKKI LASTRETO AND SWAMI CHAITANYA



It was a warm September afternoon back in 2015, just before harvest, when Frenchy Cannoli was visiting our ranch in the hills of Mendocino County. The ganja garden was glorious, with juicy buds reaching for the sun. It was as if a magnet pulled Frenchy to one specific plant - the Orange Turbo - and he instantly fell in love. We watched as he creased the buds with his eyes and nose and declared, "This will make excellent hashish." Frenchy always wanted to honor the farmer who grew the cannabis, saying the hash he created could only be as good as the flower from which it was made. And the farmer also pays homage to the breeder who produced the cultivar.

The seeds had come from Django Broomfield, the son of a dear friend who had been part of the same hippie commune family as the both of us in San Francisco back in the early seventies. We had watched Django grow up and eventually blossom into a top-notch grower and breeder. In 1996 he founded MTC Seeds, an award-winning company specializing in seeds grown with natural and organically derived materials. In 2015 we were blessed with some Orange Turbo seeds from his collection, and the plants looked fantastic and smelled divine.

After harvest and several months of a good long curing process, Frenchy returned to gather many bags of small buds, which he took home to wash and turn into his famous hashish. Like Frenchy, we had also lived in India, where we had developed a taste for the traditional charras, the dark black sticky hashish. We knew that if anyone could do it best, it would be Frenchy.

The Orange Turbo hashish was a super hit! Frenchy showcased it at

the 2016 Emerald Cup, where long lines of anxious customers waited for a taste and to take some home. But, of course, that was back in the good old days when we could sell directly to the consumer under medical laws. As Frenchy's wife, Kimberly Hooks, recalled, "We had a dab bar at the event where Frenchy and Belle [Frenchy's protégé] would share dabs of our offerings with anyone wanting to taste. There was a side table where I had all the boxed products available. It was such a great way for community artisans to share their bounty of the sun-grown, organic harvest from the talented and dedicated farmers of the Emerald Triangle."

People still talk about that mythic Orange Turbo Frenchy Cannoli hashish. John DeBlanc, a Frenchy fan, said, "The collaboration between Cami Cannoli and Swami Select led to some of the best hash I've smoked in my 40+ years of imbibing. I was so stoked to get that call from Frenchy telling me Swami still had some available. I'll never forget his laughing at me when I immediately said, "Sold!" Without waiting to hear the price. I miss him and that laugh; he would light a room just by being there. When he laughed, all was right with the world."

Just a few short years later, in 2020, dear Django, the incredible breeder, passed away after a long illness at the young age of 44. That was a huge loss to our community and his precious wife and daughters. Shara, Django's beautiful wife, has continued the legacy of MTC seeds and the memory of Django. In her words, "Django was one of the most driven and passionate people I've ever met. He devoted his life to this plant and put his heart and soul into creating new and unique strains."

PHOTOS | 1) ORANGE TURBO BY BRIAN PARK • 2) NIKKI & SWAMI HOLDING GIANT ORANGE TURBO BUD
3) FRENCHY CANNOLI - BY JUDSON MAYER



“AFTER HARVEST AND SEVERAL MONTHS OF A GOOD LONG CURING PROCESS, FRENCHY RETURNED TO GATHER MANY BAGS OF SMALL BUDS, WHICH HE TOOK HOME TO WASH AND TURN INTO HIS FAMOUS HASHISH. LIKE FRENCHY, WE HAD ALSO LIVED IN INDIA, WHERE WE HAD DEVELOPED A TASTE FOR THE TRADITIONAL CHARRAS, THE DARK BLACK STICKY HASHISH. WE KNEW THAT IF ANYONE COULD DO IT BEST, IT WOULD BE FRENCHY.”

NIKKI LASTRETO AND SWAMI CHAITANYA

Only a year later, in 2021, we all were shocked to hear of Frenchy’s passing. The great hashishin had left too soon, at the age of 64, leaving behind a grieving cannabis community and his loving wife and daughter. When such a great soul departs, there is a palpable hole in the tribe. But thanks to the hard work of his wife Kimberly, who faithfully keeps up the Frenchy Cannoli’s Lost Art of the Hashishin Facebook page and more, the community continues to thrive.

Sometime last winter, while considering cultivars for our garden, we discussed favorite strains from the past. Orange Turbo has always been in that category, but we didn’t even know if the seeds were still available. We had this idea that if we grew it in honor of Django, it would also be in honor of Frenchy if we had it made into traditional hashish, true Frenchy style.

And what better person to do that than Belle?

We first reached out to Shara, who assured us that she still had Orange Turbo seeds, so that was exciting. She also explained the history of this special cultivar: “Django created the Orange Turbo as a gift to me because Orange Crush was one of my favorite strains. He wanted to find me the perfect balance of citrus and gas. I believe he achieved it with this strain.”

We next asked Kimberly her opinion, and she instantly understood the importance and possibilities. She took it to the next level and posted on the Facebook page the suggestion that others might also want to purchase Orange Turbo seeds from MTC to try growing it in various terroirs across the globe and see how the hashish results varied. The idea took off like a flame to a hookah!

For the past months of the growing season, we have all shared photos of

Orange Turbo plants around the world. They tend to have large juicy buds and that delicious gassy orange perfume. It grew quicker in some places, and in others, it took more time. Cultivators are just now starting to turn it into hashish, and we all await photos. Who doesn’t love hash porn? In fact, for Frenchy’s #hashporn6 hashish photo beauty contest on 4/20/2023, there will be a new category dedicated to hashish/rosin made from Orange Turbo Group Grow participants. Stay tuned for that!

The final count of people who purchased seeds directly from MTC to be part of this global project is 346, although Shara says there are probably another 35-50 people who ordered from different seed banks. The countries with the most participants are the USA and Canada, followed by France and England. Thirteen other countries are

represented, including places as far as New Zealand, Australia, and Brazil and as small as Malta, Finland, and the Czech Republic. “I know Django would love this project and seeing results from all around the world,” said Shara, and I have no doubt Frenchy would feel the same. It is a true test of the different appellations and how they affect the final plant and product.

Once our flowers are fully cured, we will continue the tradition and pass some on to Belle and her team at Heritage Mendocino. That team includes Richard Setencich and Stephen Schulman, who will create hashish just as Frenchy would have liked it. Of course, we wish the amazing men Django Broomfield, and Frenchy Cannoli were here to taste it in person. Instead, we will honor them both as we raise our pipes high, light up, and say Ooh-La-la. •

▲ TRIANGLE KUSH ▲

WORDS & PHOTO | MARTY OF ORIGINS TK SELECTS

Way back in the late 80s, a young 17-year-old grower-surfer artist by the name of Marty was offered a trip of a lifetime by his then mentors to go to Amsterdam to carry back a bunch of seeds for them.

Fast forward a couple of years in South Florida, where Marty was given a chance to take over and run a full grow house for a while, which he willingly did. The crew he ran with were all slightly older and were busy setting up grows all over Florida; he started off as a trimmer-helper who happened to be able to sell lots of their indoor flower for them, which over time led to him becoming responsible for an entire grow.

During that time, he was popping and testing seeds they had taken back from Amsterdam together, and one batch was a small pack of Hindu Kush seeds from the Seed Bank.

He pre-sexed the seeds prior to setting them into a full 12-light room full of a strain called The Emerald Triangle, which was already around for years in his crew, but it wasn't really known what it was a cross of or the actual genetics. It was only known to have come from the WA area by an older guy in his crew's circles and had been around South Fl since the mid-'80s.

The Hindu Kush tester plants were placed near the door of the room, which was no longer accessible once the two handmade trellis nets were set up from wall to wall.

Little did Marty know that one of the Hindu testers was making some unseen pollen right next to the AC intake and was blown across the canopy and seeding the entire Emerald Triangle room.

He and his partner had yet to learn of this until harvest time when seeds started to fall into the trim bins, and at that point, they realized that there was some in every plant. He felt fully responsible since he was in charge at the time, so he decided to make sure he sold it all, which he had no problem doing.

Many of those pounds ended up going to his long-time surfing buddy @captkirkz



up near the Orlando, Florida area, who then pieced them out to his close circle at the time. One of those people, a tattoo artist named Dax, who worked out of Cornbread Ricky's then Tattoo parlor in Orlando, was who would stumble upon the actual (Triangle) Kush seed.

Dax would quickly realize the plant grew very lanky and made small buds, but it was something really special, so within that first year or so, he made sure to get clones back to Marty and his friend @Captkirkz to try out.

At first, they all simply called it the Triangle or even the Angle for short. Still, many years later, it had become quite popular among the Central Florida surfing/skating/wakeboard scenes and, at some point, became well known as the Triangle Kush by most.

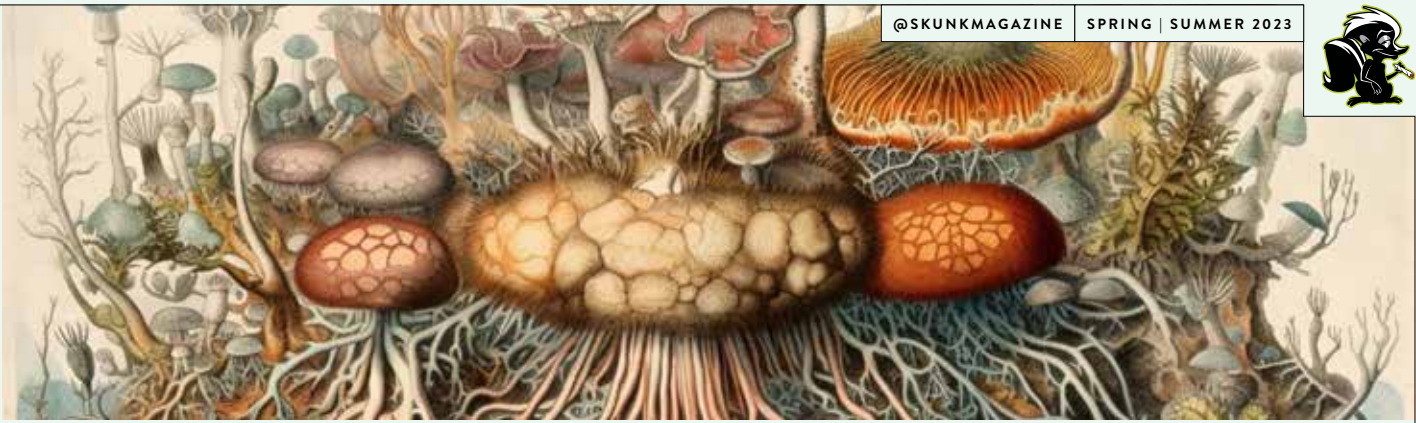
Those same seeded pounds that his friend was selling near Orlando would also happen to produce the very seed that would later become known as the Kush by a guy named

Alec Anderson, who bought a single ounce of the original seeded Emerald Triangle from those seeded pounds. That same seedling would end up getting snuck out to Southern California by Matt Bubba Berger and eventually become known as the OG Kush after Bubba, Josh D, Kenji, and B-Real of Cypress Hill had to rename it because of its popularity and because everyone started to name their strains The Kush to match the higher prices that this plant was demanding. The OG simply stood for the Original and had nothing to do with Original Gangster or Ocean Crown, as many seem to think.

The Triangle Kush and the OG Kush grow very similar to each other in height and stature. They are both very lanky and require lots of support, or they will simply fall over or even break once flowers are fully grown out. They have both become some of the most sought-after stinky flower on the planet when grown properly, and there is no question that they have helped shape the modern-day cannabis scene and the varieties we all love so much. •

“HE PRE-SEXED THE SEEDS PRIOR TO SETTING THEM INTO A FULL 12-LIGHT ROOM FULL OF A STRAIN CALLED THE EMERALD TRIANGLE, WHICH WAS ALREADY AROUND FOR YEARS IN HIS CREW, BUT IT WASN'T REALLY KNOWN WHAT IT WAS A CROSS OF OR THE ACTUAL GENETICS.”

MARTY OF ORIGINS TK SELECTS



YES, YOU CAN GROW, CULTIVATE, AND HARVEST YOUR OWN!

WORDS | MARYBETH SANCHEZ, AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE SPECIALIST

Most of us have heard of mycorrhizal fungus and are well aware of its vital importance to most crops grown worldwide. Knowing how essential these Mycorrhizal fungi are to plants health and vigor, we certainly want to make sure that they are present in our root zones at every planting and transplanting that we do. If we do a great deal of this, we may need to go through quite a lot of mycorrhizal fungus spores and propagules to get all of the plants sufficiently inoculated. If you have to purchase very much of these products, you will find that the costs can add up surprisingly quickly. For many of us, this can cause us to use less than we should, and our plants will suffer from the loss.

But many people were not aware that they could make their own, or rather cultivate their own, through relatively short and simple processes. The procedures can vary, but they have many similarities in their processes.

The ectomycorrhizal fungus is certainly the simplest type to propagate due to the fact that it is the type of fungus that makes visible fruiting bodies, known as mushrooms, which are easily collected.

These mushrooms, bits and pieces, are always covered in viable spores that have great potential to germinate when they are spread around in the environment. Particularly, if you add cut up bits of mushrooms to each planting hole you plant into.

In fact, you can drop all the mushrooms that you can find in the forests (except for the Honey Mushroom, AKA *Armillaria mellea*) into a blender, and pour that puree into a sprayer full of water and spray it out over all of your trees and shrubs. There is no overdose potential and no special procedure except that it be blended fine enough to pass through the sprayer apparatus. The results are often amazing improvements in the health of the plants who received the sprays.

Endomycorrhizal fungi can reproduce easily, from the spores and vesicles they grow inside inoculated plants roots. They survive in dead plant roots and can germinate

again when in contact with new living plant roots.

To collect indigenous endomycorrhizal fungus, you require a good set of soil sieves and time to take collections of soil from the locations where you know that indigenous mycorrhizal fungus was present. Of course, if you were incorrect, you would know after the sifting and checking the microscope images.

The sieves required are 750 micrometer mesh to do the initial sieving, followed by a 250 micrometer mesh for the second sieving, then a third pass through a 100 micrometer mesh sieve and FINALLY a pass through a 50 micrometer sieve, so that nothing but mycorrhizal spores remain in the sieve. You will need a microscope or powerful hand-lens to see them, but they should be there.

Another way to easily collect and use indigenous mycorrhizal fungi is simply to collect the roots, with the dry soil attached, and shake that soil into a container to run through the sieves, but also take that root mass and chop it into little pieces between approximately 1/4"-1/2" in length.

These dried root bits can be stored for up to a year in a cool, dry place. They can be used at any time during that period to inoculate any other suitable plant type by merely including them in the immediate root zone of every plant you put into your garden or your pots. They contain countless viable propagules and spores.



Now, also knowing that certain types of plants prefer specific strains of endomycorrhizal fungus, you can create your own cultures of those specific strains by first purchasing or obtaining them from a reputable source of high-quality mycorrhizal fungus. Then after inoculating your plants with those specific strains, you can collect them, by the methods just described previously. That way you know that if *Rhizophagus intraradices*, for instance, is the only strain that you really want, you can get as much of it as you want, by cultivating it in this method.

You can do this through more sterile procedures for more reliable results, and it's not a great deal more difficult.



“IF YOU WANT TO STERILIZE REGULAR SOILS, HEAT IT IN THE OVEN FOR AN HOUR AT APPROXIMATELY 350F, OR USE A PRESSURE COOKER FOR AN HOUR UNTIL TEMPERATURES OF 140F-158F (60C-70C) ARE ACHIEVED.”

MARYBETH SANCHEZ

BY FOLLOWING THE “GREENHOUSE METHOD”, YOU CAN ACHIEVE A GREAT DEAL OF SUCCESS.

You would start with assembling the required equipment to begin the process:

- * PLASTIC POTS (6”-10” DIAMETER IS IDEAL)
- * HOST PLANT SEEDS
- * PAPER TOWELS
- * PLASTIC BAGS
- * STERILE GROWING MEDIUM
- * COMMERCIAL MYCORRHIZAL INOCULUM
- * LOW-PHOSPHORUS, LOW-NITROGEN FERTILIZER

First you must sterilize the plastic pots to remove any living bacteria which would compete with the mycorrhizal fungus and possibly prevent successful germination.

Next, thoroughly rinse off any disinfectant from the sterilized pots. After that, Soak the host seeds for only 5 minutes, in a solution of 1 part bleach to 9 parts water. It’s important that the bleach is a 5% concentration listed on the bottle!

Then rinse those seeds thoroughly in sterile water (any water that has been boiled and allowed to cool).

The next step is to take the soaked, rinsed seeds and to place them between two paper towels, which will be then placed into some sort of ziplock type bag to maintain sterility through the germination process.

Once the seeds have germinated, plant them into the pots in their sterile growing medium. One part peat moss to 3 parts vermiculite is a good sterile medium. Rock wool is also acceptable (pre-soaked, of course) or coarse-grade, clean sand or regular sterilized soil.

If you want to sterilize regular soils, heat it in the oven for an hour at approximately 350F, or use a pressure cooker for an hour until temperatures of 140F-158F (60C-70C) are achieved.

It’s very important that the medium be free of phosphorus and nitrogen in order to facilitate the germination of the fungus.

When your host plants are growing, you will need to feed them periodically, of course, but be sure that your total phosphorus percentage of the fertilizer that you are using doesn’t exceed 6 percent total from all sources. Some good food sources include Fish Emulsion, Soybean Meal or Alfalfa Meal, which all contain appropriate, safe amounts of phosphorus. Compost and compost teas are good plant food which will ensure that you don’t have excess phosphorus available.

You should expect to have colonization by this method within approximately 6 weeks.

After approximately 14 weeks, stop watering and allow the growing medium to get completely dry.

Around the 16-week point, it’s time to shake the dried dirt off the dead rootstock sift through the sets of soil sieves mentioned earlier. Save all the spores from the 50 micrometer sieve and store in a cool and dried place for up to a year.

After this, the final step is to chop up the roots themselves into tiny pieces (1/4”-1/2” ideally). These pieces should also be stored in a cool and dry place until you are ready to use them as you would any commercially prepared inoculum. It is good for up to a year, in storage, as long as it’s kept in appropriate conditions. •



SPORES PLAY DICE

RESISTANCE TESTING MATTERS FOR CANNABIS IPM

WORDS | MATTHEW GATES



It is tempting to see something desirable through intuition and observation. Growers are some of the most resourceful and attuned people on Earth to the landscape. For millennia, they have been a foundation of human civilization through the cultivation and domestication of plants, including cannabis—this extremely versatile crop. Despite this ancestral feat, an unfortunate realization has developed in an ever-increasing search for knowledge about how life adapts to overcome challenges: genes influence the traits we want, but their effects can be imperceptible and highly dependent on other genes and variables. Many traits selected for naturally were not emphasized by humans as cannabis from even a few centuries ago looked very different from the chunked, aromatic inflorescences that blanket the cannasphere in 2022.

Decades of ecological and agricultural research have culminated in a systematic approach to protecting plants called Integrated Pest Management. It is a process by which growers prevent and treat pests by implementing multiple measures to avoid, damage, and suppress pests, considering everything from operating procedure, setup, the use of biological agents, and even selection for resistant cultivars. Ideally, plants that are inherently tolerant of pests or can effectively limit their development are easier to maintain. But resistance is a complex subject predicated on genetic factors that aren't easy to verify in the field, much to

the chagrin of ardent, avid cultivators enthusiastic about such prospects.

Even thousands of years ago, humans supported cannabis to a degree different from any other symbiotic relationship it had previously. A time during which many genes related to defense against pathogens and other parasites like insects and mites became less critical to absolute survival and reproduction. Plants that under-expressed, lost, or otherwise changed the function of these genes still reproduced, particularly if they had other appealing traits, resulting in nominally less-independent populations. This trend has happened in most domesticated crops, often dramatically. Such as with maize, one of the reasons breeding with landrace or specific populations that are exposed to certain challenges makes for prime resistance candidates—yet like in natural settings, developing in exposed environments is not enough to bring durable defenses to commercial and residential populations. There are several reasons that are broadly relevant to all pests, but particularly true of microbial pathogens like fungal powdery mildews, Botrytis, and other sources of bud rot, as well as the increasingly baleful presence of conventionally incurable viruses.

Microbes are gamblers, and every spore is a roll of mutational dice. Billions of fungal spores develop on thousands of unique cannabis cultivars throughout myriad complex environments over a single growing season. They biohack their hosts with a penetrating brute force technique.

We know it's a winning stratagem even for plants since seed-producing land plants developed from spore-producing ones many millions of years ago. Plants adapt to their environments, but often at a significantly slower pace, as much more metabolic energy is required for each seed. In the case of cannabis, death naturally follows flowering. In no uncertain terms, evolutionary changes are happening across cannabis and its many associating organisms in various environments. While these changes spread comparatively slowly in pre-history, an interconnected world has facilitated the way parasites and hosts evolve by exposing them to more varied contexts with alacrity.

For example, there are several powdery mildews that infect cannabis. These fungi have a massive proportion of genes devoted to suppressing the plant immune system by producing compounds and proteins collectively called "virulence factors." In a revolting display of soil microbiome ingenuity, powdery mildew shares ancestry with some mycorrhizae and saprophytes that eat dead plant matter. These traits originate from exploiting a useful cooperative pathway baked into plant physiology over literal ages. Special regions in the genome of powdery mildews contain these virulent genes where they mutate and multiply rapidly, even in a moving position, creating radical new expressions. Not all spores are effective, but successful populations split from their original culture, asexually reproduce and mutate, refining into many highly specialized strains to which one cultivar may only resist a few, even partially.

Because there can be great variety in attributes within a single parasitic species, plant resistance to just one pathogen is not a simple, singular example that is observable. But a status borne of confirmed genetic factors working in consort from repeated confirmed challenges by strains likely encountered by growers. Resistance cannot be seen and can change unpredictably between generations without testing for presence. Fortunately, such tests are becoming more common.

Another major complication to resistance breeding is that while certain processes may limit or outright kill parasites using one set of tools to infect cannabis,

“DECADES OF ECOLOGICAL AND AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH HAVE CULMINATED IN A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO PROTECTING PLANTS CALLED INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT. IT IS A PROCESS BY WHICH GROWERS PREVENT AND TREAT PESTS BY IMPLEMENTING MULTIPLE MEASURES TO AVOID, DAMAGE, AND SUPPRESS PESTS, CONSIDERING EVERYTHING FROM OPERATING PROCEDURE, SETUP, THE USE OF BIOLOGICAL AGENTS, AND EVEN SELECTION FOR RESISTANT CULTIVARS.”

MATTHEW GATES

other pathogens like *Botrytis* utilize diametrically opposite tools requiring totally different solutions. A species that infects cannabis, like *Botrytis cinerea*, releases factors that trigger a plant cell's ability to self-destruct, which normally harms pathogens like powdery mildew and viruses because they rely on living cells to reproduce. Instead, this defense reaction is exploited and deployed inappropriately for the insidious fungus to largely avoid the cell defenses altogether and absorb the contents while establishing on the dead tissue. Compared to its native Eurasian origin pre-humanity, cannabis has never been exposed to so many different environments or parasites, many of which have acquired potent adaptations on their own or through human contact. This has expanded the full range of physiological threats a cultivator can encounter.

This mosaic of variability is why many pest species, strains, or populations within a species are often recognized and studied. It's also why there are deep and valuable differences between cannabis cultivars worth analyzing and preserving. Due to constant evolutionary changes, it is not always clear what the genetic mechanisms

are for resistance or if they are robust enough to be "resistant" to the pests one will encounter to a demonstrably, reliably significant degree. Cannabis, absent of mildew where nearby sisters are otherwise blanketed in spores, may mean it resists this local population, at least under this environmental influence. However, other factors cannot be isolated in the field with certainty. The potential to breed and share a nominally resistant plant is enticing, but if the cultivar is not tested adequately and fails to resist cultures from other places, growers expecting a robustly advertised resistance could suffer severe crop

loss and vehement misgivings. That's an unfortunate circumstance I've encountered professionally. Finally, even resistances that do achieve success can degrade over time, just as in natural conditions, so there is a need for constant technical evaluation for future successes in Cannabis cultivation and breeding. For the most efficient pest management strategy, growers require rigid defenses with proven qualities at the genetic level that can be verified and replicated. •



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STRAIN REPORT

ROMULAN {S1} FEMINIZED

THE GIFTS OF OUR FATHERS

WORDS & PHOTOS | JAKE W. - ROMULAN GENETICS

Years ago, this all started with a clone and the death of my Father. The passing of my Pops was a transformative time for me and one of tremendous loss. But it was also a historical time of sorts when my family-held clone of Romulan was passed on to the next generation for safekeeping. The same plant I had grown up with, playing underneath large bushes with Matchbox cars and little green army men, Romulan was now my responsibility to keep alive for years to come. It was a responsibility I felt weighing heavily on my shoulders, and it soon grew into something much more than a burden. It became a passion that saved my life, changing everything along the way.

Little did I know the blessing my father had gifted me. I had no idea how much Romulan would change my path in life, my personal happiness, and my sense of worth. That path eventually led to my breeding cannabis and quickly choosing to breed with Romulan exclusively. One of my first offerings as a breeder was these same feminized Romulan seeds. Using my family-held Romulan clone that had recently been sent off for tissue culture and reversing it upon itself, I created a batch of (S1) seeds.

At the time, I figured those seeds would last many years to come. I was just another unknown "breeder" new to the scene at the time, and most people didn't have a single reason to trust that I wasn't simply another fraud looking to make a quick dollar off Cannabis lovers. But those seeds quickly went out the door and into the hands of growers, and that feeling of fighting to convince people swiftly faded as well. The feedback I later received about those seeds was immeasurable. If not

for all of the extremely happy growers and the love I received from people who shared their stories with me, I might not still be doing this. It may have stayed a small side hobby, never shared with the world in any way. And the stories of night terrors decades old ending finally, or lives being turned around from pain relief, would never have transpired. Those people may have never found the gift of peace as they did with Romulan.

Bred over 20 years by Veterans (who started in the late 1950s), specifically for its medicinal benefits and overall feeling of peace, Romulan

is a joy to consume. Made from the foundational landrace strains that literally helped to create every single cultivar we enjoy today, Romulan has genetic roots in almost all of the major regions known for cannabis. The Thai from South East Asia, the Kush from the mountains of Afghanistan, and the Mexican and Colombian Sativa genetics combine to form some of the best breeding stock I have ever worked with. Romulan is extremely dominant genetically speaking, and it truly shows the immense degree of work the men and women who helped to create and shape Romulan put in.

Known for its very complex Spicy, Peppery Pine taste and ridiculously potent smell, Romulan tends to leave people feeling like they have had their head transported into outer space. Imagine feeling as high as you can get from cannabis but still being clear-headed enough to tackle any difficult task easily. That is the feeling she provides smokers. A peace and calm that fills the body with a numb tingle and the most serene head space. I feel centered. My nerve pain dissipates, my mental state improves, and I want to either be entertained, be chill or get something done. It's perfect for just about any occasion for me. Some may not sleep well on Romulan due to her sativa influence, but others may feel like I do, and if enough is consumed, it reverses course and hits like

a heavy indica. I sleep like a baby on Romulan as long as I take a little extra before bed. And I can wake up the next day and start with a joint of Romulan and its instant smiles and happy days ahead.

I made this restock of Romulan (S1) feminized seeds intending to keep it in stock permanently. After my 2019 batch sold out within a few months of its release, who knows if I can keep up with demand, but it will be a major focus just like our Romulan regular seeds have become

over the years. So, if you have never experienced Romulan for yourself, and now is not the time, don't worry. I'm working hard every day to ensure this cultivar sticks around for the next generation and many years to come. But eventually, do yourself a favor, or do a friend a favor and give Romulan a try. From making RSO that truly helps to hashish and rosin that melts the mind or just a simple joint that makes the next session you have with friends memorable and unique. Trust me when I say this, there is a good reason my family has kept this plant around for over 40 years now. She is truly special in every way. •

ROMULAN (F1) CLONE CUT X ROMULAN (F1) CLONE CUT
 (KOREAN THAI X MEXICAN X COLOMBIAN X AFGHANI) X COLOMBIAN POLYHYBRID
HEIGHT
 AVERAGE
WEIGHT
 ABOVE AVERAGE
FLOWERING TIME
 63-70 DAYS
TASTES
 SPICY, PINE, SKUNK, FUNK, DANK, EARTHY

SCENTS
 PINE, CITRUS, PEPPER, COMPLEX
VISUAL
 EXTREMELY FROST COVERED, LIGHT GREEN BUDS WITH COLORFUL LEAF FADES
EFFECTS
 EXTREMELY POTENT, HYBRID HIGH. NO ANXIETY. CLEAR-HEADED EFFECT.
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Inside Look at Farm Cut

WORDS | HEATHER DUNBAR PHOTOS | FARM CUT

A COOPERATIVE REGENERATIVE ORGANIC APPROACH TO TACKLING THE REGULATED CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA



Cooperative business models provide the opportunity for small businesses and organizations to join forces, share expenses, and resources, amplify their voice, and build community. These business models are community-owned private enterprises that unite members, buyers, and consumers to address the challenges of volatile and unstable markets, excessive costs, overproduction, and other economic and regulatory hurdles. All of which the cannabis industry has fallen victim to.

Cooperative businesses stabilize communities by pulling together resources and local expertise creating income and jobs. They can also accumulate assets and, hopefully, economic independence. Cooperative models have a lower failure rate than conventional business models. About 10% of cooperatives fail after the first year, while 60-80% of traditional businesses fail after the first year. After five years, 90% of cooperatives are still operating, while only 3-5% of traditional businesses have kept their doors open.

Enter Farm Cut - a resourceful group of Sun+Earth Certified legacy family farmers who care about the earth, sustainable practices, and quality cannabis. Just like all Sun+Earth Certified flower, Farm Cut is grown using regenerative organic practices. These farmers also include a diverse farmscape full of fruits, veggies, children, and animals.

Heather Dunbar of Sun+Earth Certified sat down with this innovative group of farmers to learn about the origins of the collective and what makes this brand unique amongst the many others on the shelves of California Dispensaries.



HEATHER DUNBAR: WHAT / WHO IS FARM CUT, AND WHAT IS YOUR ORIGIN STORY; HOW DID IT COME TO BE, AND HOW DID THE EXISTING MEMBERS COME TOGETHER?

FARM CUT: *Farm Cut was founded in 2019 and is made up of five Sun+Earth Certified farms across three counties in Northern California. Briceland Forest Farm and Whitethorn Valley Farm hail from Humboldt County; HappyDay Farm and Emerald Spirit Botanicals reside in Mendocino County; and Down OM Farms is settled in Nevada County. Together they represent some of the oldest heritage growing regions of California.*

Farm Cut was formed as a collaborative effort between these farms to bring an organic, high-quality sungrown flower product to market. It was clear to us that in

a turbulent and competitive market, small farmers needed to band together to survive the waves of the capitalist takeover of a plant and industry that we hold so dear. This mutual feeling drove Farm Cut to form and bring our flower directly to the people in a way we believe in and feel good about!

HB: WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS WITH FARM CUT?

FC: *Farm Cut was built with a few clear goals; sustainable packaging, careful preservation, and sungrown flower from diversified organic farms. The packaging is recyclable or biodegradable. Mason jars are the hallmark of a carefully cured sungrown headstash. We wanted to keep that element alive in the new cannabis landscape. The versatility of these*





“FARM CUT WAS FORMED AS A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN THESE FARMS TO BRING AN ORGANIC, HIGH-QUALITY SUNGROWN FLOWER PRODUCT TO MARKET. IT WAS CLEAR TO US THAT IN A TURBULENT AND COMPETITIVE MARKET, SMALL FARMERS NEEDED TO BAND TOGETHER TO SURVIVE THE WAVES OF THE CAPITALIST TAKEOVER OF A PLANT AND INDUSTRY THAT WE HOLD SO DEAR.”

HEATHER DUNBAR

jars means customers receive a package that is useful when they're done enjoying the Farm Cut flower. We have seen customers reuse their jars for canning, succulent gardens, candles, and cups. If customers don't have a direct use for them, they can be easily recycled like any glass container.

The mason jar is also critical to our flower preservation goal. The flower is vacuum sealed in the mason jar on farm. "I like to say, 'every jar contains a little breath of the fresh air from the farm it was grown on,'" Joseph Haggard of Emerald Spirit Botanicals adds. "This also allows the flower to be preserved with an optimal cure and moisture content." The flower is sealed throughout the supply chain, meaning no extra hands touching the flower and no air oxidizing the buds, ensuring they aren't damaged in distribution and remain in their prime for the customer to enjoy.

All the farms in Farm Cut are Sun+Earth Certified, meaning they also produce food and other medicinal herbs, fairly compensate their workers, and actively participate in community service. From fundraisers to farmers markets, fire management to farm tours and classes, these five farms offer much more than just cannabis for their local communities.

The presentation of lightly trimmed prime buds in a mason jar is how farmers share their hard work with each other in NorCal. Farmers know that their flowers are preserved best in this fashion—a protective cloak of sugar leaf encapsulating the goodness within. Farm Cut's goal is to allow this tradition to continue and thrive in the California marketplace.

HD: WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF WORKING TOGETHER AS A COOPERATIVE?

FC: Working together can bring both benefits and challenges. A major perk is the collaborative efforts we all share to make it happen. We can share costs, sales efforts, and networking opportunities with each other. Together we can act as a sounding board for new ideas and consider multiple perspectives on challenging topics.

One of the main challenges we face is coordinating resources and materials to be in the right place at the right time. A classic question in our group chat is, "who has our banner for the booth?" Sharing resources means being able to get the right materials to the right people for each event. It's wonderful to share the workload, but if the materials end up stuck on one farm, then others may be left without them for an upcoming event. We've learned our lessons, and we're ironing out the kinks. With each challenge comes a great opportunity to grow more effective and closer together.

HD: HOW DO YOU SHARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CREATING YOUR BRAND?

FC: We, naturally, took up different roles in the effort to push the brand forward. If there was something we were already good at as a farm, we took charge of the responsibility in the company. Between the members of our group, we can manage website design, source sustainable packaging materials, organize sales and marketing initiatives, and together we offer a rock-star lineup of amazing sungrown cannabis! •



HD: HOW HAS FARM CUT BEEN RECEIVED IN THE MARKETPLACE? WHAT KIND OF EDUCATION IS REQUIRED FOR BUYERS AND CONSUMERS?

FC: *We are seeing appreciation and demand for Farm Cut increase more and more. It took a little while for people to understand why we package and process our flower the way we do. "Minimally processed" means the flower isn't tightly trimmed like the market standard. Instead, some of the sugar leaf is left on as a 'skin' to protect the flower. As customers begin to understand why the flower looks a little leafier, they seem more open to trying it. It's one of those things where the flower speaks for itself. Once you pop open a jar, catch a whiff of the terpenes and take a squeeze of one of the buds, you understand immediately why we packaged and processed the flower the way we did. Sungrown flower can now stay fresh all year long.*

We regularly have fans of our product reach out on social media wanting to learn more about us, where the herb comes from, and where they can get it. It's truly an honor to connect with the people who are enjoying our hard work.

HD: HOW DO YOU SEE THE COOPERATIVE MODEL IMPACTING THE FUTURE OF CANNABIS?

FC: *We believe the cooperative model is a great way for small farms to survive in this industry. By working together, we share multiple perspectives on how the market is growing and evolving. It allows us to share costs, resources, networks, and opportunities. It can be a win-win for everyone involved if done correctly.*

HD: PLEASE SHARE THE ACCOLADES FARM CUT HAS RECEIVED AND ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE SKUNK MAGAZINE READERS TO KNOW ABOUT.

FC: *According to a review of SC Labs data, Farm Cut flowers contain 222% more terpenes than the average flower in California. Our highest-testing batch this season is from Down OM Farms' "Apples and Bananas," coming in at a whopping 5.4% terpenes (2.1% Myrcene, 1.1% Ocimene, & .69% B-Caryophyllene). We credit this to a number of practices applied on our farms, including sungrown, regenerative organic cultivation methods, as well as careful handling and curing in harvest and processing. Our packaging seeks to protect and preserve these incredible qualities of the plant for everyone to enjoy. In 2022, Farm Cut was awarded "Best Packaging" at Weedcon Cup.*

Throughout the years, every farm involved in Farm Cut has received recognition at the Emerald Cup. Emerald Spirit Botanicals has won the "Certified Sungrown Flower" category for the last two years in a row with their THCv-rich "Pink Boost Goddess." The "Pink Boost" was also recognized for the last three years as having the highest THCv concentration in flower form and, in 2022, received an exotic terpene recognition at the Emerald Cup with a Myrcene, Ocimene and Terpinolene profile. Emerald Spirit Botanicals joined HappyDay Farms and Briceland Forest Farm as a recipient of the 2022 Emerald Cup "Regenerative Farm" award.

This year, look out for the terpene powerhouse "Apples and Bananas" by Down OM Farms, the classic Sativa "Durban Poison" from Whitethorn Valley Farm, the fruity and skunky hybrid "Ogre Berry" from HappyDay Farms, the relaxing Indica "Morning Cuddles" from Briceland Forest Farm, as well as two offerings from Emerald Spirit Botanicals – the CBD-rich "Harmony Rose" and the THCv-rich "Pink Boost Goddess." Keep your ears close to the ground on Farm Cut this year, as there may be a few limited releases to hit the market in small quantities and may be gone before you know it. •



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WAYNE JUSTMANN

KING OF CLUBS

WORDS | JACK RIKESS PHOTOS | WAYNE JUSTMANN



Wayne Justmann looks like a basketball coach down to his Bobby Knight sweater. Watching him, there’s a feeling of a guy whose brain is always processing incoming data for purposes only he’ll know. The world is like that old game, Tetris, and Wayne is making sure everything is in its place. He has the air of formulation followed by articulation.

In his moderate apartment, the walls are adorned with pictures of Wayne and some of San Francisco’s most well-known politicians standing side-to-side. Nancy, Gavin, Kamala, and the Brown Brothers; Willie and Jerry. Also grinning from the pix on the walls are Jack Herer and Wayne. Dennis Peron and Wayne. Eddy Lepp and Wayne. And more.

Wayne, for over 40 years, has been an advocate for many causes, including dignity for the homeless, Gay Rights, and a patient’s access to medical marijuana. In each instance, he has left his mark. Whether it was spotlighting a cause or, in the case of MM, Wayne was instrumental in its passage and gained support from prominent politicians who considered Wayne more than an activist; they saw him as a friend.

JACK RIKESS: You moved to San Francisco in 1987 after 12 years of teaching and coaching in the Midwest. What were your first impressions of the city?

WAYNE JUSTMANN: *I had only been here for a couple of weeks. Living at this grand old hotel on Ellis. It’s the 50th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge. And they’re holding this bridge walk commemorating it. This would be the first major event in San Francisco of significance for me. The day we took over the bridge.*

If you’re from somewhere else, the Golden Gate Bridge symbolizes San Francisco. There were hundreds of thousands of people pressed together celebrating. Y’know, having fun. And the bridge is flattening out. Oh, man, it’s swaying from side to



side. And there's another thousand lined up, ready to join. It's crazy. Each moment that passes, the bridge sinks further down. I knew this was my kind of town.

JR: What were your first years in the city like?

WJ: *About a year after the Bridge Walk, I was diagnosed with the AIDS virus. My doctors couldn't be sure how long I'd been carrying it? It was a scary time. Men—friends—were becoming sick and dying. And the medicine that was dispensed nearly killed you too. That certainly was an event that shaped my who, what, why, and when. Living in a hotel with the last of my saved money dwindling from medical bills and such, I'm watching the news on TV. They're reporting about the rise of homeless encampments at Civic Center. The earnest reporter grimaces into the camera lens, "What will the City do about this crisis?"*

My money's almost gone, and I'm thinking, "That's where I should be."

It's funny because of that one news segment; I moved out of the hotel, joining others who were living on the grounds at Civic Center. I'm sure I didn't think it at the time. But this experience, especially the location where I stayed, would prove to be pivotal later.

I became a leading voice for people without homes from my canvas base in the Civic Center. You couldn't help being swept into the politics considering my location. From my tent opening, City Hall is directly across the street. Hall of Justice kiddy-corner to that. The sheriff's department is right there too.

I began to meet with Mayor Art Agnos as a representative seeking a voice for the homeless and trying to find workable solutions. Art credited me for giving him insights into what was happening with the growing homeless population. That not everyone was a bum.

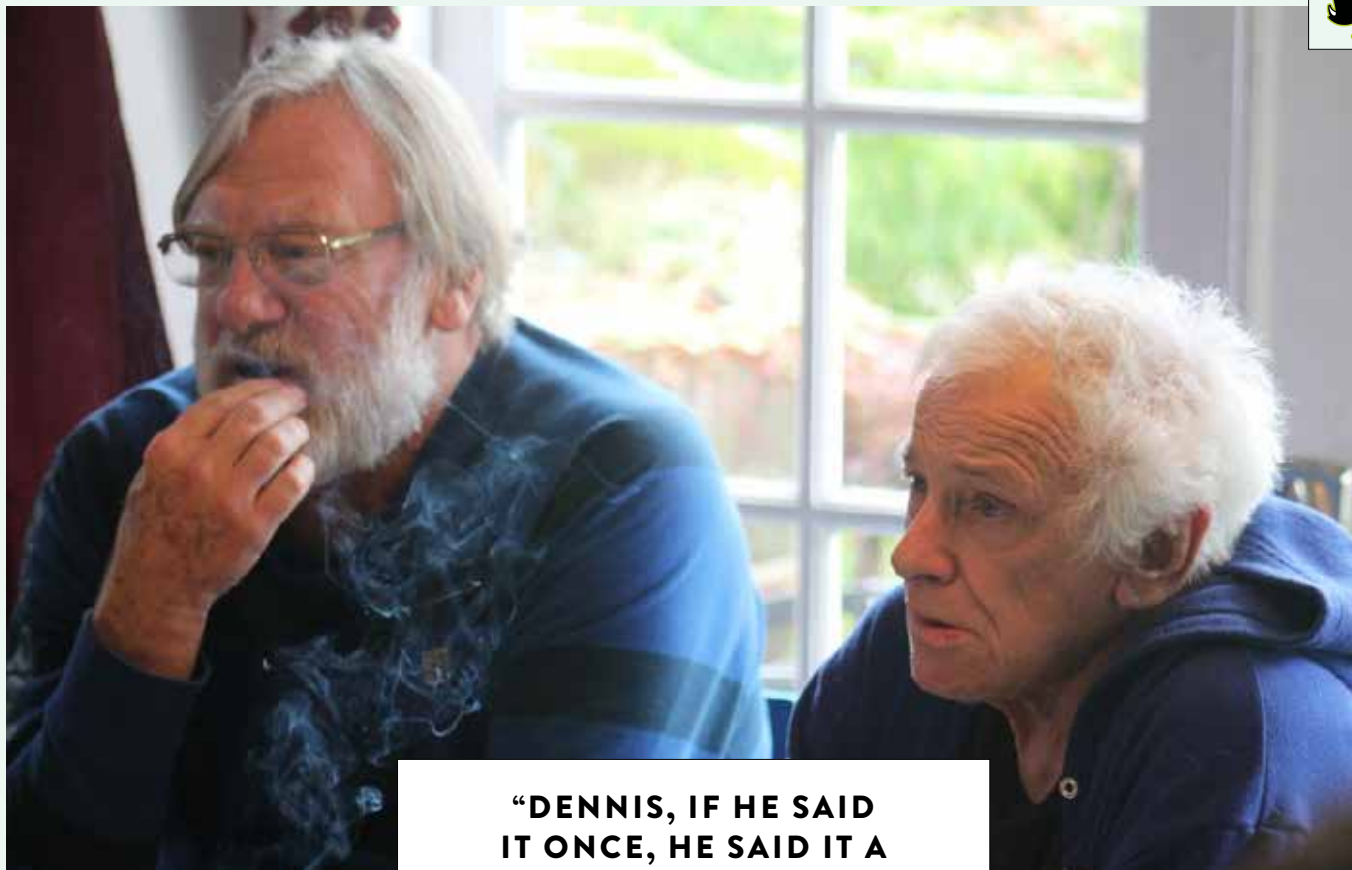
Someone who I would become really good friends with was Terrence Hallinan. Terrence was a character. He was a Supervisor then and would take walks through the homeless camps at Civic Center to see what's going on, like Art and others. We sparked a friendship through these walks. Soon, I was a regular at his office, hanging out in his outer room many afternoons. Through Terrence, I met Michael Hennessey (Holds the record for San Francisco's longest-serving sheriff) and many other politicians. Nancy Pelosi, Willie and Jerry Brown, and their staff—I made some great relationships back then. With the exception of Nancy and the staff, I smoked cannabis with all of them.

Terrence and I are at a NORML meeting in Tiburon. He's now San Francisco's District Attorney. We're leaving the meeting and driving back to the city, and he asks if I have a joint? And I did—some very good stuff. And I'm thinking, "I'm smoking weed with SF's DA—the top attorney in the city—in his federally issued car on the Golden Gate Bridge; this is a great town."

JR: Dennis Peron is called the Father of Medical Marijuana. For nearly thirty years, you and Dennis were almost inseparable in your quest for Patient's Rights and other avenues of activism.

WJ: *In the early 1990s, there was a gentleman who I would smoke cannabis with. We're smoking some good stuff, and I ask, "Where did you get this? And is there more?"*

He brought me to a little place on Church and Market street. Dennis' first dispensary. I remember it being crowded. When we returned, smoking our newly purchased cannabis back at the apartment. I'm going on about what I just experienced at the club. I was fascinated by it. Shortly thereafter, they relocated to 1444 Market Street as the San Francisco Cannabis Buyers Club. Dennis is at the



“DENNIS, IF HE SAID IT ONCE, HE SAID IT A THOUSAND TIMES; “ALL USE OF CANNABIS IS MEDICAL!” HOW MANY TIMES I HEARD THAT MAN SAY THAT! AND THOSE OF US BEING HIV POSITIVE, WE FOUND IT A VERY POSITIVE THING TO HELP US. YOU WOULD NOT HAVE MEDICAL OR RECREATIONAL CANNABIS TODAY IF IT WASN’T FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN SAN FRANCISCO BACK IN THOSE DAYS. AND IT IS BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LIKE DENNIS AND MARY JANE RATHBUN (BROWNIE MARY) WHO MADE IT HAPPEN.”

JACK RIKESS

door, and I said to him as I walk in, “If you have the opportunity, I’d like to sit down and visit with you.”

Dennis motioned upstairs, saying, “Go upstairs, grab a table, smoke a joint, and I’ll be along in 10.”

And this is one of the first things I said to him: “I think we can both help one another.”

After that, we just broke it down together. And we had this rapport together. From that moment on, for more than 30 years, we worked together professionally and personally.

What I brought to Dennis was common sense and credibility. I was a good front man.

From 12 years of teaching and coaching, I was able to utilize my skills in organizing a diverse group to believe in a common cause. I was used to being a public face. Being the frontman already for some different causes that I’d been involved in.

JR: For the kids out there, how did California get where we are today

with recreational cannabis being available to anyone over 21?

WJ: *One way was through the card program. These were 3-4 dispensaries in the city initially, each having their own admissions department. This was to keep track of the members of their respective clubs. Much of the public back then, patients and stoners alike, were paranoid of being on a list. You know, “The Man’s going to get that list, man.”*

Establishing a card program was a very big step in a few ways. One, it gave us a database to draw from and organize with. Two, it was a huge move forward logistically, showing the city that we were serious and were ready to come out as patients.

I was Patient Zero receiving the first Medical Marijuana card issued

in the United States for a state program. This was the first steppingstone of many that led to patients having access to buy, medicate, and transport it. Ultimately bringing us to



where we are today with recreational use for anyone over 21.

Dennis, if he said it once, he said it a thousand times; "All use of Cannabis is medical!" How many times I heard that man say that! And those of us being HIV positive, we found it a very positive thing to help us. You would not have medical or recreational cannabis today if it wasn't for what happened in San Francisco back in those days. And it is because of people like Dennis and Mary Jane Rathbun (Brownie Mary) who made it happen. But to be clear, maybe it's ironic? Don't forget, Dennis, Brownie Mary, and Jack Herer, for that matter, never thought it should be regulated or legislated; they felt the most important component of the cannabis movement was access! Access to grow and to medicate. I remember being around Jack, and he would say, "Fuck it! Let them grow as much as they need."

Does it bother me that the people lined up at the register don't know of Dennis or me? Sometimes, to tell the truth. But what are you going to do? There are kids today who have never known it to be different. There are so many fluctuations in the cannabis market with supply and demand, and then there are always new regulations being set on the farmers. But I am disappointed with the farmers who balk against going through the paperwork process. And you know, there is no such thing as a lazy farmer. They bust their asses working from morning to night.

For all these years, the farmers didn't have a slate of rules and regulations pressing down on them. That's what will be choking a lot of people out. They need to simplify the rules and regulations—the process. There's no reason the forms can't be five pages at most. I'm sorry, but there's no reason the process has to be so complicated.

Some of what they're asking for borders on essay questions. "Ah, if this happens, and this happens. What will you do?" That's theory! They're over-

regulating. The Trace Program where every little detail has to be documented. Or when the farmers harvest their cannabis? You have to keep your waste in garbage bags that need to be saved—for years? That takes up space.

Simple regulation, that's all. That's in an ideal world. Growers, Distributors, Patients. Growers, you grow it! Distributors, you distribute it! Now it's in the patients' hands.

JR: In the 1990s, you were working for Dennis at his dispensary, but towards the late 90s and through the early 2000s, you assisted in the establishment of some 10-15 dispensaries throughout California. Is that true?

WJ: I had a hand in the establishment of many dispensaries throughout California and the states. Most of the time, my role was off the books. I didn't jump on the "consultant" train as many would do in the early days of the Green Rush. If the word "compassion" was part of your mission statement, I was there. It was all about the patients' access to medicine.

I'll give you an idea of the resistance we faced. It was the same old story. NIMBY. Not in my backyard. There were pro-medical marijuana people—when push came to shove—who weren't too sure of a dispensary opening up in their neighborhood. We're getting all kinds of blowback. I mean, for all practical purposes, this was uncharted waters. People tighten up, become more conservative when forced to deal with the new.

The public was scared. What does a medical marijuana buyer look like? What kinds of people will be frequenting these clubs? It is not a coincidence that many shops have guards, armed or unarmed, posted out



front. It was paramount that the clubs showed that they were in control.

Because of my relationships with the supervisors of the day, we were able to open dispensaries in neighborhoods that were mistrustful of medical marijuana, to say the least.

Bevan Dufty, Chris Daly, Ross Mirkarimi, and others were some of our champions in aiding with the introduction of medical marijuana into these areas. Of course, Terrence assisted whenever or wherever he could.

Jason Beck, a good friend, had a dispensary in the city that was barely making it. He was moving to Los Angeles and was trying to get one off the ground in a foreign territory. I knew someone in Hollywood who was an equivalent to one of our supervisors from some of my earlier political dealings and was able to connect him to Jason.

JR: On January 27, 2018, Dennis Peron passed away from lung cancer. Wayne, you're not the last man standing, but many of your peers who you knew from cannabis and politics are gone. How do you keep going?

WJ: After a life of teaching, coaching, being an activist for a variety of causes, now, most of the time, I watch TV in my apartment. Occasionally looking out my window as life goes by. I'm 77; what are the choices?

People come to me for interviews because they want to know the history of something from someone who was there. As I recall the times, it's hard not to be nostalgic or even sad. But we did a lot of good. And that's what counts.

I've always had this natural urge to help people. Make them feel safe.

Recently, students I've taught or coached have reached out to me through Facebook. It's been pretty gratifying. To know that I've done some good, changed some lives, and been able to hear about it.

About 8 or 9 months ago, my brother, Herb, passed away. He was the last living member of my family to go. Mom, Dad, and my other brother—all gone. I'm the last of our kind left.

This is an interesting thought pattern. My family unit, the people I grew up with, are no longer there. Not by choice. Just how it happened. And I was thinking; it's the same for my friends who died from AIDS. All the patients I've known who are no longer here. The same for my friends, like Dennis and Terrence, who are no longer here.

Dennis' dispensary on Divisadero and Gough. Do you realize how important that was? Besides giving the patients cannabis and a place to medicate, this space was an opportunity to spend time together. Time that was limited, time that was fragile. They didn't die alone. It gave solidarity to a bunch of strangers, who, through no fault of their own, became patients. And at Dennis' dispensary, they were able to medicate with others sharing the experience. It offered dignity.

All my different family units are gone. At my age, attrition is putting a bite on things. I know I should just be happy. I have this apartment that I can medicate in. I love the show outside my window. I feel safe where I live. This is where my next chapter begins.

You know what I should really be happy about?
I'm still here—and I still have an impact. •



30 Years
**GROWING
TOGETHER**



BIOBIZZ
FROM DUTCH ORIGINS





BIOLOGY

WORDS | SELAH MOORE ART | BRANDON PALMA / 8TH DAY CREATE

The interactions of organic matter and microbial life create our soil biology. When working with our soil, we are working with vast populations of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, and various larger living influences. Creating a synergy between soil biology and the biology of the plant itself is the ultimate goal - this way, the farmer can take a step back and let the system work for itself. For example, altering soil pH favors certain organisms - intending to support fungal decomposers rather than bacteria. Likewise, adding an easily decomposed carbon source will stimulate microbial growth. This growth will immobilize nutrients, which will be released once the carbon source is exhausted. Building and feeding the biology of the soil allows for the soil and plant to create a system that ultimately results in healthier and happier crops. There is a notable difference in the quality and complexity of plants grown in biology-rich environments versus sterile substrates.

Microbial life within the soil is dormant at any given moment, meaning that it has potential and will react to various influences. Because of this potential, we can manipulate the biology through input and an understanding of the plants' natural biological systems.

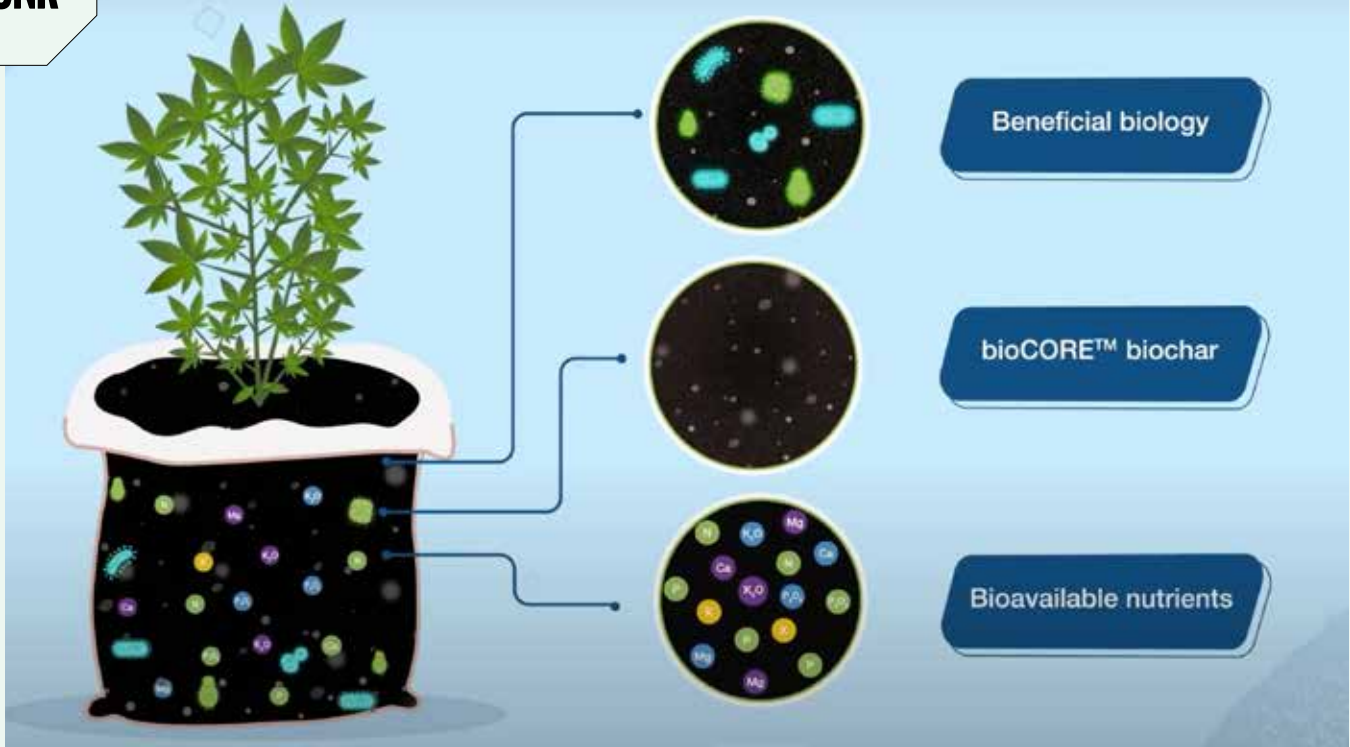
Soil microbes improve the nutrition of plants, helping to regulate and digest the nutrients needed for the plant. Rather than focusing on a specific organism to target a particular outcome, soil with rich and diverse biology creates a far more beneficial environment. The more diverse the microbial life is, the more resilient the plant. This diversity and exposure enhance plant resistance to pests and

diseases. These beneficial soil microorganisms may affect harmful members of the soil community more directly through competition, parasitism, or other mechanisms. Living soil benefits both the plant and the farmer and creates a loop between the plant and microbes.

COMBATING PESTS AND PATHOGENS USING SOIL BIOLOGY

The feedback loop between soil bacteria and plants creates nutrition, stability, and pest resistance. Bacteria and non-pathogenic fungi can also stimulate the production of plants' own natural defensive chemistry. This will allow a more rapid and vigorous response to attacks by pathogenic bacteria, fungi, and/or viruses. Depending on the species involved, this 'induced systemic resistance' (ISR) may induce plant defense against soil pathogens and some foliar pathogens and insects. This chemical signaling process allows the plant to defend itself and utilize the biology within the soil to resist the impact of pests or diseases.

Rhizosphere bacteria assist in this process by competing with pathogenic microbial life and producing antimicrobial agents. These beneficials stabilize the soil, starve out harmful organisms and provide the plant with the necessary stimulation to trigger resistance to these pathogens. A plant may release chemicals in response to pests, which may then attract and trigger nematodes to attack the parasite or to signal to other plants to produce volatile compounds that will increase their resistance to the pest or pathogen. The complexity and diversity of the soil are crucial to ensuring that



these beneficials thrive, as the natural balance within the biology will stimulate resilience within both the plant and the soil.

The plant influences the environment around its roots through root exudates, just as the biology of the soil feeds and influences the plant's chemical composition. Plant signaling, the interaction of plant biology with soil biology, connects these two systems and creates a symbiosis between their individual microbial populations. Anywhere from 10-40% of the carbon that a plant fixes through photosynthesis will be released in both organic and inorganic forms. The chemical, biological and physical processes in the rhizosphere will be the most influenced by the organic forms. Encouraging both the plant's natural defense biology and a diverse microbial population will help to fight pests from all angles. For example, Trichoderma species produce a wide range of antibiotic substances and are capable of both out-competing certain soil pathogens and parasitizing others

HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN BENEFICIAL BIOLOGY WITHIN YOUR SOIL

If you're growing outdoors and have the time, you can build your own living soil. This means adding

a diverse array of organic nutrient sources and inoculating with good, quality compost and some beneficial mycelium. Try not to overthink it because once the nutrients have biologically transformed, the plant won't know the nutrient source and will tie up its favored subgroups. Mix the nutrients with energy sources, wood chips, corn or sorghum residues, or a coco coir. Then add in some biochar (look for a product derived from wood with more than 90%C). This mix will heat up - let it do so.

Once it is cool, blend with your chosen substrates to create your final mix with room air space and water retention.

The final step is to tune the pH. This can be measured using a slurry test, with the final pH adjusted to 6-6.5. This is important, as cannabis only does well within a small pH range. A good soil for weed has a pH of about 6.0. A pH of 5.8-6.3 will be fine, but if it fluctuates too far outside of this range, you will end up with diminished yields. If the pH is seriously off, your plants will die. Add dolomitic lime if you need to raise the pH. Allow the pH to equilibrate for about 4 or 5 days and then re-measure. If you need to lower the pH, use raw peat. This has a pH of around 4. The pH can be measured immediately after addition. Check EC in a stirred slurry; an EC around 4 is alright but try not to go higher than 7. If EC is

“SOIL MICROBES IMPROVE THE NUTRITION OF PLANTS, HELPING TO REGULATE AND DIGEST THE NUTRIENTS NEEDED FOR THE PLANT. RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON A SPECIFIC ORGANISM TO TARGET A PARTICULAR OUTCOME, SOIL WITH RICH AND DIVERSE BIOLOGY CREATES A FAR MORE BENEFICIAL ENVIRONMENT. THE MORE DIVERSE THE MICROBIAL LIFE IS, THE MORE RESILIENT THE PLANT. THIS DIVERSITY AND EXPOSURE ENHANCE PLANT RESISTANCE TO PESTS AND DISEASES.”

SELAH MOORE



too high, simply dilute the blend, don't try and wash it out. A balanced pH helps the plant's biology and the microbial population to thrive. When working in an indoor growing environment, the risk involved with creating your own balanced soil biology can be far greater. Introducing biology from waste products may also introduce pests and pathogens without as many benefits because the environment is more delicate. In an indoor grow, the source of the biology must be considered carefully. Bottled biology will lack the diversity that helps to stimulate the biological cycles and plant signaling. Here, we suggest worm castings produced from non-waste inputs or manure-based compost. Worm castings are a great option because the earthworm gut delivers diverse biological material. Waste inputs such as green waste compost may carry pathogens and insect pests as well as beneficials, it is better to use completely new materials. Worm castings from virgin materials are far superior to castings made from waste products. Alternatively, soil that has been manufactured specifically with beneficial biology in mind might be the best choice. Bio365 offers products that harness the complexity of diverse biology while utilizing virgin inputs, sterile equipment, and careful processes to ensure the stability of the product.

Even with the most advanced microbial techniques, it is challenging to characterize these microorganisms - let alone understand what they are contributing to the function of soil at any moment. So much diversity exists within the soil, and it has massive potential. The key is harnessing this potential. When making soil, there is no real way to pinpoint which microbe is the one that counts the most. This means that the goal should always be to bring in as diverse a population as possible, as the inevitability that exists within biology will prime the plant in terms of resistance and health. The more diverse our soil biology, the more resilient our plants will be and the higher quality our cannabis will be. •



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LANDRACE ORIGINS COFFEE PAIRS PERFECTLY WITH CANNABIS & CURIOSITY



A COOPERATIVE REGENERATIVE ORGANIC APPROACH TO TACKLING THE REGULATED CANNABIS INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA

WORDS & PHOTOS | JACK RIORDAN

With the successful launch of Landrace Origins Goods + Supply, California cannabis advocate and entrepreneur Amber Senter encourages us to truly explore our love for the age-old blend of caffeine and cannabinoids.

Chicken and waffles. Rock and roll. Yin and Yang. Some things just belong together, and high on that list are ‘cannabis and coffee.’

Though this combo is not a new concept, our collective understanding of the cannabis plant has evolved immeasurably since lowbrow language like “the hippie speedball” took root in the 1970s and 80s.

Sparking up a joint with your morning coffee is a daily ritual for millions of people around the world, but the longstanding misconception that coffee will act as an “upper” while cannabis will balance the scale as a “downer” has aged about as well as the D.A.R.E. program.

As cannabis consumption has become more normalized for adults, it continually welcomes curious new users who are eager to drink up all the reliable cannabis education that they can.

Appreciation for that personal quest is a key aspect of the masterful marketing behind California’s dankest new coffee company, Landrace Origins Goods + Supply.

Landrace Origins was the first brand brought to market by Oakland-based MAKR House and was founded by Amber Senter.

If Senter’s name sounds familiar, it should. As an outspoken advocate for the cannabis plant and culture, the work she is doing in California’s Bay Area creates a powerful ripple effect that directly impacts her peers from coast to coast in a positive way.

As a proud queer Black woman who honorably served her country in the U.S. Coast Guard, Amber Senter is, to me, the essence of the cannabis plant, with all its beauty and inclusivity represented in mortal form. Her creativity and tenacity are shared with this world much to the

benefit of anyone who sees the good that this plant can provide, and that intention is reflected in every product or brand that she brings to market.

Senter’s launch of Landrace Origins leans on the importance that ‘terroir’ plays not only when seeking out the best cannabis in the world but also for those who want the best coffee to pair with it.

Cannabis connoisseurs recognize the term ‘landrace’ to mean a plant that has naturally adapted to a specific region (that’s the terroir) and will reliably express similar traits harvest after harvest. True landrace cultivars can be difficult to come by for today’s average cannabis consumer.

The crossbreeding and hybridization we see now have led to the incredible variety in today’s market, but it comes at the cost of potentially losing the time-honored connection that humans have had to these original genetics.

The same is true for the coffee plant, whose discovery by an observant African goat herder in the year 850 was met with accusations of the “devil’s work” by the local monastery.

For well over a millennium since, the coffee bean has remained a crucial commodity in global economic development. Just as we now see the rising popularity of cannabis leading to a consolidation of corporate interests, coffee-producing communities around the world were left behind by the rise of entities like Folgers and Starbucks.

Landrace Origins seeks to return to its roots and bring robust commerce back to the regions that brought us some of the best coffee - and cannabis - in human history.

HOW LANDRACE ORIGINS HONORS ITS ROOTS

Landrace Origins Goods + Supply currently offers six distinct brewing experiences, with three single-origin options and three signature blends to choose from.



It is important to note that this is whole-bean coffee, and it is not infused in any way with cannabis, which might be the most brilliant part of the entire idea.

Instead, each option from Landrace Origins offers a suggested strain for an optimal pairing of cannabis and coffee. For example, the masterfully designed resealable package for the single-origin Kenyan beans suggests that the consumer pair it with a cannabis strain like Super Lemon Haze. A quick glance at the tasting notes for the beans reveals hints of grapefruit, lemon, herbs, and cacao. Just the thought of those subtle flavors weaving themselves together with citrusy Super Lemon Haze terps has me ready to conquer the day!

I have been bouncing back and forth between the Congolese and the Ethiopian Yirgacheffe, finding myself fascinated by how my focus on the deeper flavor profiles of each coffee option directly correlates to the experience and passion that I lean on to determine the quality and efficacy of my cannabis.

Although I have yet to pair either option with the suggested strains, those suggestions have been helpful when I decide which of the handful of cultivars that are available to me that I want to smoke on. Trust me when I say that a hot mug of Landrace Origins Congolese and a fat doob of some soil-grown Jet Fuel Pie is pure bliss for the mind and body.

As a proof of concept that not all 'cannabis and coffee' is the same, my

“FOR WELL OVER A MILLENNIUM SINCE, THE COFFEE BEAN HAS REMAINED A CRUCIAL COMMODITY IN GLOBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. JUST AS WE NOW SEE THE RISING POPULARITY OF CANNABIS LEADING TO A CONSOLIDATION OF CORPORATE INTERESTS, COFFEE-PRODUCING COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD WERE LEFT BEHIND BY THE RISE OF ENTITIES LIKE FOLGERS AND STARBUCKS.”

JACK RIORDAN

experience with some freshly brewed Landrace Origins Ethiopian paired with a hash-infused pre-roll from Disco Jays (another MAKR House brand founded by Senter) delivered a distinctly different dive into flavor appreciation.

The first dry pull off that joint, followed by the first sip from my mug, was so alluring, and it only got better once I sparked it up and burnt it down.

This is why I love the fact that this is not just another infused beverage. I already have great weed; I just want great coffee from a brand I can proudly support, and Landrace Origins Goods + Supply deals heavily in doing things the right way.

With a commitment to operate an inclusive, fair trade, non-GMO supply chain in partnership with groups like Rebuild Women’s Hope, you can be confident that the ritual that brings you so much joy

is providing for the people who help harvest that experience for you.

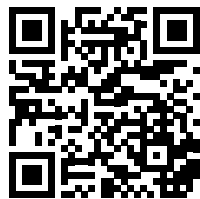
Since the products are “cannabis-adjacent,” they can be sold in cannabis dispensaries without being subjected to the same crippling taxes as the cannabis products sold beside them. But the fact that there is no weed in those beans also means that Landrace Origins can truly go mainstream with sales and marketing, effectively educating the global coffee-drinking community that there is a new brew in town. It is bringing weed to the table. •



WEBSITE

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS FEEL-GOOD COMPANY AND SHOP THEIR ENTIRE SELECTION OF BEANS AND ACCESSORIES .

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A CLEANING
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FROM
HUMBOLDT
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WORDS | HOLLY CARTER

ALL THE DIRTY GLASS

If you use a glass rig, be it a bong, pipe, chillum, or a one-hitter, then you know the dread of cleaning your piece - gathering supplies, soaking, shaking, and scraping, the black globs on the sink, stinky fingers and sometimes a broken stem or piece, then having to clean your sink after you wash your bong? That's more time you don't get to spend doing the things you love.

Maybe you don't even clean your bongs; you exile them to a bong graveyard or a cardboard box in the garage while you buy a new one.

CURRENT CLEANING QUANDARY

This quandary has plagued humankind since The Dawn of the Bong Age (not the Bronze Age, but some bongs certainly were bronze). The current options are the tried-and-true rock salt and Iso (isopropyl alcohol), the liquid solutions that come in single-use plastic, and the magnet system, which is great for your OCD but, otherwise, largely a time suck. (Especially now that there's an alternative that takes 15 minutes or less hands-free!).

Those are the problems Laura Costa was solving when she created CIRO, a cannabis consumer cleaning appliance, revolutionizing the cleaning experience with technology and thereby "giving you back your valuable time," Costa explains.

CIRO'S ORIGIN STORY

When asked what inspired CIRO, Costa says, "Dirty bongs suck. Cleaning off resin was a puzzle worth solving," given the many hassles involved (soaking, the

liquids/chemicals, cost, plastic waste, mess, and most of all, the time).

A farmer's wife in the Emerald Triangle, Costa ran many a trim crew and was confronted with gummy scissors at the end of each day. Instead of soaking them in alcohol, as many do, she repurposed a jewelry cleaner. It worked well enough for immersing scissors, hand pipes, dab tools, and grinders in the short run but did not hold up to everyday use and wouldn't work for a bong.

While leveraging her early life experience as an electrician and her natural inclination to invent things, Costa's solution was to build her own sonic cleaner with hacked parts and a bunt cake pan for the housing! Later she tried a cookie tin and unused plumbing pipe before eventually working with a professional product designer for a housing that would look great and work for manufacturing.

SO, WHAT IS CIRO?

CIRO is a circular, sonic countertop appliance that cleans cannabis accessories and is specially designed and tuned for bongs. "Properly tuned sonic energy creates 'cavitation' in which tiny bubbles are created, and in the case of CIRO, they shatter resins off the glass," Costa shares. "Most sonic cleaners require that the piece being cleaned is submerged in water, but our novel design for cleaning bongs does not; it just needs the bong to be filled with water," Costa concludes.

CIRO fits the base of most bongs (6" diameter), while other types of glassware can be set inside a bowl or drinking glass filled with water. Using water as a conductor makes the soundwaves do the trick. Adding



a bit of soap, such as the biodegradable tabs from CIRO, or a few drops of dishwashing soap emulsifies the resin for super easy cleanup.

ATTRACTING A TEAM

Inventing a cool thing and getting it to market are two very different tasks. Costa had a functioning cleaner she had built home in her Humboldt County garage. But she had no idea what to do next. Enter Cara Cordonni, a native San Franciscan and entrepreneur with small business experience and a background including ten years in middle management for a Fortune 500 company. The two met in 2015 at the International Cannabis Business Conference in San Francisco, became fast friends, and have been nearly inseparable since. "Laura shared her invention with me early on," pipes in Cordonni, "It took some time for the actual magnitude of the potential to sink in, and even then, I knew we needed business support." So together, they started looking for the right person to help them build a business to manufacture a product, an area new to them both. Enter Jo Marini of Mother Superior, a venture incubator in San Francisco. Introduced by a mutual friend, they found that Jo's mission to support founders in building socially and environmentally equitable businesses aligned with their own values. Minerva Minded, Social Purpose Corporation (SPC) was formed shortly thereafter, and CIRO was launched in 2020.

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

Then COVID hit. The world shut down. Fundraising stalled, supply chain issues escalated and inflation started to climb. Nonetheless, like so many businesses, the women used that time to their advantage: "We switched product designers, we dialed in the optimal frequency for shattering resin, and we refined the housing design," explains Cordonni. "We're most proud of identifying the biodegradable additive that will cause the housing to dissolve should it end up in the ocean or landfill instead of being returned for repair or replacement. Shouldn't we always have a backup plan for Mama Earth?" Cordonni asks.

EMBEDDED ACTIVISM

All along, Costa and Cordonni created from "cradle-to-cradle" and whole systems lenses: they considered both the source of their materials and the full life cycle of their product; what would happen if CIRO eventually broke? "We couldn't imagine making a product that would end up in the landfill in a year or two or ten," says Costa. Not only were they discouraged by the throw-away nature of single-use plastic packaging for bong-cleaning products, but they were also appalled by the actual environmental impact. Manufacturing those products uses large amounts of energy and precious water to create toxins and discarded plastics. "That's how we decided to offer a lifetime warranty on CIRO," explains Costa. Costa and Cordonni also wanted to challenge stigma



"CIRO IS A CIRCULAR, SONIC COUNTERTOP APPLIANCE THAT CLEANS CANNABIS ACCESSORIES AND IS SPECIALLY DESIGNED AND TUNED FOR BONGS."

FOUNDERS CARA CORDONI AND LAURA COSTA

by adopting a sleek, simple design that blends in with other kitchen-countertop appliances. No more hiding! The one-button operation is simple and accessible for patients and elders with challenges to their dexterity. Cordonni chimes in that, "I use CIRO while doing household chores. So, I'm washing my dishes while CIRO is cleaning my bong in my kitchen. Or I'm cooking or talking to my mom. Hands-free and hassle-free are what the modern canna-mom like myself has been waiting for."

ECONOMICS

"What if CIRO could support small businesses and allow others to become entrepreneurs?" queries Costa. "I envision bong drop-off services, clean bong delivery, or mobile bong cleaning services. Or perhaps a glass shop, dispensary, or consumption lounge-based service using CIROs."

For their part, Costa and Cordonni have bootstrapped their funding up to this point. The next step for CIRO team is the produce and deliver the units pre-ordered through crowdfunding and bringing on a values aligned investor to set up manufacturing in California. •





INSTAGRAM

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@CIRO_HUMBOLDT



Regenerative Community and Culture

WORDS ANN BRIGIT WATERS ART BRANDON PALMA / 8TH DAY CREATE

As our small family farmer-growers with the tight communities they created in the 1970s—the old ways of tiny solar homesteads, hippie weed, and landrace cultivars—die off and the Elders disappear, and as the cannabis economy darkens with more difficulties for small farmers, what can we learn before they go? Remember the Back-to-the-Land life of living in harmony with each other and nature, eating what we grow, smoking what our friends or we offered, and sharing music and food in circles on the hills and the beaches? All regenerative, in harmony with nature. What will take its place as the commodification of culture and wild places is normalized?

Looking beyond the hustle of the green economy, can we regenerate our communities? Yes! The community we build reflects our values. From where does our food come? What friends do we cultivate? Let's ask these questions.

How do we manage our pure watersheds? Where does our waste end up? Some Eternal authority does not give humans domination or even stewardship. We are here as visitors to this realm of Earth and beauty. Every choice—to drink from clean tap water instead of using water in a plastic bottle, to eating eggs from your neighbor's chickens rather

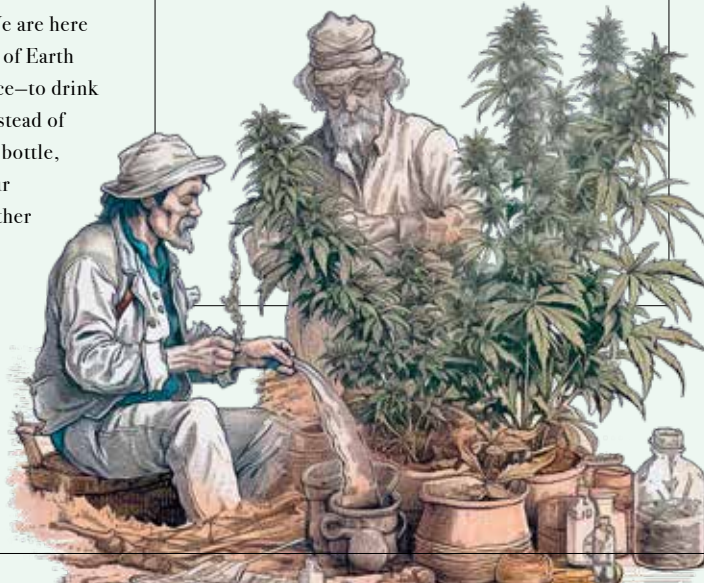
than cheap corporate eggs from unknown sources, and when offered to smoke a bowl of, what? You can ask how it was grown.

These moments happen all the time. Our opportunity is to create regenerative community as we live with loving attention to our relationships with nature, plant medicine, the sun, the water, and the land. In fact, regeneration is not a single act; it is an ongoing process, a commitment, as time moves in the arc of life and change, renewing over and over into the future.

To regenerate is to give new life and energy, to revitalize, understand, and renew an original place of natural energy and beauty, with the interconnected ways of humans, animals, and plants. Beyond sustaining whatever is normal at this moment, we urge ourselves deeper into relationships of balance and harmony, recreating a better way of life for all.

We are in the 6th Mass Extinction of this planet, driven by human presumption, consumption, and error. The millions of animals and plants disappearing are mirrored by our human illness and isolation as we become merely survivors. Yet instead, we can thrive! That is regeneration, making anew what has been violated or destroyed. Recreate and rebuild our unique culture with mindful community as we respect those who want to teach and share, to help regrow trust and continuity of the circle of life. Let's regenerate healthy soil and respect the mycelium and connection with nature that wants to help us.

I want to stand with you in this regeneration of our communities' mindful participants and mutual respect. That is the old way, and the new way is of 'thrival', of regeneration, and of aliveness. •



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