



# Hemp may be the next gold mine for Native American tribes

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"... polite conversation is rarely either."

*Fran Lebowitz*

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Published October 27, 2016

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## Hemp may be the next gold mine for Native American tribes

By Natalie Grover - REUTERS

Casinos on Native American land have poured billions into tribal economies since the late 1980s, lifting many people from poverty. Now, some hope, cultivating industrial hemp could do the same. Under U.S. law, hemp - which comes from the same family of plants that produce marijuana - can be grown only for research, with a permit from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

However, the Department of Justice opened the door for hemp cultivation by Native American tribes in 2014 when it agreed that tribes can set cannabis-related laws just as states can. Native American-owned CannaNative LLC said on Monday it was in final talks with the Navajo Nation, the largest federally recognized tribe, to grow industrial hemp.

Hemp is used in a wide variety of products, from food to construction materials, but typically contains less than 1 percent tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) - the psychoactive component of the cannabis plant. But while more than half of U.S. states allow cannabis use, federal law still categorizes all cannabis varieties, including hemp, as a dangerous drug with no medicinal value.

Currently there is no large-scale commercial hemp production in the United States, which depends on imports. The Hemp Industries Association (HIA) estimates that the total U.S. retail value of hemp products in 2013 was \$581 million, although the Congressional Research Service says the numbers are under-reported. The estimate does not include sales by the two major retailers of hemp-based products, L'Oreal SA's The Body Shop and Whole Foods Market Inc.

CannaNative has already struck a deal with cannabis products maker Medical Marijuana Inc to produce the first hemp oil products for more than 560 Native American tribes. Now, it is in talks with the Navajo Nation to begin growing hemp on reservation land in Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. "The industrial hemp project could probably overtake Indian gaming, not only in terms of employment but also in terms of revenue to the Navajo," said Al Henderson, a senior Navajo economic adviser, noting that the 360,000-member tribe had an unemployment rate of 40-50 percent.

Henderson did not provide data on the tribe's gaming revenue, but the National Indian Gaming Commission estimates that the overall tribal casino industry generated nearly \$30 billion in gaming revenue last year. Growing industrial hemp is an opportunity for the aging Native American population to go back to its roots with plant-based medicine and reduce dependence on the American taxpayer, CannaNative CEO Anthony Rivera told Reuters.

"We can't wait for the federal government ... so we are working with tribes to pass their own laws in consultation with federal authorities to demonstrate that we are doing this legally and responsibly," Rivera said. For Medical Marijuana Inc (MMI), which sells hemp oil, a deal with the Navajo Nation could help move hemp cultivation to the United States from Europe and cut costs by more than 25 percent. Our goal is to plant our initial pilot program test crop in the spring of 2017 in the Navajo Nation," Chief Executive Stu Titus told Reuters.



# Definitive guide to Recreational & medical initiatives on the 2016 ballot.



**Marijuana legalization 2016: Everything you need to know about state ballot initiatives in a pivotal presidential election year!** Legal cannabis has been a hot topic in the march to Election Night 2016. Dozens of petitions have circulated across the United States. Some have successfully cleared the necessary regulatory hurdles to secure a spot at the ballot box.

**By Alicia Wallace, The Cannabist Staff**

Come November, voters in at least nine states will decide on whether to legalize either the recreational use or the medical use of marijuana. As it stands now, those states include: Arizona, Arkansas, California, Florida, Maine, Massachusetts, Montana, Nevada and North Dakota. Below is a rundown of the states with legal recreational and medical cannabis on the line as well as those with potential ballot measures.

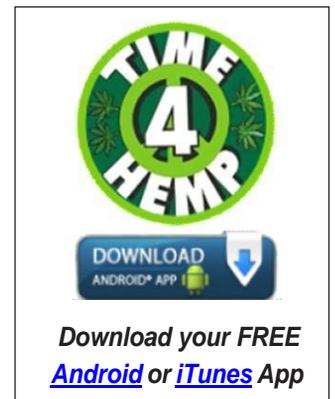
**California** - Proposition 64: If successful, this well-heeled initiative would make recreational marijuana legal all along the West Coast and establish what some view could be a linchpin for federal legalization.

The passage of Proposition 64, a.k.a. the Adult Use of Marijuana Act, would legalize marijuana for people 21 years of age and older. Adults could possess up to an ounce of cannabis, purchase dried flower and cannabis products from licensed retailers and grow up to six plants for personal use. The proposal has restrictions on where cannabis can be consumed.

Counties and municipalities would have the ability to limit or ban commercial marijuana operations, as well as set local tax rates. The initial taxes imposed would be a 15 percent state excise tax on retail sales, and cultivation taxes of \$9.25 per ounce of flower and \$2.75 per ounce of trim/leaves. Backers estimate that the Adult Use of Marijuana Act could potentially result in \$1 billion annually in state tax revenue. Other provisions include a restriction on marketing toward minors and allowing for re-sentencing and the expungement of records for prior marijuana convictions.

Tech billionaire Sean Parker, the Napster founder and former FaceBook president, has plunked more than \$1 million into the legalization campaign. Groups opposing the recreational measure include the Citizens Against Legalizing Marijuana and the California Police Chiefs Association. California was the first state in the nation to legalize medical marijuana, in 1996.

**Maine** - Question 1: This initiative has prohibitions on places of consumption, including restricting use to a private residence, and it allows municipalities to regulate the number of retail stores or ban them entirely.





**Massachusetts** - Question 4: Under the measure, adults 21 and older can possess up to an ounce of pot, keep up to 10 ounces of marijuana at home and grow up to six plants. Marijuana sold in licensed shops would be subject to an excise tax of 3.75 percent in addition to Massachusetts' 6.25 percent state sales tax. The initiative allows for the creation of a 15-member cannabis advisory board to study and make recommendations on regulations and marijuana products. Individual counties, cities and towns would have the ability to enact additional taxes as well as bans on recreational marijuana operations. The use of marijuana would be restricted to private places.

**Nevada** - Question 2: The Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act follows moves by various Nevada counties to adopt medical marijuana regulations and would make it legal for adults age 21 and older to buy marijuana for recreational use, possess up to an ounce and grow up to six plants at home — if that residence is more than 25 miles away from a licensed dispensary. The initiative includes some limitations on the number of retail outlets in a specific county — the populous Clark County, home to Las Vegas, can have up to 80 shops, while every other county under 55,000 people can have no more than two recreational stores. Wholesale marijuana would be subject to a 15 percent excise tax. Cannabis consumption would be restricted to private premises, which could include a retail marijuana store.

**Arkansas** - Voters in the Natural State will be deciding on two medical marijuana initiatives come November; both have faced legal challenges that seek to block their votes from being counted. The Arkansas Medical Marijuana Amendment (Issue 6), is a proposed constitutional amendment that would allow an independent commission to award licenses for up to eight grow facilities and up to 40 for-profit dispensaries statewide. Home growing is not allowed. If approved by voters, the Arkansas Medical Cannabis Act (Issue 7), would allow for no more than one nonprofit “cannabis care center” per 20 pharmacies, and the Arkansas Department of Health would provide program oversight, funded completely by taxes imposed on the medical marijuana. Sponsor Arkansasans for Compassionate Care estimates that this would amount to 38 dispensaries.

People who have obtained a written recommendation from a physician and received a license from the state Department of Health can purchase from a licensed “cannabis care center.” Individuals who reside more than 20 miles from a cannabis care center could apply for a “hardship cultivation” certificate that would allow them to grow up to 10 plants. Melissa Fults, who leads the group Arkansasans for Compassionate Care that is backing Issue 7, said in an Associated Press report: “It will be our job to educate voters and help them understand there are two initiatives on the ballot and they can vote for both or they can vote for one. It’s the voter’s choice.”

**Florida** - Amendment 2: Under the proposal, the state Department of Health would register and regulate dispensaries as well as issue ID cards to patients and caregivers. Individuals with medical conditions such as HIV/AIDS, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, PTSD and Crohn’s would have to receive approval from a licensed Florida physician to be eligible for medical marijuana. The amendment requires parental consent for minors. Some Floridians suffering from cancer, epilepsy or a terminal condition are allowed to possess low-THC cannabis oils containing cannabidiol (CBD), but the use of medical marijuana currently does not extend much that.



**Montana** - Ballot Issue 24 (I-182): The proposed initiative would repeal the three-patient limit and other requirements such as unannounced inspections and required reviews for physicians who provide certifications. The qualifying conditions under this initiative would include chronic pain and PTSD. If it is approved by voters, the implementation of the law could be delayed for months because of an error written into the measure, according to The Associated Press.

**North Dakota** - Initiated Statutory Measure No. 5: The North Dakota Compassionate Care Act would allow for the possession of up to 3 ounces of marijuana for qualifying conditions such as AIDS, cancer, epilepsy and glaucoma. The proposal allows for people who live more than 40 miles from a licensed dispensary to grow up to eight plants.

## Hemp could help Iowa farmers, water quality

By William Petroski for The Des Moines Register

Introducing industrial hemp as a cash crop for Iowa farmers would spur agricultural income and help address the state's water quality problems, says Kim Weaver of Sheldon, the Democratic nominee for Congress in Iowa's 4th District. Weaver is a political newcomer who is a long-term care ombudsman for the Iowa Department of Aging.



She proposes that Iowa legalize industrial hemp production to help reduce nitrates and improve water quality and that the deep-rooted plant be seeded in areas prone to have wet soils. She envisions that widespread planting of industrial hemp - which was grown in Iowa to manufacture rope in World War II - would result in less corn production and higher prices for grain.

Industrial hemp can be used for livestock feed and to produce biofuels, paper, textiles, clothing, biodegradable plastics, paint and insulation. "Federally, it is legal. It is a state issue," to permit the planting of industrial hemp, Weaver said at a meeting Friday with The Des Moines Register's editors and reporters. "It is an innovative idea and it would bring more people to the state" and would provide an alternative crop for Iowa farmers, she suggested. She noted that industrial hemp, which is a variety of the *Cannabis sativa* plant, is not to be confused with recreational marijuana.



## Ganja Research Could Change the Game in Jamaica

The University of the West Indies, based in Kingston Jamaica, has revived a special medical marijuana research project from the 1970's. The program is designed to enable various countries in the Caribbean to penetrate the vastly successful medical marijuana market and receive some of the profits that many other nations like Canada and the U.S. currently enjoy. UWI also said that it would "bring jobs and much-needed development" to the island nations.

The University has been growing different strains of marijuana since 2015 to research the effects on the human body and develop products for the treatment of severe illnesses. Professor Archibald McDonald is the Principal of the Mona Campus where the research is being conducted. He is optimistic about what this project and the Caribbean region can do for medical marijuana, and in turn, for their economy. He stated, "The UWI Mona Campus will lead the world in medical cannabis." UWI's magazine 'The Pelican' discussed the program in one of its latest issues by saying "The University of the West Indies has revived the ganja research programme it began in the 1970's as it prepares to launch Jamaica as a global powerhouse for cannabis research." The magazine then went on to point out that the U.S. stands to make \$13 billion in medical marijuana by 2019. That implies Jamaica and other island nations need in on this market. In 2015, Jamaica decriminalized possession of up to 2-ounces of marijuana and now allows the cultivation of up to 5 plants. - **Jon Hiltz for Marijuana.com**

# Dr. Oz Looks at Medical Cannabis as a Potential Cure for Opioid Addiction



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By Paul Fassa - for Health Impact News

Opioid painkiller addiction is the fastest growing drug addiction in the United States today, and it was recently featured on the popular Dr. Oz TV show. Dr. Oz pointed out the astonishing statistics that 48 million Americans, one out of every 5, have reported that they have abused prescription drugs. 12 states have more opioid pain pill prescriptions than people. In states where marijuana is legal, however, opioid prescriptions are declining.

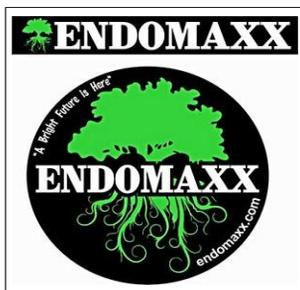
Dr. Oz looks at the question: Is marijuana the new gateway drug OUT of opioid addiction? Many health practitioners are aware of the current epidemic of opioid addiction from prescribed painkiller drugs. The most popular opioid painkillers prescribed are Oxycontin, Percodan, and Percocet. Of course there are other painkillers in the oxycodone category as well.

All opioids are opiates, derived from the eighty percent (80%) of heroin addicts who were once prescribed opioid drugs for legitimate pain concerns. In the UK, heroin is actually prescribed as a painkiller. Ironically, the synthetic opioid methadone is used to replace heroin among most addicts. It is also prescribed as a painkiller.

Morphine is an opioid painkiller with the longest history of prescription. It is often prescribed for cancer patients in pain. It can actually shut down organ function. Maybe that's why it is usually prescribed for terminal cancer patients in hospice.

These are the often prescribed drugs that are the foundation of the opioid addiction epidemic. What happens often is a patient is prescribed an opioid pharmaceutical for legitimate pain. After some use, the addiction sets in, a person feels sick if he quits or his prescription is no longer filled because the physician observes the problem creating pain is healed. But the patient has become so addicted he or she feels there is no way to handle daily living without them. Even while using opioids under doctors' care, patients usually have to increase dosage in order to handle the same level of pain. As they increase dosages, their inability to do without increases and withdrawal symptoms make it difficult for most to stop.

Increased dosing leads to increased risk of death from overdosing, when opioid drugs cause breathing to halt or the heart to stop pumping. Opioids are the number one killer among prescribed pharmaceutical drugs. Prescribed opioid use has increased 400 percent since 1999, and the drug overdose death toll has increased accordingly.



This is the same phenomenon as heroine overdosing. As a matter of fact, many prescription opioid users who at first turn to opioids sold on the street without prescriptions become heroin users. Street heroin is cheaper than street Oxycontin, for example. Currently, medical marijuana, historically considered the gateway drug to opioids such as heroin and other addictive narcotics, has come forth as a solution for the opioid epidemic. Using cannabis to kick opioid habits effectively and easily has been nicknamed “reefer rehab.”

Dr. Mehmed Oz spotlighted this recently (October 2016) in a Dr. Oz telecast. You can view it [here](#). The focus was on a recovering methadone addict in an informal cannabis camp in Maine who had been hooked on legally prescribed methadone for 10 years. Dr. Oz’s guest Krishna Andavalu visited a somewhat informal rehab camp using cannabis to follow that one person’s withdrawal from long term methadone use. Dr. Oz and Krishna Andavalu considered the camp an unofficial rehab center operating in a medical marijuana legal state.

Dr. Oz brought up several valid points regarding the inaccessibility of affordable treatment centers for opioid painkiller addicts, most of whom tend to be white middle class. But the fact is even the best rehab centers have a low rate of success and a high rate of recidivism after their few successes. But they make a lot of money, sort of like mainstream oncology’s efforts with cancer. Although any positive national exposure on cannabis medicine is welcome, the Oz show could have been a little less conservative from this author’s perspective. Instead, it focused on an informal setting that used cannabis to help addicts, successfully, and ignored the fact that Maine has several physicians and centers using cannabis in highly professional settings.

The doctor most involved with cannabis for kicking opioid addictions using reefer rehab is an osteopathic physician or D.O., Dr. David Sulak, who has been running two Integr8 Health Clinics in Maine and one in nearby Massachusetts. He was not even mentioned. Dr. Sulak, D.O., and his associates have developed a successful protocol for using cannabis to help opioid addicts withdraw and even help eliminate the pain that had driven them to opioid painkillers. Their success rate is very high. They also use cannabis for other medical conditions, even analyzing the various complex entourage effects of different strains in their labs to determine which strains work best for different medical maladies.

Dr. Sulak appears to be one of the nation’s leading cannabis doctors in general. He is involved with outreaching to other physicians in medical marijuana legal states and guiding them with successful cannabis applications to other health problems as well. Dr. Sulak has produced a video of his lengthy live presentation reaching out to other medical practitioners in medical marijuana legal states, which can be accessed from this earlier Health Impact News article’s sources section. During Dr. Sulak’s intermission, two heads of orthodox rehab centers appeared to confess and confirm the inadequacy of orthodox rehab counseling. They explained how the DEA’s refusal to change cannabis’ Schedule 1 rating has made it impossible for mainstream rehab centers to allow cannabis.

This was corroborated by Dr. Oz’s and Krishna Andavalu’s concern for changing national marijuana laws that would allow more research. Currently, orthodox rehab centers disqualify those who use cannabis to help them get through withdrawal in non-legal medical marijuana states. Dr. Sulak was also one of medical cannabis experts consulted in the Holistic Cannabis Summit 2016 series promoted on this site. He definitely understands medical cannabis clinically more than most. Dr. James Li, M.D., was an E.R. physician who now prescribes cannabis for pain. He also gave a lecture to practicing physicians in Portland, Maine earlier in 2014. Dr. Li showed slides of how cannabis is more effective than opioids or opiates (both the same) for chronic neurological pain among diabetics and MS patients, rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients, and AIDS patients.

These slides were from actual double blind randomized placebo control trials conducted globally in recent years. He also showed figures from various addiction center heads who rated cannabis the least addictive with less dependency issues among other compounds, which included opioids, alcohol, nicotine, and caffeine. Another issue Dr. Li addressed was a study that demonstrated cannabis did not require higher dosing even after two years of using it for chronic pain.

Opioids and opiate derived painkillers require increased dosages even after a few months, unless used with cannabis. Cannabis increases opioid efficacy without increasing its dosage. Therein lies the risk of dying from overdosing, which occurs at the rate of one every half-hour nationally. The highly publicized death of musical performer and songwriter Prince was one of them. Even the CDC reports 78 die from opioid overdosing daily in America, of which half are from prescribed painkillers

Dr. Li also mentioned that the FDA considers opioids risky and not evidence based for reducing pain, which begs the question why has the FDA approved them for the DEA to consider them of medical use while it refuses to approve cannabis unless it is a synthetically isolated pharmaceutical?

It's interesting to note another fact from both Maine cannabis doctors: double blind placebo control testing for opioids usually have high dropout rates due to intolerable side effects. Among those tested with cannabis or cannabis extracts, there were no dropouts due to adverse side effects.

As for functionality in the work-a-day world using cannabis for chronic pain, an earlier Health Impact report on a Florida stock broker and medical marijuana activist demonstrates the feasibility of functioning well in the every day world using cannabis for chronic pain relief.



## Hemp Seed Oil From Innovet Launched to Help Dogs And Cats With Stress-Related Illnesses

Tragically, many dogs and cats suffer from cancer, separation anxiety, nausea, arthritis and joint pain. A newly-released product from Innovet, PurCBD+ Oil, is a hemp-based oil offering pets relief with no high.

A new product from Innovet is launched to help dogs and cats who suffer from an arsenal of anxiety issues that often lead to eating disorders and eventual malnutrition. After many revered sources, such as K9 Instinct, have scrambled for a solution, pet authorities have settled on one concrete aid: hemp seed oil. Hemp seed oil has been show to help with nearly every stress based ailment, working to heal damage caused by arthritis, allergic inflammation, and even slow the progression of canine and feline cancer. As a result, many producers of this cutting edge product have spawned, but a majority of these suppliers have left in one flaw or another. To set the standard in pet-formulated hemp seed oil is the esteemed company, Innovet Pet Products. Innovet uses strains of industrial hemp made in Europe with high CBD and zero THC. Through the safest cold CO2 extraction process and strenuous lab testing, Innovet has produced the most CBD potent, safe, and non-psychoactive hemp seed oil on the market:

As a company of pet owners, Innovet understands the concerns clients may have with regards to any supplement to be given to their beloved partner. To put these worries to rest, Innovet has taken every measure to ensure the safety of PurCBD+ Oil. To this effect, the oil itself is extracted with the most rigorous and intensive process available: a pressurized carbon dioxide cold press. Anyone with any chemistry background understands high-pressure and cold temperatures do not exactly go hand in hand, making this a costly procedure. But the technique is well worth it. By using such a sterile method, the oil is guaranteed to be completely free of the residual chemical solvents that other method would leave behind. This process is just one example of how Innovet's dedication to each client's safety, no matter the cost. As with any supplement or drug, please check with your veterinarian before administering Innovet to your dog or cat. For more information on PurCBD+ visit [www.innovetpet.com](http://www.innovetpet.com).



# National Guard, DEA, State Police Raid 81-yo Cancer Patient's Organic Garden!



By Matt Agorist - The Free Thought Project

Edgartown, MA — In a gross display of wasted taxpayer dollars, dozens of Massachusetts National Guard personnel, operating under a grant from the DEA, alongside Massachusetts State Police, descended into the backyard of an 81-year-old cancer patient in a raid last week — to protect society from the dangers of his four marijuana plants.

Paul Jackson, 81, of Martha's Vineyard, grows cannabis to make medicine. His plants, along with several other plants, became the target of law enforcement last week in a crackdown on hardened criminals who'd dare to grow a plant that helps them. Jackson was in his backyard last Tuesday when plainclothes men and a helicopter descended on his property. With no warrant, and without showing identification, these heroes ripped Jackson's plants from the ground. "They just come charging through and start cutting it down," Jackson said in an interview with the MV Times.

According to the MV Times, Mr. Jackson, a lifelong Islander and renowned organic gardener with over 300 ribbons from the Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Fair, expressed both bewilderment and disgust when he spoke to The Times. "I told them they don't know what they're doing, they're destroying it and it could be used for good purposes," he said. "I know because I went through it before. You wrote about it in The Times. I had the article framed, took it out to show them; I said, 'This is proof of what it does,' but they didn't want to hear it."

As the Times reports, Mr. Jackson was referring to a February 2013 article, "Love, life, and death: A Martha's Vineyard marijuana story," in which he described how cannabis tea had helped Mary, his wife of 53 years, through the pain of pancreatic cancer and the ravages of chemotherapy. Mr. Jackson said they forsook the morphine prescribed by her doctors, and substituted cannabis tea for pain management.

"I never ever saw pain in her face," he said. "She was eating and happy, right up until she died. You had to see it to believe it. People don't understand it. It's a beautiful plant and it works beautifully." For years, Jackson has been growing this beneficial plant to help his wife, himself, and other friends in the area.

"There's another fellow I've given it to, his wife has cancer bad," he said. "They mix it with her food and it's really helping her. Another fellow had a tube down his stomach and his wife would pour [tea] down his tube for the pain. And it worked. At least there's no damn pain in it. I gave another guy some, he was taking seven different pills a day. I talked to him a month later and he said he'd gotten rid of three of those pills. It works on all kinds of different things."

However, these poor people will now suffer thanks to the public service provided by the government in their attempts to stamp out this miraculous plant. While medical marijuana is legal in Massachusetts, to a certain extent, Jackson says he grows his own because it's far healthier. "The people that are selling it are using chemicals that react with the chemotherapy," he said. "Mine is much better because it's organically grown. I saw it with my own eyes, I couldn't believe how well it worked." In the interview, Jackson noted that he doesn't smoke the plant and will continue to consume it, in spite of the immoral laws that prohibit it. "I don't like smoke and I don't like dust," he said. "We just make tea out of it. But if I need to make the tea, I've got it. I don't sell it. I will continue to have a certain amount in case somebody close to me needs it."

When word began to spread about this embarrassing action to eradicate a beneficial plant, spokesmen from the agencies involved in the raid began denying they had a hand in it. After their heroic mission to rid Martha's Vineyard of cannabis, Colonel James Sahady, Public Affairs Officer for the Massachusetts National Guard, said in an email to the Times, "The order was initiated by the DEA and Massachusetts State Police as part of pre-planned eradication missions throughout the year."

However, Sahady later issued another statement claiming that the DEA was not involved. On top of the National Guard's flip-flop, the Times reports: "On Tuesday, two Massachusetts State Police spokesmen checked into the matter and said there was no evidence of State Police involvement. "It was not us," Officer Tom Ryan told The Times.

In a follow up email received on Thursday, State Police spokesman David Procopio said the operation was initiated by the State Police. "We routinely request the assistance of the National Guard in these operations," Mr. Procopio said in an email to The Times. "Our Narcotics Inspection Section conducts these operations regularly across the state. We utilize a trained spotter in a helicopter to search for marijuana grow sites. Once one is located, the spotter directs ground units to the plants, which are confiscated and taken by State Police for eventual destruction. These seizures occasionally result in criminal prosecutions, but many times do not, if the plants are seized from rural or wooded areas that can be accessed by many people (as opposed to just growing in some homeowner's backyard)."

Mr. Procopio said State Police seized 392 plants, "which are slated for destruction as part of our next narcotics burn." Although the helicopter was parked at Martha's Vineyard Airport last Tuesday night, there are no records of landing fees or fuel purchases paid by a government agency, according to airport manager Ann Crook. "The idea we're so frivolously spending money on marijuana interdiction, especially now when it's about to be rolled back, is extremely frustrating. How many books or school lunches could have been bought instead of having these plants ripped up?" Bill Downing, spokesman for MassCan/ NORML said to the Times.

Downing's sentiment is a very real concern as the war on drugs has spent upwards of a trillion taxpayer dollars since its inception. Every one of those dollars spent ruining the lives of otherwise entirely innocent people. At any one time, 59,300 prisoners charged with or convicted of violating marijuana laws are behind bars. Of those, 17,000 are behind bars for possession ONLY, not trafficking.

Enforcing marijuana laws costs an estimated \$10-15 billion in direct costs alone — not to mention the sustained costs of incarceration of the individual who has done nothing to harm anyone. It is estimated that the money spent enforcing useless marijuana laws is double what we spend on education in this country. Countless lives are ruined every year as the state locks people away or worse, for possessing a plant. The time is now to end this ridiculousness before another innocent life is ruined or taken in the name of controlling what people can put in their own bodies.

## Did you know...

Industrial hemp and marijuana are both classified by taxonomists as *Cannabis sativa*, a species with hundreds of varieties. *C. sativa* is a member of the mulberry family. Industrial hemp is bred to maximize fiber, seed and/or oil, while marijuana varieties seek to maximize THC (delta 9 tetrahydrocannabinol, the primary psychoactive ingredient in marijuana).

Industrial hemp has a THC content of between 0.05 and 1%. Marijuana has a THC content of 3% to 20%. To receive a standard psychoactive dose would require a person to power-smoke 10-12 hemp cigarettes over an extremely short period of time. The large volume and high temperature of vapor, gas and smoke would be almost impossible for a person to withstand.





## A new study suggests that cannabis might be useful in treating cervical cancer.

Through in vitro, or test tube/petri dish, analysis, researchers from the biochemistry department at North-West University in Potchefstroom, South Africa found that the non-psychoactive cannabinoid, or chemical compound, CBD (cannabidiol), taken from a Cannabis sativa extract, could hold anticarcinogenic properties. They pointed out that cannabis acted on the cancerous cells through apoptosis, or a process of cell death, causing only the cancerous cells to kill themselves, and inhibiting their growth.

Cervical cancer is no longer a leading cause of death as much as it used to be in the United States, thanks in large part to the widespread use of pap smears, but it's still a widespread threat. And in Sub-Saharan Africa, it kills 250,000 women every year. "This makes it the most lethal cancer amongst black women and calls for urgent therapeutic strategies," the study's authors wrote in the BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine journal. "In this study we compare the anti-proliferative effects of crude extract of Cannabis sativa and its main compound cannabidiol on different cervical cancer cell lines."

It will take much more research before cannabis can be integrated into official cervical cancer treatments in sub-Saharan Africa. But earlier studies also shows that cannabis has been useful in treating not only the symptoms of cancer and chemotherapy, but also the cancer itself.

One study from the journal of Current Clinical Pharmacology found that cannabis served as a preventative agent, reducing inflammation, which researchers also said was useful in reducing the likelihood of cancer. Another study from Oncology Hematology also noted cannabis' anti-cancer effects, explaining how the plant's cannabinoids inhibited tumor growth in vitro, such as in a petri dish or test tube, and in vivo, or a living organism.

A handful of other studies have also looked into cannabis as a treatment specifically for cervical cancer. Another from the University Hospital in Geneva, Switzerland, found that the cannabinoids, including the body's own endocannabinoids, offered "attractive opportunities for the development of novel potent anticancer drugs."

At the same time, there could also be carcinogenic effects of cannabis smoke, especially for cancer patients. One study in France found that "increased risks of lung or colorectal cancer due to marijuana smoking were not observed, but increased risks of prostate and cervical cancers among non-tobacco smokers...were observed."

With that said, often medical marijuana is ingested via capsules, tinctures, vaporizable oils, and other non-smokeable, more pharmaceutical-style forms. Should cannabis eventually become approved for cervical cancer treatment in Africa, it may be up for debate whether whole plant therapy (in which all the cannabinoids work synergistically through the "entourage effect") or specific cannabinoid therapy is best.

### Did you know...

Hemp growers can not hide marijuana plants in their fields. Marijuana is grown widely spaced to maximize leaves. Hemp is grown in tightly-spaced rows to maximize stalk and is usually harvested before it goes to seed. Hemp can be made into fine quality paper. The long fibers in hemp allow such paper to be recycled several times more than wood-based paper. Because of its low lignin content, hemp can be pulped using less chemicals than with wood. Its natural brightness can obviate the need to use chlorine bleach, which means no extremely toxic dioxin being dumped into streams. A kinder and gentler chemistry using hydrogen peroxide rather than chlorine dioxide is possible with hemp fibers.

Hemp grows well in a variety of climates and soil types. It is naturally resistant to most pests, precluding the need for pesticides. It grows tightly spaced, out-competing any weeds, so herbicides are not necessary. It also leaves a weed-free field for a following crop. Hemp can displace wood fiber and save forests for watershed, wildlife habitat, recreation and oxygen production, carbon sequestration (reduces global warming), and other values. Hemp can yield 3-8 dry tons of fiber per acre. This is four times what an average forest can yield.

## Cannabis, Hemp Industries Still Facing Banking Hurdles



The burgeoning cannabis industry continues to face challenges accessing banks, experts said last month during the 23rd annual Hemp Industries Association (HIA) conference in Colorado—the U.S. birthplace of legal recreational marijuana. Under the 2014 Farm Bill, the hemp industry is conducting pilot programs in several states, including cannabis-friendly Colorado, to study the viability of growing and marketing hemp.

The hope is that America can revive hemp farming in support of myriad products, from hemp-based foods and supplements to materials in automobiles to medicine that could treat rare forms of epilepsy. But even though Congress has explicitly authorized the pilot programs, at least some banks in The Centennial State remain reluctant to form relationships with the hemp industry. Trae Miller, executive director of the Logan County Economic Development Corp. in Sterling, Colorado, said county commissioners in his area support hemp, and regional banks understand the distinction between marijuana and hemp. Hemp contains very little of the psychoactive ingredient in pot: tetrahydrocannabinol (THC).

However, local banks are advising agricultural producers “that if they are doing anything in regards to hemp—if they’re leasing their land to people to grow hemp, if they’re growing any hemp—that they can get all their loans called and they won’t take their deposits. They will be basically booted from the bank. They’re still under the impression that they absolutely cannot touch this and they’re taking a risk,” Miller said.

Hemp farms may have more luck with financial institutions in Kentucky, where former state agriculture commissioner James Comer delivered a memorandum to banks across the state. Jonathan Miller, an attorney in Lexington, Kentucky with the law firm of Frost Brown Todd LLC who works on hemp issues, said Comer’s memo assured banks they were not incurring extraordinary risks if they followed certain procedures and obtained evidence that the banking client was part of a sanctioned state-regulated program operating under the Farm Bill.

Although the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued guidelines to follow for banking with marijuana businesses, “Those guidelines don’t exist for hemp,” observed Mark Goldfogel, executive vice president of industry relations with The Fourth Corner Credit Union in Denver. “So even though hemp is not psychotropic ... it actually has less guidelines and less rules for a bank to follow than marijuana does, which puts hemp in a more difficult position in a state like Colorado, where you do have financial institutions coming forward and banking marijuana businesses.”

With the passage of Amendment 64 on the 2012 ballot, Colorado made history as the first U.S. state to decriminalize recreational marijuana for adults. Since January 2014, dispensaries in Colorado have sold recreational pot, including bud, candies and edibles. Andrew Freedman, the director of marijuana coordination for the state of Colorado, said “community banks and credit unions have really stepped up into this space.”

“My joke is that we now are not unbanked,” he said during the HIA conference. “We’re underbanked—and you can even say that we’re half-banked.” But the banking challenges that remain are a sobering reminder of marijuana’s status as an illegal substance under federal law. “Even if you have a bank, Visa and MasterCard will shut down credit card systems along the way and say you can’t have credit even if you have a bank account,” Freedman noted. “But the more and more we can get credit unions and community banks to engage with these businesses, we’ll have our short-term solution; and then later on, we can try to go get a congressional long-term solution ... on the federal side to just say people should be able to have banking relationships.”

Enter The Fourth Corner Credit Union, whose mission is to support the cannabis and hemp industries. After receiving a state credit union charter in 2014 from the Colorado Division of Financial Services, the credit union submitted an application for a master account at the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. Its application was denied. This was no small setback. The credit union needed access to the Federal Reserve payments system for the electronic transfer of funds, and as a federal court later explained, “without this access, The Fourth Corner Credit Union is out of business.” “Ultimately, banking will be available and ultimately, there will be a nonprofit credit union out there openly willing to service the hemp and cannabis movement,” he said. “Until then, we’re operating much like being gay in the military a few years ago. It’s kind of a ‘don’t ask, don’t tell.’” - **Josh Long**

# Industrial hemp gets its start in West Virginia

By Pamela Pritt For The Register-Herald



A handful of hemp farmers in West Virginia are seeding the future for the next generation, if and when industrial hemp becomes legal again. It's the first time West Virginians have grown hemp since World War II. Hemp was declared illegal in 1937 because of its kinship with marijuana, which was declared a Schedule I narcotic. Although the plants are nearly identical, there is a difference, and the two cannot be grown together because cross-pollination will decrease the effectiveness of both plants. Hemp needs to be seedy and cellulose, with low Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psycho-active ingredient in marijuana.

Nine hemp farmers are growing experimental industrial hemp on 13 acres statewide, said Robert Kerr, communications director for the West Virginia Hemp Farmers Cooperative. The law currently allows the HFC to permit hemp growers to produce the plant for study by the state's universities. The HFC helps growers go through the permitting process.

The permits come through the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, where Eric Ewing, state plant regulatory official, oversees the process. "The main role we provide is we have the DEA (Drug Enforcement Agency) registration, which allows us to apply for seed imports," Ewing said. The Department of Agriculture then distributes the seeds, which they test for THC to ensure they are below the 0.3 percent level that distinguishes hemp. The Department of Agriculture inspects hemp farms twice a year. Most farmers are in the east-west swath from Wood County to Eastern Panhandle with the southernmost farm in Pocahontas County.

Hemp can be used for its fibers, oils and seed to make products like ropes and wearable materials, cosmetics and foods. Although it lacks a high concentration of THC, hemp is an anti-inflammatory and also has some medical uses. Different strains of industrial hemp are used for different products.

According to Kerr, hemp is now used in building materials in Europe and Asia. Hempcrete is nontoxic and cleans the air around it and through it, Kerr said. "European farmers make a lot of money off of selling hemp construction materials," he continued. The formula is simple, he said. One part hemp, one part water, one part lime. "You can build a house out of it."

That's why Andrew Must is experimenting with hemp in a secluded field near Hillsboro. He and business partner Clay Condon are growing six plots of hemp, three for building materials and two specifically for seed. Must explained that hempcrete structures are usually built with forms around studs. He and Condon want to develop building blocks instead. While the future of hemp as a product may be good, it's still a controlled substance and Must and Condon are not allowed to keep the seeds they produce for next year's crop. Still, Must said the two have learned much from their first experimental year in hemp production.

Next year, weather permitting, they'll plant earlier with an expected harvest earlier than this year's first week in October. They'll also do some more study on removing the fibers or the decortication process and finding an efficient way to harvest their crop. In Asian countries, hemp is competing with cotton for basic textiles. And hemp has a lot going for it. "It's a lot less vulnerable to pests and molds," Kerr said. "It's a lot more resilient and it uses a lot less water to grow. It's vigorous." No pesticides or fungicides are necessary to grow hemp, he said.

Hemp has some additional qualities that make it a good fit for growth in southern West Virginia, Kerr continued. It "cleans" the ground where it's grown, which would be beneficial to reclaimed mountaintop removal sites. But hemp can work with coal in another way, he said. Hemp can also be used as a bio-fuel that cleans the air when burned in conjunction with coal at a power plant, reducing the carbon output.

According to research published in "Hemp: An Energy Crop to Transform Kentucky and West Virginia," by "blending coal with biomass materials such as hemp, sulfur emissions from power generation can be reduced and less valuable coal that is high in sulfur can remain competitive."



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The white paper by Katherine M. Andrews, Ph.D., and others says, “Co-firing has the advantages of lowered pollutant emissions, improved carbon footprint due to the consumption of CO<sub>2</sub> by biomass crops, low capital costs as an add-on, and fuel flexibility to accommodate a range of usable biomass fuels depending on regional, seasonal, and weather factors.”

The authors suggest a 50 percent blend of dry hemp fiber and coal that will reduce the sulfur emissions of the plant to 1.56 pounds of sulfur per million BTUs, a reduction of 40 percent. That remains above the new federal levels, “but within reach of scrubbing technology available today.”

Hemp can also be used in alcohol products like beer, hard liquor and ethanol. But it has some more surprising products. It can be used to make activated carbon, which is in high demand globally in charcoal filters and in batteries. For West Virginia farmers now, the process is to get approved through the Department of Agriculture and find a certified seed source. Seeds usually come from Canada or Italy, Kerr said, which makes them pretty expensive. Seeds for building material quality hemp can cost as much as \$8 each, but generally cost somewhere between \$5 and \$10 a pound.

“Food, shelter, public health, maybe world peace,” Kerr quoted one hemp grower. “I don’t know a single downside to growing industrial hemp.” The downside could be from established industries like pharmaceutical, extractive and chemical industries that would see an erosion in their market base. Kerr acknowledges that could be the case, but notes that industrial hemp’s versatility makes its own argument as a legal cash crop.

Ewing is optimistic about hemp’s future in the state, and looks forward to the results from this first experimental crop. He sees a viable crop for state farmers to add to their existing crops. “It’s an incredible plant with so many uses,” Ewing said. “It’s good to see our state joining in on an opportunity to enhance opportunities for our farmers. It’s absolutely worth the effort. We have a good start.”



TIME 4 HEMP GLOBAL BROADCASTING NETWORK



## Did you know...

The US State Department must certify each year that a foreign nation is cooperating in the war on drugs. The European Union subsidizes its farmers to grow industrial hemp. Those nations are not on this list, because the State Department can tell the difference between hemp and marijuana.

Hemp was grown commercially (with increasing governmental interference) in the United States until the 1950s. It was doomed by the Marijuana Tax Act of 1937, which placed an extremely high tax on marijuana and made it effectively impossible to grow industrial hemp. While Congress expressly expected the continued production of industrial hemp, the Federal Bureau of Narcotics lumped industrial hemp with marijuana, as its successor the US Drug Enforcement Administration, does to this day. Over 30 industrialized democracies do distinguish hemp from marijuana. International treaties regarding marijuana make an exception for industrial hemp.

# Ancient tomb suggests cannabis use goes way back

By LAURA GEGGEL for LIVESCIENCE.COM



About 2,500 years ago, mourners buried a man in an elaborate grave, and covered his chest with a shroud made of 13 cannabis plants, according to a new study. The grave is one of a select few ancient Central Eurasian burials that archaeologists have found to contain cannabis. This particular grave, located in northwestern China, sheds new light on how prehistoric people in the region used the plant in rituals, the researchers said.

The finding, “a remarkable archeobotanical discovery in its own right,” came about after the region’s modern inhabitants decided to build a new cemetery next to a picturesque oasis, the researchers wrote in the study. However, construction workers soon found that an ancient graveyard was in their way.

Archaeologists came to the site and quickly discovered a bounty of artifacts buried in the graves — bows, arrows and the remains of domesticated animals, including goats, sheep and a horse skull — indicating that these ancient people engaged in both hunting and animal husbandry, the researchers said.

The ancient Jiayi cemetery likely belonged to the Subeixi culture, according to analyses of earthenware pots found in some of the graves. The Subeixi were the first known people to live in the arid Turpan Basin (what’s now western China) starting about 3,000 years ago, and eventually transitioned into a farming society, according to [Archaeology.about.com](http://Archaeology.about.com). In all, the archaeologists uncovered 240 ancient tombs, including that of the man with the cannabis shroud in tomb M231. The remains of the man, a Caucasian about 35 years old when he died, were lying on a bed frame made of wooden slats. His head rested on a pillow created from common reeds, and the grave was filled with earthenware pots, the archaeologists found.

But more astonishingly, “13 nearly whole female cannabis plants were laid diagonally across the body of the deceased like a shroud, with the roots and lower parts of the plants grouped together and placed below the pelvis,” the researchers wrote in the study. The cannabis plants were long — about 19 to 35 inches in length, and reached to just under the man’s chin on the left side of his face, the researchers said. Immature fruits on the cannabis plant suggest that they were uprooted in late summer, indicating that the man was buried in late August or early September, the researchers said.

Although the grave is between 2,400 and 2,800 years old, according to radiocarbon dating, the cannabis remained intact because the region is bone-dry, the researchers said. There are years when it doesn’t even rain. But river deposits, such as sand and pebbles — as well as the ancient remains of water plants, including horsetails and reeds — indicate that the ancient Jiayi cemetery once sat next to a riverbed, the researchers said.

In addition, archaeologists have found cannabis in graves located in tombs of the Pazyryk culture in southern Siberia, where there is also evidence of the plant’s “ritualistic if not psychoactive usage,” the researchers wrote in the study. Experts also discovered the plant in an Altai Mountain Pazyryk-culture tomb of a woman who had died of breast cancer and possibly used the cannabis to help her cope with symptoms, the researchers said. “Apparently, medicinal — and possibly spiritual, or at least ritualistic — cannabis use was a widespread custom among Central Eurasian peoples during the first millennium before the Christian era,” the researchers wrote in the study. The findings were published online Sept. 20 in the journal *Economic Botany*.



## How pot is firing up real estate.

Diana Olick - CNBC Real Estate Reporter

It could be the hottest outgrowth of the pot-economy — highly lucrative for both investors and cannabis companies. The industrial real estate that houses pot production is in high demand, and it is about to become the first opportunity for investors large and small to get in on marijuana. How? The biggest problem for cannabis growers and suppliers is an inability to get much-needed cash to grow both their products and their businesses. Since cannabis production and use is not legal under federal law, only state to state, most banks won't lend to cannabis producers. Enter, the real estate angle.

The first-ever cannabis REIT (real estate investment trust) filed to go public last week and is in talks to acquire its first property in New York state for \$30 million, according to a prospectus. Innovative Industrial Properties, a newly formed corporation, will focus on buying the properties of specialized industrial medical cannabis facilities. That will provide the cannabis growers and sellers with plenty of capital; the REIT, in turn, will offer the cannabis companies lease-back deals so no one has to move.

As the appetite for cannabis grows, so too, can the profits for the REIT, which will collect rent as well as benefit from increasing property values. "Our real estate investments will consist of primarily properties suitable for cultivation and production of medical-use cannabis," company executives wrote in the prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Oct. 17, 2016.

The company's executive chairman, Alan D. Gold, is a 30-year veteran of the real estate industry, and co-founded two NYSE-listed REITs: BioMed Realty Trust and Alexandria Real Estate Equities. His experience in both real estate and biomed were attractive to the principals at the first cannabis company planning to sell to the REIT. "We know that they have a track record in a space very closely associated with ours," said Jeremy Unruh, general counsel and chief compliance officer for Illinois-based PharmaCann, a medical cannabis producer licensed in Illinois and New York.

PharmaCann operates in the two most heavily regulated states for cannabis in the country. It owns most of its properties outright and has had to finance everything through private equity. "Banking in the cannabis world is not banking in the regular world. They have to set up these incredibly onerous compliance programs. Even opening a small line of credit at OfficeMax is far more complicated than it would be if I owned a T-shirt shop. A sale lease-back program is one of the handful of ways we can participate in financing activity."

PharmaCann is in a deal to sell the new REIT a 127,000-square-foot cannabis growing and manufacturing facility in Montgomery, New York. PharmaCann obtained the first of five licenses for cannabis production in New York. The cash from the deal will allow the company to expand its operations without having to tap into its own funds. It could be the hottest outgrowth of the pot-economy — highly lucrative for both investors and cannabis companies. The industrial real estate that houses pot production is in high demand, and it is about to become the first opportunity for investors large and small to get in on marijuana.

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"We've developed some sophisticated manufacturing facilities, all of which we've essentially written a check for. We have a tremendous amount of capital tied up in this Hudson Valley center that we'd like to leverage for our operation," said Unruh. PharmaCann will use the funds from the sale to expand its business, everything from buying vehicles to recruiting high-level personnel, and refining its products and dispensing practices.

"Given the difficulty of financing the cannabis space we're perfectly happy with the proposed relationship with a company like IIP," said Unruh. "There is a tremendous opportunity in the cannabis space. This is the ground floor of a brand-new industry." Cannabis has already dramatically boosted the warehouse business in Colorado, where marijuana is legal for both medical and recreational use. Vacancies in the sector are way down and rents are up. With 25 states already allowing some form of cannabis use and nine other states with cannabis measures on the ballot this November, investing in cannabis-based real estate would seem like a no-brainer, but as with any investment, there is always the possibility of a downside.

"There is a lot of risk. The business could get shut down in five or 10 years. Let's say it gets deregulated and the cost of cannabis comes down," said Eric Frankel, an industrial REIT analyst at Green Street Advisors. In any case, he added, "There is a dearth of institutional capital investing in this business." Innovative Industrial Properties has applied to list 8.75 million shares of Class A common stock at an initial price of \$20 per share on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "IIPR."

It has also identified and is in various stages of reviewing in excess of \$88 million of additional potential properties for acquisition, according to the prospectus. Its executives are not allowed to speak to media now, as they are in the required "quiet period."



## Did you know...

Pot isn't necessarily green. Here's a bummer for the eco-conscious: Pot isn't all that "green." The energy needed to produce 2.2 pounds (1 kilogram) of marijuana indoors is equivalent to that needed to drive across the country five times in a car that gets 44 miles to the gallon, according to a 2011 report by a researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. All those grow lights suck up a lot of electricity.

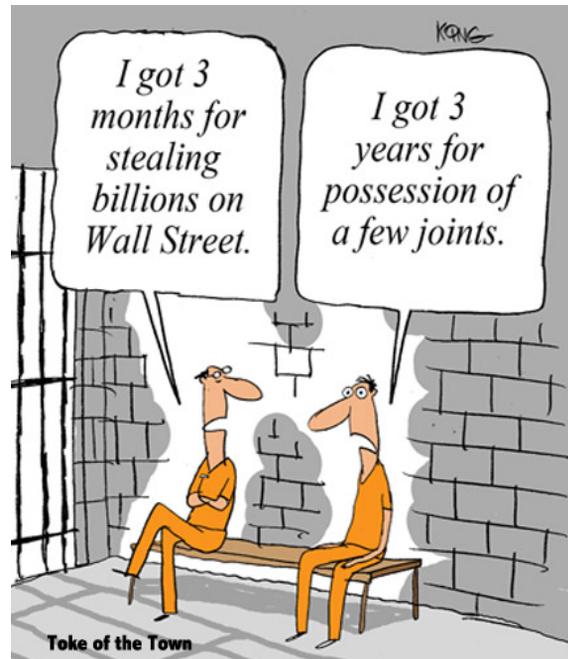
Growing plants outdoors could lessen marijuana's carbon footprint, but year-round demand for the drug means that industrial growers keep their plants in warehouses and greenhouses. Innovations such as greenhouses equipped with low-energy LED lights could help make pot greener, but like any large-scale agriculture, marijuana growing will require large-scale energy.



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