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Tips

- Check the pH of your tap water.
- Don't let your rooted clones go unplanted for more than 2-4 weeks. This could stunt their growth.
- The last week before harvesting you can lower your nutrient levels and the last day or two use nothing but water. This will give your buds a little better taste.
- Use String to make a grid if you have a lot of plants leaning. Tie string to the plant's stem to keep the plant upright.
- A surfboard or snowboard bag is useful for carrying wood and supplies into the grow room.
- Make sure there isn't clothing or any type of material that could harbor mold in your grow room.
- Lights should be hung by a chain so that they can be easily raised and lowered

Who is this guide for?

You should use this grow guide if

- You are a first time grower and want to get up and running quickly
- You don't care about theory or details you just want a system that is proven and works.
- Other grow books give you too many details

You should not buy the grow guide if

- You are already successfully growing marijuana.
- You have read many books on growing marijuana and consider yourself an expert.
- You want to grow but only outdoors or in soil

If you shouldn't have bought the guide thanks for the donation. Hopefully you will find something useful in it. We listed these items on the webpage so we can't offer a refund.

Introduction

The most commonly asked question of the GrowKind.com staff is “How do I grow pot?” This is a very broad question with many different answers. However we have found that most people just want to be told “how to grow pot”. This guide has been designed to serve that purpose. Many books on Marijuana cultivation instruct you on what conditions marijuana needs to thrive and why it needs these conditions. Though this information is invaluable often it is a lot to sift through and absorb. This guide details a single growing method step-by-step with pictures instructing on exactly what to do at each point. You will not have to figure out what chemical or soil mixture you want to use or when to do certain tasks. Nothing is etched in stone so you should experiment and use whatever works best for you. Marijuana cultivation is an art and can take years to master. If mastery is your goal then this guide is a good start, if all you want to do is grow some nice bud to smoke with your friends then this guide is all you need!

Precautions

This is the most important piece of this grow guide and that is why it comes first. Read it and retain it. Most places I know of Marijuana Cultivation is a crime. This unfortunate circumstance forces an individual who would like to enjoy this experience to be extremely careful. Here are just a few things you can do to minimize your risk of getting busted. Some of this stuff may sound really obvious but it is surprising the careless mistakes people make.

Need To Know

Though you may want to tell all of your friends about your cool new hobby or show off your killer bud you really want to keep the number of people who know you grow to a minimum. Don't tell anyone you are growing. Don't tell anyone you are growing. Don't tell anyone you are growing. This point cannot be reiterated enough and is the most common mistake made. It can be very difficult not to share your excitement and accomplishments with people but it is your freedom at stake here. Keep it between you and your most trusted friend. No one else needs to know. If you tell one person which in turns tells two other people you could end up with a 100 people knowing about your garden. Post your pictures on the GrowKind.com website and you can share with the whole world anonymously!

Location

Location is probably the single most important factor in your growing safety. Locations are listed by order of preference:

1. Private home owned by resident
2. Town home or other owned residence with close or attached neighbors
3. Rented house
4. Owned apartment or condo
5. Rented apartment or condo
6. Your front yard

Rented apartments and houses are ok (but not preferred) to grow in but you must be aware that any small event can have catastrophic consequences. Though the chances of your landlord coming in unannounced are small, often something as simple as a clogged pipe can make that happen. Just be aware and always be ready to pull down at a moments notice if the landlord notifies you that they need to come in. I've seen large operations taken down and put back up within a 12 hour period just so the apartment company could do a 10 second walk through to evaluate the building for sale.

Profile

Try to keep a low profile while growing. Don't grow in the loudest party frat house on the block and don't do things that may cause confrontation with your neighbors. Ideally you keep normal hours and are a normal neighbor. Cops at the door at 3am for a noise complaint may somehow find their way into your grow room. Trust me, it happens. Don't be a troublemaker when you are growing. Try to be a law-abiding citizen. You don't want to attract attention.

Supplies/Disposal

Try to avoid being seen carrying growing supplies to your grow room. This is rather obvious and not difficult. A simple brown paper bag or back pack will do. Something maybe less obvious is the disposal of supplies/leaf material. Avoid dumping used supplies and/or trimmings in your own trash bin. See if you can have a trusted friend dump your used garbage in their can. If not find a dumpster possibly at an apartment complex.

Odor

If you have a good strain, follow the directions carefully and with a little luck your bud will be some of the stickiest, most odorous bud you've ever experienced. This is great but it can also become a hazard. Odor control can easily be obtained utilizing a negative ion generator in an adjacent room. Odor neutralizing air fresheners also work great. I've heard reports of these items removing some of the aroma if placed directly in the grow room. I have found this to be the case on some occasions, yet it has never been anything that could not be remedied during the curing process.

Supplies

Check list

Here is a quick checklist of the supplies needed. A description and picture of each item follows as well as where to obtain the item and possible alternatives. This information can be found in a condensed format in the supplies insert.

- Lights
- Nutrients
- Plant Medium
- pH test kit
- Reservoir and Tray
- Cloning Trays
- Pots
- Pumps
- Power heads
- Timers
- Soil (for moms)
- Fans
- Mylar
- Measuring cup
- Fire Extinguisher
- Extension cords
- Duct Tape
- Tarp
- Air Fresheners
- Negative Ion generator
- Active Carbon Filter
- Staple gun and Staples
- Strainer
- Empty containers

Lights

High Pressure Sodium lights are the lights we use to flower our bud. These lights come in watts ranging from 100-1000. The amount needed really depends on your grow area. A 1000 watt light could cover two trays 3'x6'. You can get away with a 650 (or even less) in the same space but you get better yields and denser buds with the 1000. For one tray a 430 watt light would suffice. You may flower your marijuana under fluorescent lights and achieve great results. Just make sure you have as many watts as possible in your area. Surround the grow area with fluorescents and use high efficiency fluorescents mixed with one or two

grow bulbs. Whatever lights you use you should replace your bulbs at least once a year.

Nutrients

For Budding Plants:

General Hydroponics is what we use, but any brand of Bloom (0-5-4 pink stuff), Micro (5-0-1 purple stuff), and Flora (2-1-6 green stuff) will do. As for the catalyst we use Earth Juice, but any brand will do. Bat guano from any nursery will be ok. The catalyst and Bat guano are not necessary but we feel that it increases the potency, size, and taste of your buds. Bat guano mixture should be $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of bat guano per gallon of water. Pre mix some Bat guano in an empty gallon carton of milk. You will also need to pick up some pH lower and pH raise any brand is ok. Just make sure you follow the directions on the back of the bottle.



Here are what the nutrients look like so you will know what you are looking for when you go to the grow store.

For cloning:

You will need to get some cloning gel and cloning solution. We use Olivia's, which works nicely.



Cloning Solution



Cloning Gel

Don't forget your Moms!

They will need any kind of 20-20-20 fertilizer. Peters fertilizer is a good buy but any 20-20-20 fertilizer will be sufficient.



Medium

Rockwool Cubes/Hydro corn

The small 1x1 rockwool cubes are what we use. We have found that smaller rockwool cubes prevent nutrient buildup. With the small cubes you can plant the clones directly into your pots of hydro corn. You should try and buy the hydro corn that is reusable. The non-reusable hydro corn falls apart after a couple of cycles. Hydro corn keeps the perfect moisture and nutrient level for

your plants. It also gives normal plants good root structure, but your buds will be so big that they may lean or fall over. If they start leaning you should use some string to keep them up. Check the tips section for more info.



(Rockwool Cubes)

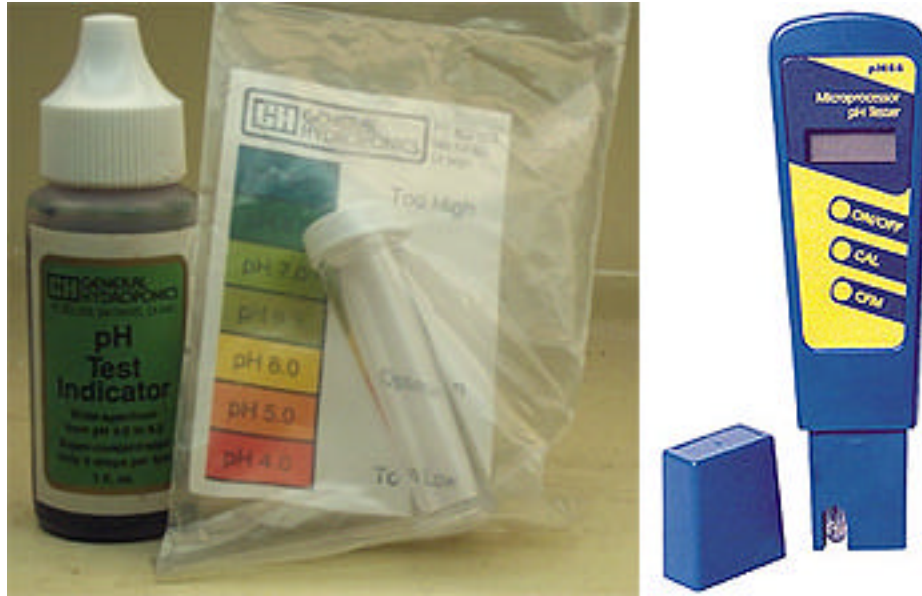
Hydrocorn

Before first use or before re-use you should always rinse your hydrocorn.



pH test kit

Nutrient solution should be kept around a pH of 6.0. Electronic units run for around \$100, or the chemical version shown here for around \$5. Bottle contains around 100 tests. If you want to spend a few more bucks you can buy an electronic PH tester. These are available at your local fish supply store and run around \$50.



Reservoir & Tray

You can buy pre built reservoirs and trays from companies such as Green Tree and Hydro Farm. This is the easiest way if you can afford it. It isn't that expensive and will definitely pay for it's self. If you don't want to purchase the reservoir and tray you can build your own using wood lined with plastic or some type of plastic tubs. You will need to drill out drain plugs and a filler plug.



Cloning Trays

Needed if cloning, any nursery will carry them. You can use some type of plastic container leaving the lid slightly cracked. The lid needs to be a clear lid that allows light in. If you don't have a clear lid clear plastic wrap will work. Just make sure you poke a few holes in the plastic wrap to allow for some fresh air.



Pots

5" pots for plants and 2.5 gallon pots for the Moms is what we recommend. Try to use a fair size pot for your moms to allow for good root structure. If you are vegging your plants you might want to use slightly bigger pots than 5" because you will need better root structure for the larger plants. You will also have more room in your tray because of the reduced number of plants when you veg.



Pumps

You will need some type of pump to fill your reservoirs. Any hydroponics supplier or a pet store that sells aquarium equipment will have pumps. Just ask for a submersible pump.

Power heads

Fish tank power heads are what we are talking about here. You can pick them up at any pet store that sells fish, or a super store such as Wal-Mart. They are used to keep oxygen in the water for the fish, but we use them to keep the water/nutrient formula mixed. The power heads keep the nutrients mixed up. It also mixes the nutrients while you are filling the reservoirs to prevent nutrient lockout.



Timers

Use grounded three prong timers; especially when working near water. You can purchase these at any hydroponics retailer or any hardware store such as Home Depot. Electronic timers are recommended but are slightly more expensive. The non-electronic timers work fine.



Soil (for moms)

Any all purpose potting soil will be ok for soil. Dulimite lime is used to lower the pH of your soil. You can pick up Dulimite Lime at most nurseries, along with a soil pH tester.

Fans

You will need a couple of household fans to keep the air circulating in your garden. This is very important for healthy plants.

Mylar

You should surround your garden in as much mylar as possible without affecting ventilation. If you don't want to use mylar paint the walls flat white. Lightweight pressed wood boards with mylar attached allow you to get the mylar right up against the plants and easily adjust and move when you need to get in to work.



Measuring cup

Marking a measuring cup with frequently used measurements will save you a lot of time. A syringe makes measuring easy and helps to prevent spills. Make sure you flush the syringe or measuring cup with water between measuring nutrients. Failure to do so can lead to nutrient lockout and your plants could starve.



Fire Extinguisher

A good idea in any indoor garden. Every household should have a fire extinguisher, especially when working with electric and water.

Extension cords

Power strips or extension cords should be rated for outdoor use. Depending on where your outlets are you will need extension cords and power strips to provide power to the lights, pumps, power heads and fans. Whenever possible use multiple circuits for all of these items.



Duct Tape

Standard Duct Tape that can be purchased at any hardware or super store such as K-Mart.

Tarp

Put a tarp down under whatever container you use to grow. This makes clean up of spills easier and also helps prevent mold and mildew from manifesting.

Air Fresheners

Use enough air fresheners to prevent odor from leaving the premises. This is a must buy! Definitely worth the small cost.



Negative Ion Generator

Removes odor, dust, and pollen from the air. Very useful when placed in an adjacent room. These come in many shapes and sizes and are generally available as a device to remove dust and odor from the air. Keep something underneath these because they do remove dust from the air and deposit it all around the generator.

**Active Carbon Filter**

These are effective in removing odor. Available at Target.

Staple gun and Staples

Useful for putting up mylar, or plastic covering for the windows. Will definitely come in handy.

Strainer

Any pasta strainer will work here. The strainer is used to rinse your hydro corn or rocks.

Empty containers (milk cartons)

Great for mixing mother fertilizer, clone and bat guano mixture. Also can be used for flushing your moms once a month.

Setting up Your Room

There are many things you need to do when getting a room ready to grow your buds. This is probably one of the most important steps so make sure you set up your grow room nicely. You will need to have a place to flower your buds, grow your moms, and root your clones.

Cover Windows

Pull the blinds or curtains and cover all windows with a thick black plastic. You will probably need to use some blankets between the window and plastic. Use your duct tape and a few staples to hold the plastic and blankets to the wall. This is a very important step. Make sure there is no light showing through the window. Take your time and make sure this step is done properly.



Cover Floors

Lay a tarp down to cover the carpet or ground because you will spill water once in a while. This will help you reduce the damage to the carpet if you are a renter. Carpet can harbor mold and mildew, which is why the tarp is necessary.

Place Ballasts

Set your light ballast on some wood to ensure that they are off the ground in the event of spills. If your cords are long enough put the ballast in another room to help with reducing the heat in your grow room.



Mount Lights

Closet

You can hang your lights from the closet rods in the closet with some chain. You can also screw in a hook to the ceiling. The same hooks that you use to hang plants. Just make sure that your lights are very secure. You don't want them falling. The lights are a bit pricey and could start a fire if they were to fall into any water. Fluorescent lights are often used for growing the moms and clones but can also be used for flowering if more powerful lights are not available. The fluorescent lights should be placed directly on top of the plant. It usually doesn't even matter if they are actually touching the plant. These lights are easy to work with because they are light and can easily be hung anywhere with light-weight chains. They are not a good replacement for HPS lights when flowering though because they use more energy to produce less light.



Frame Design

By building a 2x4 frame you can create a grow area anywhere. Once the frame is up and stable you can use C-clamps to hold the 2x4's that will hold the lights. This allows for quick assembly and adjustment.





The light shown here is a 1000W HPS without a vented hood. You should keep the light 19-23" from the tops of the plants. If you have a vented reflector with a fan hooked up to it you can keep the light a little bit closer. Just be careful not to burn the plants. You should hang your lights with a chain and some hooks. Hanging your lights by chain will allow the lights to be easily lowered or raised.

Seal Doors

You may want to buy some door sealers and a rubber stopper for the bottom of the door. This will prevent light and odor from leaking out of your grow room. This stuff can be purchased at any Home Depot or hardware store.

Add Reflective Surface

Now put up your mylar. Use staples or Duct tape to do this. You can put mylar up by itself or attach the mylar to light weight pressed boards and then put the boards up. This will extend the life of your mylar. This also allows you to place the mylar right on the plants and easily adjust and move for access.

Place reservoirs

Place reservoirs where you want them and make sure everything looks good before filling them.

Verify and setup power

Check that the outlets are working and in useable locations. Test the circuit breaker and try to split the garden over two circuits. A normal house circuit breaker can't hold much more than 1000 watts safely. (Watts = Volts x Amps so a normal household 15 AMP circuit at 110 volts can only handle 1500 Watts)

Setup ventilation

Optimally your garden should contain an intake fan and an exhaust fan as well as fans in the room to circulate the air. Hepa filters are also useful in eliminating pollen, mold, dust and mildew.



(Hepa Air Filter)



(Squirrel Cage Fan)

Setup mom/clone room

If you are fortunate enough to have a separate space for your mothering you should set this room up the same as your main grow room. A small closet can easily hold mothers and clones. Mothers and clones can be set to a 24 hour lighting period but 18 is our preferred cycle.

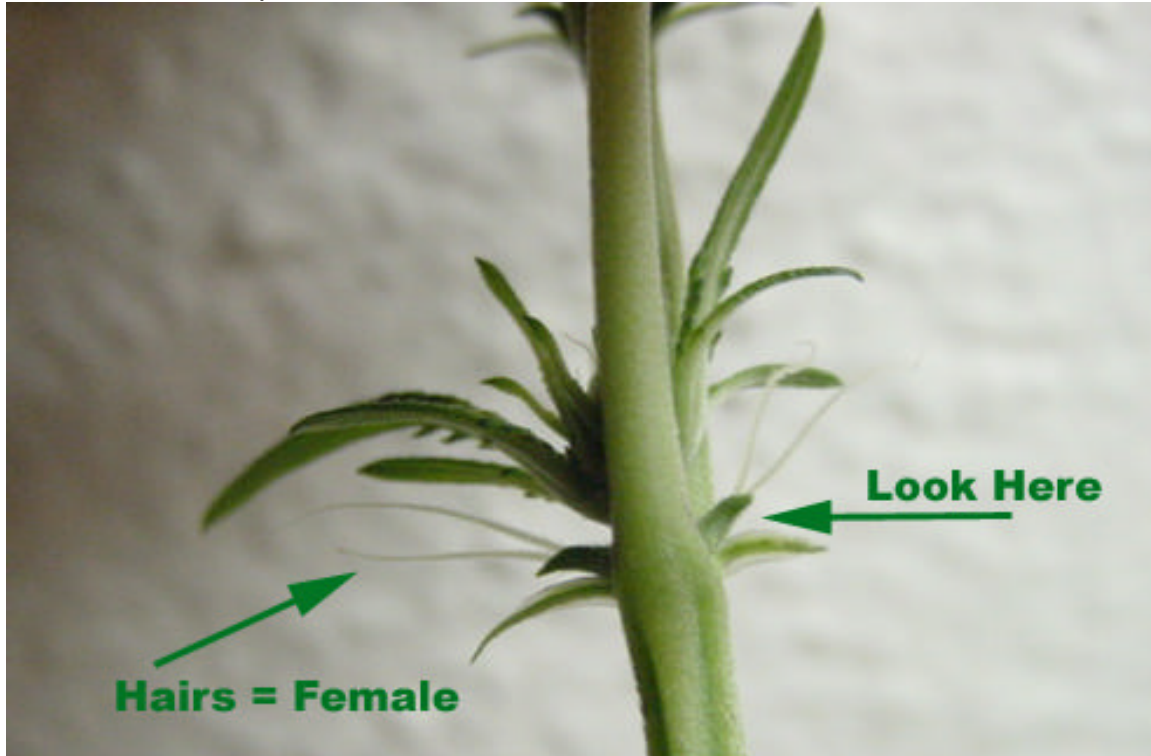


Getting Started (Seeds)

The formula when starting seeds is typically that you want to start 5 seeds for every one good female plant you want. Out of 5 seeds maybe 3-4 will sprout, of those maybe 1-2 will be female and of those two likely only one will end up a really strong plant. This is why it is best to try to grow a few good females and mother them out to produce clones instead of flowering them.

Sexing Plants

Once your seeds begin to grow into a plant you need to sex the plant. Do this by putting the plant on a light cycle of 12 hours on 12 hours off. After a week or two you will begin to see small white hairs emerging from the sacks at the base of the branches. If you see hairs coming out of the sacks you have a female. If the sacks develop but no hairs emerge you likely have a male. Unless you are going to seed out some of your plants you will want to get rid of the males as soon as possible.



Mothering

Supplies:

Pots (With drain plate)
Potting Soil
Perlite
Dulimite lime

1. Rinse your pots out with warm water.
2. Pour your soil, perlite, dulimite lime in a bucket or any container large enough that you can mix the soil around in. Your soil mixture should be 70% soil, 30% perlite, with an ounce of dulimte per gallon of soil.

3. Mix the soil around until perlite is evenly distributed in soil
4. Put soil into pots and dig a little spot in the center of the soil to place the clone or seeds.
5. Wet the soil around the clone or seed with Olivias cloning solution
6. Place mom under fluorescent lights. Keep the lights about an inch from the top of your plants.
6. Set your lights for 18 hours of light.
7. You should water with fertilizer mixture for two feeds, then on the third feed use straight water.
8. Don't forget to flush the moms with a gallon of water every month.
9. Once your moms begin to grow make sure you pinch the tops. You do this because you want your moms to be bushy with lots of shoots for clones.

Cloning/Getting Started (Clones)

Supplies:

- Mother plant with available shoots for cloning
- Rockwool cubes
- Cloning Solution
- Cloning Gel
- Razor Blade
- Scissors
- Bowl containing cloning solution
- Greenhouse type container
- Fluorescent lights
- Empty container

1. Use an empty container to mix up your cloning solution.
2. Wet rockwool cubes with cloning solution.



3. Cut shoot just below a growth node.



4. Place in water and make angle cut with razor blade.



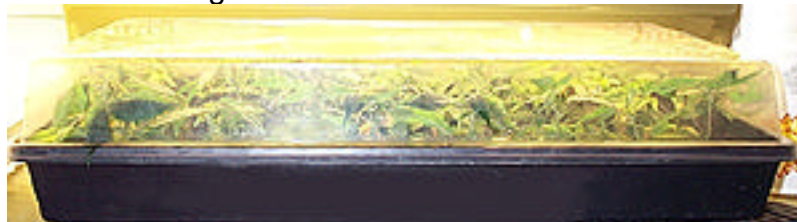
5. Dip stem in cloning gel.



6. Insert stem into wet rockwool cube.



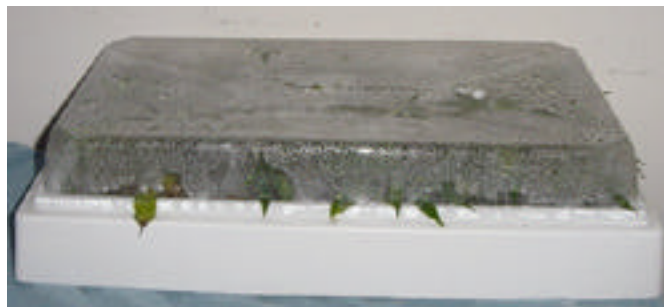
7. Place clone in greenhouse type container and keep rockwool cubes wet with cloning solution as needed.



8. Place your cloning tray about an inch from your fluorescent lights. The light for the clones should be set for 18-24 hours or light.
9. In 4-21 days you will see roots growing out of bottom. Clone is ready to be planted.



For fastest root development you can buy or build a “hotbed.” This is a cloning tray that is heated to promote faster root development. We don’t recommend you build one since you can buy one for \$40 that is guaranteed safe.



Planting Clones

Supplies:

Pots for planting
Hydro corn
Strainer

1. Rinse the hydro corn in a strainer with warm water before using. Clean particularly well if re-using hydrocorn from a previous plant. Try to make sure that you do not have any of the roots from the last batch of plants on the hydro corn.
2. Fill pot about $\frac{1}{2}$ way with hydro corn.



3. Set rooted clone in center hole.



4. Fill with hydrocorn until rockwool cube is covered.



5. Place in tray under lights for vegetative or flowering state.
6. You can flower many varieties of marijuana directly from rooted clones. Other varieties need a week or two of vegetative growth to produce well. You will need to experiment with your particular variety.

Getting Started (Veg)

Once you have all of your supplies, your room set up to your liking, and clones that have rooted then you are ready to get started. Now you have to decide if you will Veg your plants or go for the Sea of Green. Your plants will produce more per plant if you Veg. It does however require 1-2 extra weeks before you have buds. It also requires a bit more work. It is better to veg if you have limited space or if you want the number of plants to be kept to a minimum.

Supplies:

Reservoirs
Nutrients
PH test kit

1. Start to fill reservoir with water. A great tool for filling and draining reservoirs is the “No Spill Clean And Fill Python” This attaches to any household faucet and can both drain and fill your reservoir. You can find this at any good fish supply store.



2. Plug in pumps and power heads.
3. Make sure power heads are moving the water around.
4. Start mixing nutrients in reservoir with water.
5. Check pH and adjust accordingly (pH should be 5.5 – 6).
6. Make sure light timers are set for 18-24 hours of light.
7. Make sure feeding timers are set for 4-6 feeds per day.
8. Do a test to see if trays fill properly.

9. Plant clones (see planting clones section) and place in Trays, buckets, whatever you are using as your trays and reservoirs. Put shortest plants closest to light.
10. Make sure light is recommended distance from plants. About 16-18 inches for a 430-watt light. 20-30 inches for a 1000-watt light.
11. Top water the newly planted plants. You may need to do this for the first couple of days depending on how full your reservoir gets. If all of the cubes are getting wet then you should be ok.
12. Top plants in a day or two (pinch or cut the newest growth) Do this a couple of times while vegging. To top a plant you can simply pinch the newest growth coming from the top of the plant and rip it off. This will cause the plant to grow two tops in it's place and also cause lower growth to increase. You shouldn't top the plants more than once every couple weeks and you shouldn't top the plant after you have started the flowering stage. (You can top it once at the start of flowering but you should usually give it a week to recover before switching to the light cycle to 12/12)
13. The first few days are the most critical; watch your newly planted plants carefully. Make sure they are getting enough water, and are not too hot or too close to the light.
14. Now watch your babies grow!

However long you decide to veg (we recommend 1-2 weeks) is how long you should use this formula: For a 25 gallon reservoir.

5 oz of each of the GH (Flora, Bloom, & Micro)

5 oz of Catalyst and Bat Guano

For 5 gallons of water use:

1.2 oz of each nutrient.

Once you switch to 12 hours of light you will have to use the sea of green formula.

Getting Started (Sea of Green)

Sea of Green is one of the easiest ways to grow. You can have plants at different stages of growth all in the same tray. It requires less work growing the plants as well as less work in the harvesting process. The Buds seem to become larger and denser when going with the “Sea of Green”. However your yield per plant will be a bit lower compared to a plant that was vegged.

Supplies:

Reservoirs
Nutrients
PH test kit

1. Start to fill reservoir with water.
2. Plug in pumps and power heads.
3. Make sure power heads are mixing the water around.
4. Start mixing nutrients into reservoir.
5. Check pH and adjust accordingly (pH should be around 5.5 – 6).
6. Set your light timers to 12 hours of light. You might want to run your lights during the night; cooler but could be more suspicious.
7. Make sure feeding timers are set for 4-6 feeds About 2 hours between feeds when the lights are on, and 1-2 feeds while the lights are off.
8. Do a test to see if reservoirs fill properly.
9. Plant clones and place in Trays, buckets, etc. Put shortest plants closest to light.
10. Make sure light is recommended distance from plants. (About 16-18 inches for a 430-watt light. 20-30 inches for a 1000-watt light. Closer if you have an air-cooled light hooked up to a fan.)
11. Top water the newly planted plants. You may need to do this for the first couple of days depending on how full your reservoir gets. If the cubes are all getting wet then you should be ok.
12. Top plants in a day or two (pinch or cut the newest growth). Only do this once if you are going straight into Flowering.

13. The first few days are the most critical; watch your babies carefully. Make sure they are getting enough water, and are not too hot or too close to the light.

Sea of Green formula: for a 25-gallon reservoir

3 oz Grow
5 oz Micro
11 oz Bloom
11 oz Bat Guano Mixture
6 oz Catalyst

Breakdown of formula per 5 gallons

.6 oz Grow
1.2 oz Micro
2.2 oz Bloom
2.2 oz Bat Guano Mixture
1.4 oz Catalyst

Daily Tasks

There are many things you should do on a daily basis, but if you can't do these things daily at the least don't let it go for more than a couple of days. Stop hitting the bong for a half hour and spend some quality time with your buds.

- Check the pH.
- Check the timers.
- Check the power heads.
- Make sure cords are plugged in all the way.
- Make sure your light isn't too close or too far from your plants.
- Check air fresheners.
- Make sure everything is working.

Weekly Tasks

Weekly tasks include everything you should be checking daily.

- Make a supplies list so you don't run out of important supplies
- Fill your reservoirs (filling may need to be done more than once a week)

Monthly Tasks

You should schedule a clean up day at least once a month. This should be the time where you clean up your equipment and grow room.

- Vacuum.
- Pick up around your room (keep it clean and organized).
- Clean your pots, trays, etc (to avoid nutrient buildup).
- Change reservoir formula.
- Flush your Moms with a gallon of plain water.
- Dust light covers.

Avoiding Problems

There are many different problems that can attack your grow room. We discuss a few of them here and how to avoid them.

Avoiding Pests

- The best way to avoid pests is to keep your grow room clean. Try to keep the floor clear of old leaf material, hydrocorn, dirt, etc.
- Try to keep your favorite cat or dog from roaming around in the grow room; they can often be the carriers for pests.
- Keep the grow room at a good temperature. Mites especially thrive in warm moist environments. Keeping the temperature as low as possible (around 70 degrees) will also help slow a mite infestation should one occur.

Avoiding Mold/Fungus

- These are two of the nastiest problems because often you won't notice it until it's too late and most or all of your crop can be ruined.
- Use a hepa air filter when possible to filter mold and fungus from the air.
- Keep good circulation in your grow room, always have air circulating around the plants and try to keep at least one outside source of intake or exhaust going.

- Keep the humidity between 40-80% in your grow room. In more humid climates a dehumidifier is a good investment.
- Keeping the temperature down (around 70 degrees) will help to keep mold and fungus under control.

Chemical Burn/Nutrient Lockout

- Check pH levels of nutrient solution (or soil) daily.
- Never mix nutrients together by themselves, always mix nutrients in plenty of water.
- Keep pots, reservoirs, and hydro corn clean.
- Flush soil based plants with a full gallon of plain water once a month.

Harvesting Plants

Supplies:

30 power magnifying glass (optional)
Spring loaded snips or scissors
Patience

How do I tell when my plants are ready?

There are a few methods, some better than others.

Counting Days:

The easiest method is to know the flowering cycle for your strain and just count the days. Most strains can be harvested around 56 days into the flowering cycle. Some strains will need 10-20 more days and there are a very few number of strains that will be done after only 50 days.

50% red/brown hairs:

A simple and widely used (though not the most accurate) method is the 50% red/brown hairs. When at least 50% of the hairs on your buds are red or brown instead of white your plant is likely ready. It may be a little over or under but this is generally a good and easy method for most strains.

Amber glands:

Another more accurate method is to use a 30-power magnifying glass. These are available at radio shack for around \$10. When looking at the bud you will see a few different types of resin glands. Look for glands that are standing on end with small balls on the end. These glands develop as crystal clear resin balls. As the plant becomes ripe the tips of these glands will get an amber hue. When you see amber instead of clear the plant is ripe and ready to harvest.

Manicuring

The day is finally here. Clear off a working space and get some good lighting going. Take the plants to your working space and begin the manicuring process. You will want to get some spring loaded scissors. This will save your fingers a lot of work, particularly if you have a lot to manicure.



Cut off as much of the plant as you want to work with. Sometimes you can manicure a whole plant at once, other times you will have to do one bud at a time. This plant is rather small so we will manicure the whole thing at once.



Any shade leaves or leaves with stems can simply be pulled off with a quick downward tug. Try to get as many of the big leaves you can off like this, it will save your fingers from having to snip them later. (If you have a very big harvest manicuring can become a chore instead of a pleasure)



Now go around and find any place where you can see the stem of the leaf go into the plant. Snip this stem with the very tip of the scissors and the leaf attached will fall away.



Finally you are ready to trim off any protruding leaves. You can just cut around the circumference making sure no leaves stick out beyond the bud clusters.



Once the bud meets your requirements you can hang it upside down or just place it on a tray to dry.



Drying/Curing

This is one of the most important and overlooked steps for quality marijuana. You don't want your bud to dry too fast or too slow. Depending on the amount of bud you have you will need to take steps to make sure neither ever occurs. For best results your bud should dry in 5-7 days. Anything under 5 days is probably too fast and over 6 days you risk a mold infestation.

Small Amounts

If you have a very small amount of bud a good method for drying is a brown paper bag. You can open the bag once or twice a day and let fresh air inside and then leave it sealed the rest of the time for slower drying.

Large Amounts

For larger amounts you can just leave it all out on trays in a closet or small room. Depending on the amount and humidity of your climate you may need fans blowing on the bud and fresh air circulating into the room. If your buds are crispy after only a couple days you can put them into jars and the centers of the larger buds will share moisture with the smaller buds. You can alternate between closed jars and open drying as needed. Which brings us to the final stage curing.

Your buds should be a bit crispy on the outside with a little moisture in the inside.

Curing

Curing bud allows the aromas and flavors to really come out and shine. There are many methods and techniques for curing and they are outside the scope of this guide. A basic curing method is to put the buds all together in a glass jar and let it sit for a day or two, then open it up and give it a little air and then back in the jars. For larger amounts some people do this same thing in glad trash bags, often squeezing the buds together slightly and shaking the bag in order to get the buds to release and share their aroma. The curing stage is where good bud becomes great bud and great bud becomes phenomenal. Experiment with your own methods to see what works best for you.

Storing

Glass airtight jars are great for storing your buds. Plastic containers also work well. Place your glass or plastic container in the refrigerator to help keep your buds fresh.

Transportation

Use turkey bags whenever transporting any amount of marijuana. Always carry it in a backpack or bag. Make sure your car is in perfect working condition, no missing tail lights, no expired registration, no cracked windshield, etc, etc. Don't give a cop any reason at all to pull you over. Drive the speed limit and obey all traffic laws.

Smoke and Share

This is the final and most important step. Get your best friends around and fire up your favorite bong. Enjoy the fruits of your labor and make sure you share!! Don't necessarily tell people where it came from if you plan to continue but do share. Even consider supporting your local cannabis club if your harvest (or heart) is large enough, and if you sell it and make a profit send a few bucks to NORML.

Happy Growing.

Pete – GrowKind.com

Glossary

Moms/Mothers	The mother plants. The plants that clones are cut from. See mothering section for pic
Clone	The clippings you get from shoots of the mother plants. These are called clones or babies. See cloning section for picture.
Ph	The acidity level
Veg/Vegging	Vegging is giving your plants 18-24 hours of light. You do this to allow your plants to become taller and bushier. This will increase the amount of buds per plant but also greatly increases the space required.
Sea of Green	This is starting all of your plants in the flowering stage as soon as the clones root or with 1-2 days of vegging.
Flowering Stage	Putting your plants on 12 hours of light per day in order for them to bud.
Ballast	The ballast for your sodium light.
Topping Plants	Pinching or cutting the new growth in order to increase the bushiness of your plants.