



DRUG ENFORCEMENT SECTION

DRUG UNIT: CENTRAL

MEDIA RELEASE

OUTDOOR MARIHUANA GROWS

Spring has arrived in Ontario and so has another season for outdoor marihuana grow operations. During the months of May and June every year, persons involved in growing marihuana travel to the rural areas in search of property where they can plant this illicit crop. Marihuana growers look for the following areas:

1. Swamps
2. Corn Fields
3. Wooded areas
4. Along Rivers
5. Rural rental properties with large acreage

Once an area is located, growers will bring to the area large bags of fertilizer, shovels, chemicals, pails and of course the marihuana plants. The marihuana plants are planted and maintained by the grower over the next five months while they mature. Due to the heartiness of the marihuana plant, they only have to be tended to approximately once every two weeks.

In late September or early October the marihuana grower returns to harvest their plants, leaving the root of the plant behind.

Marihuana Plants are bright green in colour, the leaves have seven jagged fingers grow between three and five feet in height and give off an odour similar to that of a skunk.

Common Indicators of Outdoor Marihuana Grows:

1. Abandoned vehicles parked on side roads or trails
2. People observed walking in remote areas for no apparent reason
3. Bags of fertilizer, planting trays or chemicals located in remote areas
4. Well trampled trails in wooded or swamp areas
5. Cleared out areas in swamps, wooded area or corn fields
6. Numerous signs appear out of nowhere indicating “No Trespassing.”

What to do if you discover an outdoor marihuana operation:

1. Call police or Crimestoppers if you suspect or locate a marihuana grow operation
2. Do not touch the marihuana plants due to possible chemicals on the plants
3. If confronted by a marihuana grower, just leave the area, record any licence plates and call police.
4. Do not approach an outdoor grow due to the low percentage of grows being booby trapped or guarded

Notify your local OPP Detachment at 1-888-310-1122 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477) if you observe any of this suspicious activity.

**Contact: Detective Sergeant Scott Mahoney
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