

# Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program Program Overview

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Prior to 1980, domestically cultivated marijuana in Florida had not been recognized as a problem by most of Florida's law enforcement agencies. However, in 1981, a source provided information to the FDLE, Panama City Field Office that cultivation was a viable criminal enterprise in Florida. That same year, FDLE members met with representatives from the DEA, and the first marijuana eradication effort netted 48,206 plants and 61 arrests.

As a result, Florida law enforcement quickly became aware, through intelligence and the appearance of domestic marijuana on the streets, that marijuana cultivation in Florida was producing a high grade of marijuana that rivaled any produced in the world. The enormous profits realized from domestic cultivation and the reduced risk of apprehension, as compared to smuggling, combined to encourage this emerging drug problem which soon had an impact on every region in the State.

Plants located and eradicated in this program since 1981 are shown below. For individual county statistics for 1997, see [Appendix I](#).

<b>Historical Data</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>Plants Eradicated</b>	<b>Growing Sites</b>	<b>Arrests</b>	<b>Estimated Value**</b>
<b>1981</b>	48,206	No Record	61	\$18.0 Million
<b>1982</b>	43,500	341	149	\$16.3 Million
<b>1983</b>	139,707	903	286	\$52.3 Million
<b>1984</b>	106,645	769	426	\$40.0 Million
<b>1985</b>	104,281	1,272	329	\$39.0 Million
<b>1986</b>	97,408	1,332	333	\$36.5 Million
<b>1987</b>	96,842	1,498	335	\$36.3 Million
<b>1988</b>	134,794	1,568	358	\$50.4 Million
<b>1989</b>	79,176	1,153	259	\$79.1 Million
<b>1990</b>	92,901	1,148	330	\$92.9 Million
<b>1991</b>	105,066	1,801	690	\$105.1 Million
<b>1992</b>	243,452	1,893	784	\$243.4 Million
<b>1993</b>	145,384	2,033	696	\$145.3 Million
<b>1994</b>	99,862	1,406	501	\$99.8 Million
<b>1995</b>	102,075	1,260	437	\$102.0 Million
<b>1996</b>	96,661	1,059	362	\$96.6 Million
<b>1997</b>	108,178	1,144	477	\$108.1 Million

\*\* : From 1981 through 1988, the estimated value was at approximately \$500 per pound based upon an average of 3/4 pound of smokeable substance from each plant. However, in 1989, the DEA set the standard for the estimated value to be at approximately \$1,000 per pound based upon an average yield of one pound of smokeable substance from each plant.

