

# Organic Cannabis Growers Society

How did The Organic Cannabis Growers Society begin?. I spent my first gardening years in the late 70's in Oregon with a 20k ft' organic garden on a former commune. After opening a dispensary in Eugene, Oregon I found out just how picky I am with Cannabis. I always expressed it openly with food, "I'm not gonna eat that"...

But with cannabis, to be polite I would always say "thank you sure I will try that"...Then I would take it and give it to someone who didn't care with what or how it was grown.

What I found out from the many "Vendors" of cannabis, that called or stopped by the dispensary was this:

***Many had no clue what actual Organic production was.***

I had been involved in the many facets of the cannabis industry for years as a second generation grower, my electrical engineering and construction experience came in handy for me as an indoor and outdoor grow space designer and builder, a "ganjaprenuer".. Coming from a background of self care, conservation and sustainability, my personal growing style, starting in 1979, has been evolving over the last 18 years into the least amounts of store bought inputs, recycling as much as possible and making as many inputs as I can. I spend 10% as much as most "organic" growers to produce the same amount and less than 5% compared to synthetic growers.

There was no support group for organics in cannabis so OCGS was born out of necessity.

From more than 1,000 years before the time of Christ until 1883 A.D., cannabis hemp - indeed, marijuana - was our planet's largest agricultural crop and most important industry, involving thousands of products and enterprises; producing the overall majority of Earth's fiber, fabric, lighting oil, paper, incense and medicines. In addition, it was a primary source of essential food oil and protein for Humans and Animals.

Smoking gained real popularity after the 1876 world's fair in Philadelphia PA. Hashish and Edibles like infused turkish delight were Brought to America by the Sultan of Turkey, cannabis became a hit soon followed by the opening up smoking parlours up and down the East coast.

Modern THC oriented marijuana production began as a counterculture black market crop started in the late 1960's has led to a booming underground business. Black market production of a crop that has varied in my experience over the years from \$1000lb for sub par outdoor in recent years to \$6800lb top shelf in mid 90's has driven an industry to push the envelope in production methods and techniques.

Underground gardeners could produce an unmatched income out of a closet, bedroom or garage... A Patch in the woods....as ANDY talked about. But where did these gardeners go to get the stuff they needed.

Enter the local garden store, hydroponic shop, ect. The ones with the little sign that said, "Cannabis is illegal and if you ask about growing it you will be asked to leave". In the late 80's

We would drive 2 hours to the next town where My mom used to drop me off a block away from the store to go get products to make sure we weren't getting tailed by the Cops....

No other crop has been experimented with to push production as Cannabis has. No one would spend hundreds of dollars to grow a few pounds of tomatoes. But weed you bet!!! Some of the information gained from these (mostly non scientific) experiments has resulted in new information. There was a tremendous amount of cash made by growers that found its way back into the nutrient, lighting and environmental controls companies. These companies are huge lobbies for commercial cannabis production today. Through media like High times and the like, most the cutting edge growing techniques that were promoted for years as the best were synthetic based. This disinformation promoted through local grow stores helped push growers to grow with synthetics and even as an organic push in the last 10 years has been happening many synthetic products were disguised as Natural and Organic. ....Growing with liquids (hydro) in small spaces had some advantages over bringing soil in and out of your house. We could always spot a soil grower's house by the amount of perlite in their garden beds. It was never in the best interest of the Grow Store (hydroponics Shop) to send the grower down a path of true organics, but instead it was to get as much money from them as possible using marketing techniques like a bottle with the latest "buddah" label..... Growers would happily pay anything to use the latest and greatest because the profit was huge.

The other problem with an unregulated black market that has the most profit per SQ ft is that stores will sell anything that will help with getting that crop finished and out to market. With a general lack of integrity by the stores and ignorance of growers that use them, products not made for any kind of human consumption, designed for Ornamental use only are sold to help control pests, disease and promote vigorous growth. A stroll thru a local shop will show Items with Plant Growth Regulators in products like Gravity, Fungicides like Eagle 20, or Pesticides like Avid (a neurotoxin) are rampant in this industry. These items were never designed or tested to be ingested through inhalation with combustion.....

Uneducated growers were led down the wrong path by the stores that profited from black market production. Nutrient and lighting companies have been profiteering from this industry for years with companies like General Hydroponics (now Monsanto), and House and Garden promoting their products as the cleanest for growing.

I hear that MYTH all the time even from industry "experts" like Ed Rosenthal who gave a talk at an event showing how a giant commercial greenhouse could produce the cleanest sterile cannabis with an ebb and flow hydroponic system with automatic transplanters to the shock and awe of many of the local organic minded producers looking to find a niche in the upcoming recreational market.

With 23 states now with medical marijuana laws and 3 of them with Recreational legality, we have an extraordinary opportunity right now.

***It is possible because of the infancy of this newly regulated market to push for true sustainable Organic production.*** What if all Cannabis production had to be organic. We need to help overcome the stigma that organic production cannot compete with conventional. We all know that Organic production is the way to go.

### ***How do we go about achieving this?***

I have found that the general public lacks real information about marijuana production. In Oregon Many patients I met expressed that all marijuana must be organic because it is tested. That testing was only for a minimal pesticide and mold screen. Many are sold by the myth that a flushed hydroponic product is cleaner. I personally have never needed to “flush“ my spinach or my cannabis to get it clean. .... Many growers express that their products are organic when they are actually using synthetics. Again this is the problem with misinformation from media and the outlets for the products they buy.. (Example) We are currently seeing more and more interest in our programs by growers and stores in California, Washington, and Oregon. We have also taken on a new director in Canada. We currently have members in Spain, New Zealand and Uruguay.

At OCGS we feel that public outreach through the many media outlets, and live events like this can bring information to light that can help change the collective consciousness of the industry. In turn this will help influence the lawmakers that will be writing the rules for upcoming legalization. We are in contact with these lawmakers now. We offer private certification programs that meet or beat the NOP rules so growers will be seasoned when Cannabis can be labeled “organic”. Currently no one can claim their product is Organic because that term is regulated by the NOP.

I am currently working on creating the most sustainable indoor recreational grow. We hope that this will demonstrate it's benefits and all the information on how we do it will be available with live cameras following the action. A permanent bed no-till garden, low input using only Actively aerated Compost Tea's, Sprouted seed tea, and worm tea feeding program with the most efficient Led, plasma, ceramic metal halide lighting or combination thereof, naturally climate controlled (no AC). All of this offset by Greenpower and supplemented with solar and wind generation.