



# FLORIDA'S DOMESTIC MARIJUANA ERADICATION (DME) PROGRAM

## 2005 ANNUAL REPORT



Florida's Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program is a partnership coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE), the Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE), and the Florida National Guard

## **INTRODUCTION**

Florida's warm climate and wide-ranging rural woodlands provide a fertile environment for criminals to cultivate cannabis plants (marijuana). The eradication of cannabis plants at the source immediately strikes a blow against drug dealing and abuse by reducing the availability of marijuana on the street. Eradicating marijuana before it can be cultivated also increases citizen and officer safety and reduces overall investigative costs.

Through the coordination of the Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program, federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities have found a cost effective and measurable means to prevent a sizable amount of domestically cultivated marijuana from reaching the street. This is evidenced in the statistical success of Florida's DME Program and its federal counterpart, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP). For over twenty years, the combination of these two programs and the support they have received from federal, state, and local law enforcement authorities has resulted in the detection of over 25,000 illegal grow sites; eradication of over 2 million marijuana plants valued over \$2.1 billion; and, the arrest of over 10,000 cultivators in Florida (Historical data provided on page 5).

Since its inception in 1981, the Florida DME Program has set national standards and served as a role model for other states. In addition to being known for its progressive program, Florida's DME program is also noted for its specialized law enforcement training in the areas of aerial detection and indoor grow investigations.

The Florida DME Program's success is due to its ability to support law enforcement efforts and adapt to the changing culture of the illicit cultivator. The initial Florida DME Program focused primarily on the outdoor cultivation of marijuana. However, due to the success of aerial detection programs and with the increase in Florida's urbanization, the illicit cultivator has expanded indoors. For this reason, the Florida DME Program now supports law enforcement efforts to eradicate both outdoor and indoor marijuana grow sites. During the 2005 year the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) focused on administering the Indoor DME Program and the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE) focused on administering the Outdoor DME Program.

## **2005 PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS**

During 2005, successful aerial detection techniques continued to be a vital part of the effort to eradicate domestically cultivated marijuana. Other investigative techniques, such as ground searches and surveillances were also used to counter this illegal activity. The Florida National Guard, at no additional cost, supported each one of these techniques.

During 2005, cultivated marijuana was reported in 60 of Florida's 67 counties. Through the efforts of federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and the Florida DME Program, a total of 668 indoor and outdoor marijuana grow sites were detected, 74,863 marijuana plants were eradicated, 498 marijuana cultivators were arrested and 146 firearms seized. Asset seizures by local law enforcement agencies participating the 2005 DME Program included \$210,553.00 cash; real estate valued at \$2,209,000.00; weapons, vehicles and equipment valued at \$162,860.00, for a total asset seizure value for 2005 \$2,582,413.00. These efforts reduced the potential of over 74,000 pounds of marijuana from being illegally distributed on our streets and in our communities (Statistics by county are provided on pages 3&4).

During 2005, the program in concert with DCE/SP continued to provide specialized training for federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies at no cost. The Florida DME Program and DCE/SP trained a total of 74 law enforcement officers in Aerial Cannabis Detection, Indoor and Outdoor Grow Investigations. These training opportunities will again be offered during 2006 beginning with the DME Program Orientations scheduled for April 2006.

### **CONTINUED EFFORTS**

The State of Florida was impacted by six separate hurricanes in 2005. In spite of the inclement weather, the number of outdoor grow sites eradicated increased some 484% from the previous year. The indoor grow sites increased some 207% from the previous year. The DME shows an overall increase of 267% from the 2004 year and an average increase of 230% in the last six years reporting.

This positive achievement can be attributed to the support received from the entire law enforcement community, Florida National Guard, and the dedicated citizens who report these and other illegal activities to their local law enforcement agencies.

Support from an informed public, combined with law enforcement efforts, is essential to the continued success of both the Florida DME Program and DCE/SP. To ensure this success, FDLE provides an ongoing public awareness effort through the use of the Internet, educational appearances, publications, and training provided to Florida law enforcement. FDLE also maintains a toll-free telephone "hot-line" (1-800-342-SPOT) for citizens to report suspicious activity relating to domestic marijuana and other drug activity.

In 2006, Florida's DME Program and DCE/SP will continue to support law enforcement efforts in the detection and dismantling of illegal marijuana grow sites. This support will include the use of federal funds received from DCE/SP to finance the aerial eradication activities by local law enforcement and to reimburse some costs associated with the investigation and dismantling of indoor and outdoor grow sites. The Florida National Guard will continue to support the 2006 efforts.

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## 2005 STATISTICS BY COUNTY

COUNTY	GROW SITES		PLANTS ERADICATED		ARRESTS		FIREARMS SEIZED	
	I	O	I	O	I	O	I	O
ALACHUA	1	1	197	56	0	0	0	0
BAKER	0	8	0	192	0	0	0	0
BAY	0	3	0	91	0	4	0	0
BRADFORD	0	2	0	13	0	0	0	0
BREVARD	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
BROWARD	31	1	2,669	3	35	1	14	0
CALHOUN	0	2	0	2,387	0	0	0	1
CHARLOTTE	0	1	0	23	0	0	0	0
CITRUS	1	1	5	5	0	0	0	0
CLAY	1	1	542	4	1	1	0	0
COLLIER	32	1	3,344	370	32	0	1	0
COLUMBIA	3	3	209	18	4	2	1	0
DESOTO	3	0	136	0	3	0	1	0
DIXIE	0	1	0	20	0	0	0	0
DUVAL	20	52	556	206	18	14	10	0
ESCAMBIA	0	7	0	193	0	0	0	0
FLAGLER	3	3	146	45	2	0	2	0
FRANKLIN	0	5	0	263	0	1	0	0
GADSDEN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
GILCHRIST	1	5	239	185	1	1	0	0
GLADES	1	0	47	0	1	0	0	0
GULF	0	1	0	9	0	0	0	0
HAMILTON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HARDEE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HENDRY	1	1	12,113	18,236	0	0	0	0
HERNANDO	1	2	2	3	1	0	0	0
HIGHLANDS	7	5	437	58	5	3	0	0
HILLSBOROUGH	6	3	567	256	7	5	0	0
HOLMES	1	10	991	2,403	2	4	4	1
INDIAN RIVER	3	4	234	10	4	3	6	0
JACKSON	1	1	186	6	1	0	0	0
JEFFERSON	0	1	0	15	0	2	0	0
LAFAYETTE	0	1	0	23	0	0	0	0
LAKE	4	10	157	857	4	8	13	1
LEE	4	2	1,602	439	26	0	1	0
LEON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEVY	0	8	0	68	0	4	0	0
LIBERTY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MADISON	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
MANATEE	3	7	565	223	5	2	0	3
MARION	3	13	1,293	238	1	12	1	11
MARTIN	1	1	21	3	1	1	0	0
MIAMI-DADE	157	2	12,016	16	138	0	23	0
MONROE	5	0	501	0	5	0	0	0
NASSAU	0	15	0	69	0	11	0	0

## 2005 STATISTICS BY COUNTY

COUNTY	GROW SITES		PLANTS ERADICATED		ARRESTS		FIREARMS SEIZED	
OKALOOSA	0	3	0	106	0	1	0	0
OKEECHOBEE	0	7	0	57	0	0	0	1
ORANGE	3	4	84	46	3	1	0	0
OSCEOLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PALM BEACH	29	1	2,356	274	23	0	23	0
PASCO	7	9	257	135	6	4	0	0
PINELLAS	17	5	1,143	14	24	0	4	0
POLK	13	9	986	414	11	7	10	0
PUTNAM	0	3	0	215	0	2	0	0
ST. JOHNS	0	6	0	27	0	3	0	0
ST. LUCIE	6	2	506	8	7	1	4	0
SANTA ROSA	2	11	29	64	2	3	4	0
SARASOTA	2	0	167	0	3	0	4	0
SEMINOLE	5	2	304	5	3	0	0	0
SUMTER	2	4	102	29	2	4	0	0
SUWANNEE	1	0	200	0	0	0	0	0
TAYLOR	0	5	0	111	0	1	0	2
UNION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VOLUSIA	0	12	0	319	0	5	0	0
WAKULLA	1	7	305	127	1	2	0	0
WALTON	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
WASHINGTON	0	9	0	688	0	1	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>45,217</b>	<b>29,646</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>668</b>		<b>74,863</b>		<b>498</b>		<b>146</b>	

Hendry County led the State in the eradication of 30,349 plants, followed by Miami-Dade County reporting 12,032 plants eradicated and Collier County reporting 3,714 plants eradicated.

## HISTORICAL DATA

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>PLANTS ERADICATED</b>	<b>GROW SITES</b>	<b>ARRESTS</b>	<b>ESTIMATED VALUE</b>
1981	48,206	No Record	61	\$18.0 Million
1982	43,500	341	149	\$16.3 Million
1983	139,707	903	286	\$52.3 Million
1984	106,645	769	426	\$40.0 Million
1985	104,281	1,272	329	\$39.0 Million
1986	97,408	1,332	333	\$36.5 Million
1987	96,842	1,498	335	\$36.3 Million
1988	134,794	1,568	358	\$50.4 Million
1989	79,176	1,153	259	\$79.1 Million
1990	92,901	1,148	330	\$92.9 Million
1991	105,066	1,801	690	\$105.1 Million
1992	243,452	1,893	784	\$243.4 Million
1993	145,384	2,033	696	\$145.3 Million
1994	99,862	1,406	501	\$99.8 Million
1995	102,075	1,260	437	\$102.0 Million
1996	96,661	1,059	362	\$96.6 Million
1997	108,178	1,144	477	\$108.1 Million
1998	55,311	604	404	\$55.3 Million
1999	56,838	573	466	\$56.8 Million
2000	32,219	611	408	\$32.2 Million
2001	28,206	551	325	\$28.2 Million
2002	37,897	550	347	\$37.8 Million
2003	39,427	622	409	\$39.4 Million
2004	28,006	488	334	\$28.4 Million
2005	74,863	668	498	\$74.8 Million
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,196,905</b>	<b>25,247</b>	<b>10,004</b>	<b>\$2.9 Billion</b>