



Cannabis Advisory Panel

Investigating the Illegal Marijuana Market

DUSTIN MILLER, DETECTIVE

DESCHUTES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



Why do we investigate illegal marijuana?

Although marijuana is legal in Oregon, it is still investigated for a number of reasons.

- Minors having access to illegal marijuana items
- Quality of life for community members
- Avoid consumption of toxic materials.
- Avoid illegally growing, processing and distributing marijuana and marijuana products both in and out of the state.
 - Many people come to Oregon from across the country to grow marijuana "legally" and distribute it back to their home states, where marijuana is not legal and they have a distribution network.
- Exploitations of laborers.
- Children being exposed to marijuana growing operations and sometimes working at the location
- Money laundering
- Tax evasion
- Explosive BHO labs
- Non reported criminal activity (burglaries, robberies, thefts and weapons offenses)

 **Illegal greenhouse marijuana grows**



This slide features three images related to illegal greenhouse marijuana cultivation. On the left is an aerial photograph showing a cluster of several large, rectangular greenhouses situated on a hillside. In the center is a close-up view looking through a greenhouse's corrugated plastic wall. On the right is an interior shot of a greenhouse, showing rows of lush green marijuana plants growing under artificial lighting.

 **Illegal outdoor marijuana grows**



Marijuana destruction Marijuana mixed into hemp fields


This slide contains two photographs illustrating illegal outdoor marijuana cultivation. The left image shows a yellow tractor with a front loader in a field, actively destroying rows of marijuana plants. The right image shows a large field of hemp plants, with rows of marijuana plants interspersed among them, demonstrating how growers attempt to hide their crops.



Illegal indoor marijuana grows



Residential grow – Inside Barns / Shops Residential grow – Inside Barns / Shops




Who oversees marijuana & hemp in Oregon?

OLCC – Oregon Liquor & Cannabis Commission (changed their name in 2021).

Oregon Health Authority (OHA) runs the Oregon Medical Marijuana Program (OMMP)


Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)

Personal use – 4 plants per household





Community complaints about quality of life issues

- Trash
- Odor
- Increased vehicle and pedestrian traffic
- Outdoor living conditions: tents, trailers and shanty style houses
- Greenhouses and hoop houses
- Water usage



Examples of what community members might observe



Trash, Pesticides, Discarded Materials

Mound of discarded soil from harvested pots




Examples of what community members might observe



Hoop houses



Modified living trailers and structures



Once probable cause is developed, write and obtain a search warrant for the location

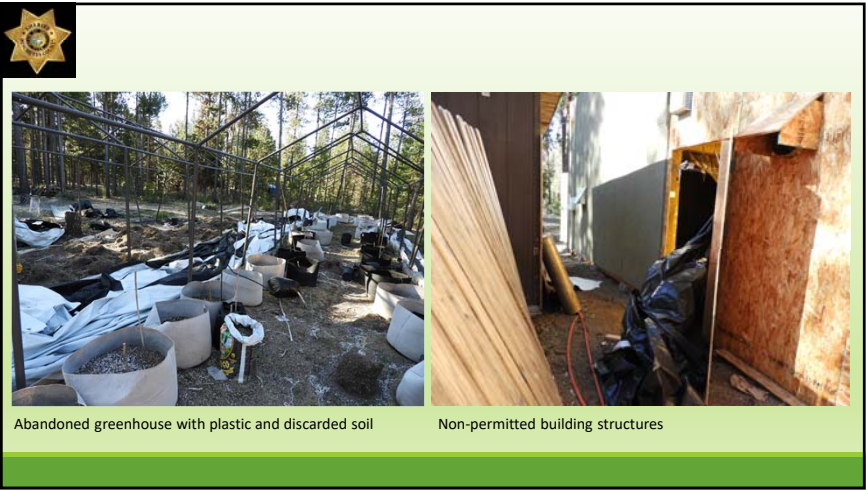
Serving the search warrant

- 10 - 40 law enforcement officers to process locations
- 4 - 12 hours to process locations
 - Identification, interview and relocate people who are present during the search warrant.
 - Additional equipment for the eradication
 - County Code Enforcement to inspect non-permitted building structures or non-permitted electrical.
 - Water Master for water violations
 - Environmental group for potential hazardous materials and soil contamination




Cutting down over 1800 plants

Loader Used to Fill Up Multiple Trailers for Dump



Abandoned greenhouse with plastic and discarded soil

Non-permitted building structures



Potential hazards located at search warrants

- Mold
- Fertilizers and chemicals
- Gases (Butane, CO2 etc.)
- Firearms
- BHO labs
- Exposed wiring



Examples of hazards found



Mold




Mold


 Examples of hazards found


 Exposed wires

 Fertilizers and chemicals

This slide illustrates two types of hazards found during an inspection. The first image shows a close-up of an electrical panel with several wires protruding and exposed, posing a fire or electrocution risk. The second image shows a large, disorganized pile of various containers, including white plastic jugs, black buckets, and bags, which are identified as fertilizers and chemicals, representing a chemical hazard.

 Examples of hazards found

 Outdoor kitchen

 Bathroom

This slide illustrates two types of hazards found during an inspection. The first image shows an outdoor kitchen area with a cluttered counter, a gas stove, and various items, representing a fire hazard. The second image shows a bathroom area with a toilet, a sink, and a shower area, representing a sanitation and health hazard.

 Examples of hazards found




BHO Lab BHO Ovens & Product

 Examples of hazards found



Firearms Firearm

 **What are people producing and why do they do this**

- Flower/bud marijuana
- Butane Honey Oil (BHO)
- THC vape cartridges
- THC edibles
- Money

 **Examples of marijuana items found**



Safe Full of Product for Sale Packaged Product for Sale


 Examples of marijuana items found

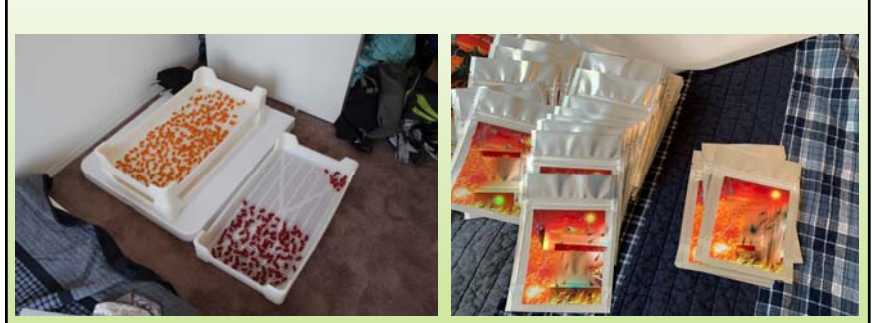


BHO Sheets – 15+ pizza boxes w/ product

THC Vape Cartridges

This slide features a police badge icon in the top left corner. The main title is "Examples of marijuana items found". Below the title are two photographs. The left photograph shows a stack of pizza boxes with a brown, textured sheet of BHO product resting on a white paper liner inside one of the boxes. The right photograph shows a person's hands using a syringe to fill a white plastic tray containing many small, black vape cartridges. A white bottle is visible in the background.

 Examples of marijuana items found



THC Gummies

Packaging for Gummies

This slide features a police badge icon in the top left corner. The main title is "Examples of marijuana items found". Below the title are two photographs. The left photograph shows two white plastic trays filled with small, colorful gummies. The right photograph shows several clear plastic bags containing gummies, some with colorful labels, and a single gummy in a white paper wrapper.



Examples of marijuana profits found



Money

Money Counter

The image contains two photographs. The left photograph shows several stacks of US dollar bills, including \$20 and \$100 bills, some in clear plastic bags and some loose on a white surface. The right photograph shows a black and silver money counter machine sitting on a yellow plastic table. The machine has a digital display and a keypad.

Deschutes County's Disputed Quarterly Transfers from the Oregon Marijuana Account

	County FY 2020			County FY 2021				County FY 2022	
	Q4 2019	Q1 2020	Q2 2020	Q3 2020	Q4 2020	Q1 2021	Q2 2021	Q3 2021	Q4 2021
State Estimate:	\$ 117,186	\$ 117,223	\$ 143,046	\$ 175,004	\$ 184,458	\$ 47,110	\$ 47,019	\$ 46,091	\$ 46,352
County Estimate:	\$ 102,946	\$ 111,763	\$ 133,778	\$ 163,666	\$ 172,504	\$ 43,929	\$ 42,834	\$ 41,994	\$ 42,086

Notes:

County Estimates are based on raw data provided by the State.

Reduced distributions beginning in Q1 2021 are due to Ballot Measure 110 passed by the voters in 2020.