



DIY Cannabis Growers Guide

Disclaimer: Any shared information or sales by Cannabis County is to be used strictly for legal purposes. We condemn the production of illegal substances and it is your duty to ensure that you are complying with state law. The words "hemp", "cannabis", "weed", and "marijuana" are used interchangeably to refer to the same plant (*legal hemp with less than 0.3% THC*) for the purposes of this lesson.

- Growing cannabis like any other plant is achieved through a series of stages that plants undergo during their full lifecycle. However, cannabis plants may need a little more attention and certain demands during the grow. Cannabis plants can take as little as 4 months to grow with auto-flowering seed strains, and up to 8 months with photo period, feminized seeds & cuttings.
- *To grow quality marijuana, you need to follow some important steps throughout the cannabis plant life cycle. For this DIY project we are going to cover from picking a place to grow, to harvesting and curing the final product. This beginners guide will help guide you through the basics of growing cannabis.*



Choosing the right grow space

- Grow spaces can be in a closet, extra bedroom, basement, or you can use a grow tent for easier set-up. The main thing you want to keep in mind is that your grow space is clean, safe, and sealed from outside light. This is why I recommend a grow tent. They are sanitary and can be easily sealed off from outside light. Grow tents also have the correct reflective material inside to maximize light reflection. If you are going to use the inside of a closet, or bedroom for your grow, make sure it is painted flat white.

Ventilation and filtration

- Plants love clean fresh-air throughout their growth stages and lifecycle. Good ventilation and filtration can help prevent contaminants and any other threats from entering your grow space. You want as sterile of a setting as possible inside your grow room.

Choosing the right equipment

- There are many types of grow equipment, lighting, pots, techniques, etc. This all depends if you want to grow in dirt, coco coir, or hydroponics. Dirt or coco is good if you want an easier to maintain type of grow. Hydroponics is a little more maintenance oriented but can produce larger yields in the end. LED lighting is the big trend now and they have come a long way. They run cooler and have a wider range of color for achieving better flavor and maximum yields.

[THE LARGEST SELECTION OF LED GROW LIGHTING AT THE LOWEST PRICES](#)

Picking the perfect seed strain

- When purchasing cannabis seeds you want them to be from quality seed banks. You can choose from regular seeds, female seeds, or auto flowering seeds. As a beginner it's best starting with female or auto flowering seeds. When choosing a specific strain of cannabis, you will have a choice of Sativa (energy buzz), Hybrid (mild energy), or Indica (lay back buzz). Try to pick strains that do not have too long of a budding cycle for faster results. Experiment till you find a strain that fits your needs.

Feed them nutrients

- If you are using an organic super-soil, you do not need to worry about nutrients. If you are using coco coir or hydroponics, you will need to add a regular feeding of nutrients from the beginning to the end of grow. Choose a quality nutrient brand for best results. Keep in mind that for the vegetative stage of the plant you want a high Nitrogen (N). During the flowering stage of the plant, you want a low-Nitrogen Bloom that is high in Phosphorous (P).

Germinating marijuana seeds

- Here is the most common method to germinate cannabis seeds. It's called the paper towel method and it is basically failproof. Take a paper towel and place it on a dish plate. Place your seeds on the paper towel and spritz with distilled water till damp. Place another paper towel on top and spritz again. Place another plate of the same size upside down onto the first plate to keep the paper towels from drying out. Check your seeds every 24 hrs. to see when they germinate. (1-7 days). Older seeds may take longer. You want to keep the seeds in a warm place (75-80 degrees), and paper towels moist at all times till the seeds germinate. When seeds germinate you will see the seed itself cracked and a little white root coming out. *(When root is ½" to 1" long it is time to plant in rapid rooter, or rockwool cubes).*



Transplant to pots or rock wool

- Be careful when planting your newly sprouted seeds into rapid rooters, or rockwool cubes as they are very delicate. You can also plant directly into solo cups filled with soil if you prefer. However, planting into rapid rooter

plugs or rockwool if preferred by most growers. This gives the roots a chance to really thrive before transplanting into your choice of grow medium.

The seedling stage

- Once your seedlings are transplanted to rapid rooters, rockwool, or soil you want to keep them lightly watered. Because the seedling has such a small root system, it is important not to drown the seedlings by overwatering.



- New seedlings are very fragile and you want to pay close attention to this stage of the growing process. As the new stem of the seedling grows, it will push upwards and two rounded (cotyledon) leaves will sprout from the stem as the seed breaks away from the seeds protective casing.
- Remember that the seedling growth stage is very important and they need close attention. They must receive 18 - 24 hours of sunlight, moist soil, and mild humidity (60% - 70%) to help them grow healthy and rapidly. Once your seedlings have developed a good root system it is time to transplant into solo cups, rock wool, soil, or other medium of choice.



Vegetative growth stage

- As a seedling continues to grow it becomes a plant and will develop more traditional looking cannabis leaves. During this stage the growing environment should be kept clean, and free of excess moisture (50% humidity), so the plant does not become yellow looking, moldy, or diseased. *(Seedlings and plants should always look healthy and green).*
- Once a seedling has developed 3-5 sets of leaves and good root system it is time to transplant to larger pots. If you are growing hydro you would transplant to your grow stones or larger rockwool cubes. This is where your plants will really begin to thrive and grow taller with thicker stems and more leaves. *(Many growers start their topping and training at this point).*
- During the vegetative stage of the grow cycle you want to slowly increase the watering *(room temperature water is best)*, leave the water in open gallon jugs overnight to let the chlorine evaporate. Water one inch in from the outer edge of the pot so the tips of the roots absorb all the water and nutrients. This is also a good time to slowly increase (nitrogen and potassium) rich nutrients. It is important to keep a constant flow of moist air circulating within your grow room. *(Fresh air circulation is important to the plant grow cycle).*



- Giving your plants the proper nutrients, grow space, fresh circulated air, and lighting, will allow your plants to reach 2-3 feet tall under (18) hours of light, and (6) hours darkness, during the 4-6 weeks vegetative cycle. *(Longer veg cycles will give you larger plants).*

Flowering stage

- The flowering stage of the cannabis plant occurs when it receives less than 12 hours of light per day. This is when you change your lights to (12) hours of light, and (12) hours of darkness, during the remaining flowering stage. During this time plants crave nutrients like (phosphorus and potassium) rich nutrients.

Note: Auto-flowering strains can be kept under (18) hours of light and (6) hours of darkness during the entire grow cycle from seed to harvest.

- The flowering stage of the cannabis plant can take anywhere from 6 - 9 weeks. This depends on the strain of the plant. *(Indica strains tend to have a shorter flowering period than sativa strains).*



- Flowering plants like warm climate (75 to 85 degrees), and medium humidity (50%). They also need added bloom nutrients during this stage to produce swelling bud colas.

- You can determine when your cannabis plants are ready to harvest by the color of the hairs (Pistils), when they begin to turn from white to red. (50% ratio white to red is good).
- You can also determine when your cannabis plants are ready for harvest by observing the trichomes when they begin to turn cloudy or milky looking. (50% ratio clear to opaque is good).



- During the last week of flowering, it is good to flush your plants and feed them just plain water. This helps clean out any contaminants and give your bud a tastier, cleaner, and smoother smoking product.

Harvesting your plants

- Your grow is complete and now it's time to cut those ladies down and dry them out. You can cut the whole plant down and hang it to dry, or cut it into smaller branches to ease the drying process. Hang the branches or plant upside down in a cool dry place with no light. Keep the humidity level at 50% to avoid any mold, fungus and bacteria. Use oscillating circulation fan to keep air moving throughout the space. (Do not blow air directly on plants). The plant should start dry-out within 5 to 14 days.
Note: Drying your plants out too fast can lead to a harsh smoking end product.



Curing your harvested buds

- Curing your buds is optional but it well worth it if you want to produce top quality cannabis. The curing process improves the burn quality and flavor, and reduces any harshness that you may find in uncured cannabis.



- To cure cannabis flower simply store it lightly packed in mason jars and keep it in a dark space between 50 and 60 degrees (F) when possible. Open the jars a few minutes to let out any gasses and let in fresh air once a day. Repeat this process for up to 1 - 3 weeks. *(Your buds should be well cured and a little spongy for freshness).*

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