

**UNITED STATES DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION
DOMESTIC CANNABIS ERADICATION/SUPPRESSION PROGRAM**

&

**FLORIDA'S DOMESTIC MARIJUANA
ERADICATION PROGRAM**



*A partnership coordinated by
the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA),
and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services'
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (AgLaw)*



2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Submitted by:
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement



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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 seven 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 28,500 illegal grow sites; eradication of over 2.4 million marijuana plants valued at approximately \$3.6 billion*; and, the arrest of almost 13,000 cultivators in Florida (Historical data provided on page 4).

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. In calendar year 2008, both programs were overseen, administered and reported on by the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, Office of Agriculture Law Enforcement (AgLaw).

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The DME is a voluntary program offered to local agencies through AgLaw. Each year, DEA allocates funds to AgLaw which are then dispersed to local law enforcement agencies for training and reimbursement for indoor and outdoor grow investigations. For 2008, OALE received an initial grant of \$385,000, with a supplemental grant of \$30,000, totaling \$415,000 for the program. This 2008 Annual Report reflects information provided by 62 different law enforcement agencies representing 56 counties, including 51 sheriff offices, 11 municipal law enforcement agencies, and 2 federal/state agencies. Requests for reimbursements for eradication expenses were received from 58 law enforcement agencies totaling \$593,246.82, and disbursements to those agencies totaled \$356,008.93. This figure computes to 86% of Florida's DME funds being directly disbursed to local law enforcement agencies to help offset their investigation costs.

In addition to its role as the Administrator of Florida's DME Program, AgLaw along with DEA, and the Florida National Guard (FNG) offered seven orientation meetings to Florida law enforcement officers involved in the eradication of domestically grown marijuana. These orientations were held in March 2008 in Milton, Perry, Jacksonville, Titusville, Davie, Fort Myers and Dade City.

In 2008, DEA and AgLaw attended the Florida Sheriff's Association and Florida Police Chief's Association Winter Conferences, as well as the Florida Narcotics Officers Association Conference, to promote Florida's Domestic Marijuana Program.

Utilizing the federal funds which support Florida's DME Program, AgLaw sponsored an in-depth, 24-hour Indoor Cannabis Investigations School to local law enforcement officers in July 2008. Sixty three (63) local and state law enforcement officers received valuable training at no cost to their agency. AgLaw expended \$40,323.51 (10% of DME funds) in training-related expenses for law enforcement officers during 2008.

2008 GROW ACTIVITIES

In 2008, the reported seizures of marijuana from Indoor Grow Sites continued to outpace seizures from Outdoor Grow Sites. Indoor and Outdoor cultivators continue to develop innovative techniques and schemes to avoid detection by law enforcement.

Despite these innovative techniques and schemes, county and local law enforcement agencies in 56 of Florida's 67 counties reported the detection and dismantling of 1,321 indoor and outdoor grow sites, resulting in the eradication of 94,700 marijuana plants, 1,223 arrests, and the forfeiture of \$7,298,613.81 in assets.

As in 2007, Miami-Dade continued to lead the state with Indoor Grow Sites, and Santa Rosa County led the state in Outdoor Grow Sites eradicated in 2008.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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HISTORICAL DATA

| YEAR | GROW SITES | PLANTS ERADICATED | ARRESTS | ESTIMATED VALUE |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1981 | No Record | 48,206 | 61 | \$18.0 Million |
| 1982 | 341 | 43,500 | 149 | \$16.3 Million |
| 1983 | 903 | 139,707 | 286 | \$52.3 Million |
| 1984 | 769 | 106,645 | 426 | \$40.0 Million |
| 1985 | 1,272 | 104,281 | 329 | \$39.0 Million |
| 1986 | 1,332 | 97,408 | 333 | \$36.5 Million |
| 1987 | 1,498 | 96,842 | 335 | \$36.3 Million |
| 1988 | 1,568 | 134,794 | 358 | \$50.4 Million |
| 1989 | 1,153 | 79,176 | 259 | \$79.1 Million |
| 1990 | 1,148 | 92,901 | 330 | \$92.9 Million |
| 1991 | 1,801 | 105,066 | 690 | \$105.1 Million |
| 1992 | 1,893 | 243,452 | 784 | \$243.4 Million |
| 1993 | 2,033 | 145,384 | 696 | \$145.3 Million |
| 1994 | 1,406 | 99,862 | 501 | \$99.8 Million |
| 1995 | 1,260 | 102,075 | 437 | \$102.0 Million |
| 1996 | 1,059 | 96,661 | 362 | \$96.6 Million |
| 1997 | 1,144 | 108,178 | 477 | \$108.1 Million |
| 1998 | 604 | 55,311 | 404 | \$55.3 Million |
| 1999 | 573 | 56,838 | 466 | \$56.8 Million |
| 2000 | 611 | 32,219 | 408 | \$32.2 Million |
| 2001 | 551 | 28,206 | 325 | \$28.2 Million |
| 2002 | 550 | 37,897 | 347 | \$37.8 Million |
| 2003 | 622 | 39,427 | 409 | \$39.4 Million |
| 2004 | 488 | 28,006 | 334 | \$28.4 Million |
| 2005 | 668 | 74,863 | 498 | \$74.8 Million |
| 2006 | 819 | 47,665 | 639 | * \$138.6 Million |
| 2007 | 1,207 | 83,814 | 1,078 | * \$268.5 Million |
| 2008 | 1,321 | 94,700 | 1,223 | * \$287.2 Million |
| GRAND TOTAL | 28,594 | 2,423,084 | 12,944 | \$3.6 Billion |

*Figures compiled using a base of \$3,500 average per pound for domestic indoor grown marijuana; \$775 average per pound for outdoor grown marijuana, based on average wholesale amounts published in the USDOJ *National Illicit Drug Prices Bulletin - June 2008*.

2008 STATISTICS BY COUNTY

| COUNTY | INDOOR GROWS | | | | OUTDOOR GROWS | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------|---------|-----------------|---------------|--------|---------|-----------------|
| | SITES | PLANTS | ARRESTS | FIREARMS SEIZED | SITES | PLANTS | ARRESTS | FIREARMS SEIZED |
| ALACHUA | 22 | 2262 | 21 | 18 | 5 | 387 | 1 | 63 |
| BAKER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| BAY | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| BRADFORD | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 277 | 1 | 0 |
| BREVARD | 38 | 4,386 | 52 | 11 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| BROWARD | 11 | 1,333 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CALHOUN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CHARLOTTE | 1 | 58 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| CITRUS | 1 | 180 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 40 | 1 | 0 |
| CLAY | 9 | 879 | 10 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| COLLIER | 28 | 1,635 | 28 | 2 | 1 | 202 | 1 | 0 |
| COLUMBIA | 9 | 1,020 | 10 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| DESOTO | 1 | 150 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| DIXIE | 3 | 190 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| DUVAL | 45 | 1,529 | 43 | 26 | 33 | 185 | 10 | 3 |
| ESCAMBIA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FLAGLER | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| FRANKLIN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 31 | 1 | 0 |
| GADSDEN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GILCHRIST | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GLADES | 2 | 442 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GULF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 36 | 0 | 0 |
| HAMILTON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HARDEE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HENDRY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| HERNANDO | 24 | 2,956 | 30 | 26 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| HIGHLANDS | 12 | 838 | 15 | 12 | 1 | 69 | 1 | 0 |
| HILLSBOROUGH | 55 | 5,298 | 61 | 8 | 5 | 183 | 6 | 0 |
| HOLMES | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 308 | 5 | 0 |
| INDIAN RIVER | 2 | 248 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 27 | 3 | 0 |
| JACKSON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 74 | 1 | 2 |
| JEFFERSON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LAFAYETTE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LAKE | 14 | 3,402 | 25 | 23 | 8 | 147 | 6 | 12 |
| LEE | 66 | 3,840 | 81 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| COUNTY | INDOOR GROWS | | | | OUTDOOR GROWS | | | |
|--------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-----------------|
| | SITES | PLANTS | ARRESTS | FIREARMS SEIZED | SITES | PLANTS | ARRESTS | FIREARMS SEIZED |
| LEON | 12 | 2,146 | 10 | 34 | 5 | 309 | 2 | 0 |
| LEVY | 13 | 2,035 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LIBERTY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| MADISON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 3 | 0 |
| MANATEE | 5 | 203 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 |
| MARION | 18 | 1,842 | 19 | 8 | 8 | 72 | 5 | 0 |
| MARTIN | 2 | 35 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 54 | 5 | 0 |
| MIAMI-DADE | 348 | 23,621 | 348 | 44 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 |
| MONROE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| NASSAU | 7 | 286 | 6 | 3 | 18 | 149 | 9 | 0 |
| OKALOOSA | 6 | 100 | 9 | 14 | 13 | 424 | 8 | 1 |
| OKEECHOBEE | 2 | 369 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 201 | 2 | 1 |
| ORANGE | 10 | 296 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 222 | 1 | 0 |
| OSCEOLA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PALM BEACH | 79 | 4,997 | 70 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| PASCO | 27 | 2,233 | 23 | 3 | 3 | 83 | 0 | 0 |
| PINELLAS | 47 | 2,636 | 49 | 22 | 9 | 128 | 5 | 0 |
| POLK | 36 | 2,259 | 38 | 9 | 14 | 214 | 16 | 1 |
| PUTNAM | 3 | 83 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 177 | 6 | 1 |
| ST. JOHNS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| ST. LUCIE | 8 | 1,118 | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SANTA ROSA | 2 | 21 | 2 | 0 | 43 | 10,999 | 10 | 0 |
| SARASOTA | 23 | 1,327 | 31 | 0 | 3 | 166 | 2 | 0 |
| SEMINOLE | 5 | 494 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SUMTER | 2 | 185 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| SUWANNEE | 3 | 142 | 4 | 7 | 1 | 42 | 1 | 0 |
| TAYLOR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 371 | 0 | 0 |
| UNION | 1 | 122 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VOLUSIA | 16 | 1,240 | 13 | 4 | 9 | 200 | 5 | 0 |
| WAKULLA | 1 | 18 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 62 | 3 | 0 |
| WALTON | 1 | 34 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 153 | 2 | 0 |
| WASHINGTON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 172 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1,022 | 78,489 | 1,093 | 310 | 299 | 16,211 | 130 | 84 |

2008 REIMBURSEMENT STATISTICS

| AGENCY | COUNTY | REIMBURSEMENTS REQUESTED | REIMBURSEMENTS GRANTED |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ALACHUA CSO | ALACHUA | \$7,500.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| BAY CSO | BAY | \$8,850.00 | \$8,850.00 |
| BRADFORD CSO | BRADFORD | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| BOYNTON BEACH PD | PALM BEACH | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| BREVARD CSO | BREVARD | \$18,250.00 | \$14,000.00 |
| BROWARD CSO | BROWARD | \$2,000.00 | \$750.00 |
| CALHOUN CSO | CALHOUN | \$1,750.00 | \$1,750.00 |
| CAPE CORAL PD | LEE | \$3,750.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| CHIPLEY PD | WASHINGTON | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| CLAY CSO | CLAY | \$4,250.00 | \$4,250.00 |
| COLLIER CSO | COLLIER | \$36,644.00 | \$10,250.00 |
| DIXIE CSO | DIXIE | \$1,500.00 | \$750.00 |
| FRANKLIN CSO | FRANKLIN | \$750.00 | \$750.00 |
| GLADES CSO | GLADES | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| GULF CSO | GULF | \$500.00 | \$250.00 |
| HERNANDO CSO | HERNANDO | \$10,031.22 | \$11,000.00 |
| HIGHLANDS CSO | HIGHLANDS | \$7,000.00 | \$4,750.00 |
| HILLSBOROUGH CSO | HILLSBOROUGH | \$26,200.00 | \$24,500.00 |
| HOLMES CSO | HOLMES | \$7,253.00 | \$7,050.00 |
| INDIAN RIVER CSO | INDIAN RIVER | \$1,500.00 | \$1,500.00 |
| JACKSON CSO | JACKSON | \$5,450.00 | \$2,600.00 |
| JACKSONVILLE SO | DUVAL | \$20,000.00 | \$13,000.00 |
| LAKE CSO | LAKE | \$10,250.00 | \$5,000.00 |
| LEE CSO | LEE | \$22,099.81 | \$2,664.38 |
| LEON CSO | LEON | \$2,500.00 | \$2,250.00 |
| LEVY CSO | LEVY | \$4,750.00 | \$3,750.00 |
| MADISON CSO | MADISON | \$500.00 | \$500.00 |
| MARION CSO | MARION | \$9,500.00 | \$9,500.00 |
| MIAMI-DADE PD | DADE | \$148,670.78 | \$68,000.00 |
| NASSAU CSO | NASSAU | \$7,000.00 | \$4,500.00 |
| OKALOOSA CSO | OKALOOSA | \$8,445.00 | \$4,500.00 |
| OKEECHOBEE CSO | OKEECHOBEE | \$3,250.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| PALM BAY PD | BREVARD | \$750.00 | \$750.00 |
| PALM BEACH CSO | PALM BEACH | \$37,550.00 | \$18,250.00 |
| PASCO CSO | PASCO | \$15,000.00 | \$11,250.00 |
| PINELLAS CSO | PINELLAS | \$19,750.00 | \$5,750.00 |
| POLK CSO | POLK | \$18,850.28 | \$4,500.00 |
| PORT ORANGE PD | VOLUSIA | \$250.00 | \$250.00 |

| AGENCY | COUNTY | REIMBURSEMENTS REQUESTED | REIMBURSEMENTS GRANTED |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| PORT ST. LUCIE PD | ST. LUCIE | \$3,500.00 | \$2,000.00 |
| PUTNAM CSO | PUTNAM | \$4,000.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| SANTA ROSA CSO | SANTA ROSA | \$26,000.00 | \$23,750.00 |
| SARASOTA CSO | SARASOTA | \$10,000.00 | \$7,750.00 |
| SARASOTA PD | SARASOTA | \$500.00 | \$0.00 |
| SEMINOLE CSO | SEMINOLE | \$3,000.00 | \$3,000.00 |
| SUWANNEE CSO | SUWANNEE | \$4,108.13 | \$1,250.00 |
| SUMTER CSO | SUMTER | \$1,000.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| ST. LUCIE CSO | ST. LUCIE | \$9,377.67 | \$500.00 |
| ST. PETERSBURG PD | PINELLAS | \$750.00 | \$750.00 |
| TALLAHASSEE PD | LEON | \$6,750.00 | \$6,750.00 |
| TAYLOR CSO | TAYLOR | \$2,750.00 | \$2,750.00 |
| UNION CSO | UNION | \$11,625.09 | \$11,625.09 |
| VOLUSIA CSO | VOLUSIA | \$5,872.38 | \$3,500.00 |
| WAKULLA CSO | WAKULLA | \$2,000.00 | \$1,750.00 |
| WALTON CSO | WALTON | \$8,940.00 | \$8,690.00 |
| WASHINGTON CSO | WASHINGTON | \$9,650.00 | \$9,900.00 |
| DACS DOF | | \$1,174.46 | \$1,174.46 |
| FWCC | | \$3,955.00 | \$3,955.00 |
| TOTALS: | | \$584,246.82 | \$356,008.93 |

* Reimbursements were made to DACS/DOF and FWCC for mission-related helicopter expenses.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Florida's 2008 Domestic Marijuana Eradication Program concluded with impressive statistics in all categories as reported to the DEA.

An evaluation of the training program revealed that training in aerial detection methods and indoor grow investigations must continue to keep pace with the marijuana cultivation activity.

With the coordinated efforts of all of Florida's law enforcement community, the mission to suppress this internal drug problem was a success in 2008. With Florida's continued commitment by local, state, and federal law enforcement, as well as the continued participation of the Florida National Guard, 2009 shall prove to have a substantial impact on domestically cultivated marijuana.