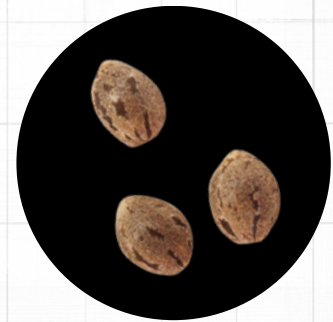


HOW TO CULTIVATE CANNABIS

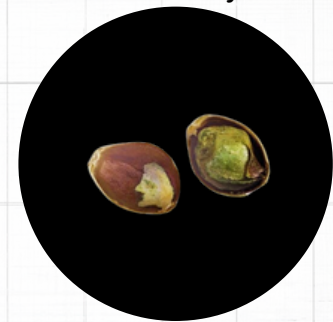
1° CHOOSE HEALTHY SEEDS

Healthy marijuana seeds are dark brown, black, or some combination of both. We'd recommend you don't use green seeds. Green seeds usually aren't yet mature enough to sprout.

Both bigger and smaller seeds will work. Indica seeds tend to be bigger-sized than sativa seeds. Another way indica and sativa seeds differ is in their patterns. Seeds that are brown and black are most likely indica, while the seeds that are a single color are generally sativa.



Healthy



Unhealthy

2° GERMINATE THE SEED

DIRECT PLANTING This is an even more natural method than water soaking. Just plant your seeds 1/2 inch to one inch deep in soil or another medium that has been moistened.

PAPER TOWEL Take two pieces of paper towel. Moisten them with water. Then place your pot seeds in between the two layers of moist paper towels. Put it in a plastic container with the lid cracked. Keep the seeds in a dark space. When you see the white taproot emerge from your seeds, they are ready to be transplanted, taproot down.



3° CHOOSE YOUR POT & SOIL

Pots should have good drainage out of the bottom. INDOOR standard pot size is between 2 and 6 gallons. Anything bigger might end up being too difficult to manage inside.

OUTDOOR it is recommended that you use a pot between 10 - 12 gallons. There are increased costs to using larger pots as well, as the larger the pot, the more soil medium you'll need.

When it comes to soil, to keep your grow organic refrain from using bottled pesticides & nutrients and consider living soil with a bat guano, blood meal, alfalfa meal, and worm castings mixture.

4° GROWTH CYCLE & LIGHT

The growth stages of marijuana can be broken down into four primary stages from seed to harvest:

Germination (3-10 days)

- Seedling (2-3 weeks)
- Marijuana light cycle:
- Vegetative (3-16 weeks)
- Flowering (8-11 weeks)

Marijuana Light Cycle:

- 18 hours a day indoors until flowering stage then bump down to 12 hours a day
- 6 hours a day outdoors



Vegetative



Flowering

5° CONSIDERATIONS

There are a number of changes to consider once plants go from the vegetative stage to the flowering stage:

- Don't prune when plants are flowering, as it can upset their hormones
- Plants should be trellised or so buds will be supported as they develop and air can flow through plants



Early

6° FLOWERING STAGES

Plants will start developing pre-flowers, telling you that flowering has initiated.

OUTDOOR flowering occurs when the plant receives less light each day naturally after the summer solstice. INDOOR growers can trigger the flowering cycle by reducing the amount of light marijuana plants receive from 18 to 12 hours a day.

Subphases of the flowering stage:

- Flower initiation (week 1-3): The plant will continue to grow and females will develop pre-flowers—pistils, or white hairs, will grow out, which are the beginnings of buds.
- Mid-flowering (week 4-5): The plant itself will stop growing and buds will start fattening up.
- Late flowering/ripening (week 6 and on): Trichome density will increase & plants will get very sticky; Keep an eye on the color of the pistils to tell when to harvest.



Mid



Late



7° PREFLOWERS & PRUNING

Pre-flowers are the beginnings of cannabis plant sex organs. If you're growing regular seeds, you'll likely have a mix of male and female plants and will need to determine the sex of your plants to discard the males. It's imperative to separate males so they don't pollinate the females.

Pre-flowers appear at the nodes of the plant, where a branch grows out of the main stalk. Females will develop an oval-shaped bract with hairs or pistils sticking out, while males will develop round pollen sacs.



Female



Male

8° BUDDING

Buds typically grow the most toward the end of the flowering life cycle. You probably won't notice much budding at the beginning of the flowering stage, and it will slow down toward the end of the cycle, when buds become fully formed. Once buds reach full maturation, it's time to harvest.



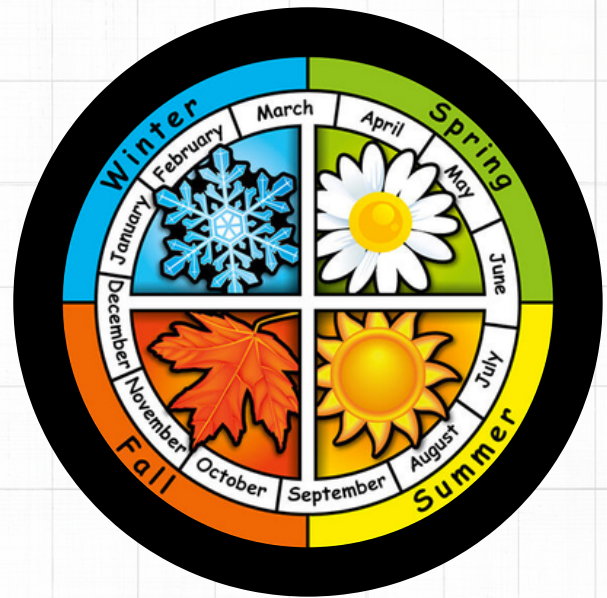
9° WATERING

Marijuana is a high-use water plant but the amount and frequency of water marijuana plants need depend on a few factors. In higher temperatures, marijuana plants will require more water, especially during the vegetative and blooming phases. High humidity climates can be harmful for marijuana and slow down its development. In that case, the plant may require less water, especially in the seedling stage, when it takes in water through leaves.



10° GROWING WITH THE SEASONS

Spring Equinox is a good reminder that it's time to kick off the outdoor growing process & start germinating your seeds if you haven't already. Many wait until after Mother's Day in May to put their plants outside. Just make sure your plants are outside no later than the Summer Solstice. The weather will start to turn & the sun will begin descending in the sky as your plants fatten up with sweet, sticky buds. It might be tempting, but the Fall Equinox is about when to start harvesting. It also depends on your climate.



2024 Solstices & Equinox's
Spring Equinox: March 19th
Summer Solstice: June 20th
Autumn Equinox: September 22nd
Winter Solstice: December 21st

BOOK RECOMENDATIONS

TRUE LIVING ORGANICS: THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GROWING ALL-NATURAL MARIJUANA INDOORS

THE CANNABIS GROW BIBLE THE DEFINITIVE GUIDE TO GROWING MARIJUANA FOR RECREATIONAL AND MEDICINAL USE

CANNABIS GROWERS HANDBOOK: THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO MARIJUANA AND HEMP CULTIVATION

CANNABIS: A HANDBOOK FOR NURSES