

Weed
them out



**CANNABIS IS THE MOST WIDELY USED
ILLEGAL DRUG IN SCOTLAND.**

**IN RECENT YEARS, THE
SCOTTISH POLICE SERVICE
HAS INCREASINGLY SEIZED
CANNABIS IN PLANT FORM
AND HAS UNCOVERED
A GROWING NUMBER
OF CULTIVATIONS IN
BOTH RURAL AND URBAN
AREAS WHERE CANNABIS
IS BEING GROWN ON A
COMMERCIAL SCALE.**

These cannabis cultivations and the serious organised crime groups responsible for them represent a significant threat to our communities.

These illegal cultivations represent a highly profitable business for criminals. It is estimated that one crop of cannabis can generate £300 per plant in 12 – 16 weeks.

These profits are used to fund other forms of serious organised crime, including prostitution, fake goods, money laundering and human trafficking.



Scotland
CRIMESTOPPERS
0800 555 111
Call anonymously with information about crime



How to spot a cannabis cultivation

The risks

Cannabis cultivations represent a direct threat to our communities. Properties used to house cannabis cultivations, and those near them, are exposed to a number of threats.

The growing process requires a large amount of heaters, fans, and high voltage lamps and the amount of energy required increases the risk of electrical fire. In addition, to reduce their costs and increase profits, criminals will divert supply, bypassing vital safety mechanisms, further increasing this risk.

The cost of this abstracted electricity per cultivation is estimated at **£32,000**.

Properties used for cultivations are also prone to severe dampness and mite infestations.

To avoid detection, criminals will often rent residential, commercial or rural properties for medium to long term periods and convert the property into a cultivation unit.

The damage to a property can cost landlords up to **£15,000** to repair and rectify.



The signs to look out for are:

- ✦ The windows of the property are permanently covered from the inside, often with foil or bin bags. There may be a build up of condensation on the glass.
- ✦ There may be a pungent smell emanating from the premises, or an excessive use of air freshener to disguise the aroma.
- ✦ There may be noise coming from equipment on the premises, eg fans or heaters.
- ✦ There may be a vent protruding through the roof or rear windows.
- ✦ The cannabis or by products, such as used fertiliser, may be removed in black bin bags.
- ✦ Tenants do not live on the premises and only make short visits, daily or weekly to maintain them.
- ✦ Powerful lights on all day or night.
- ✦ Compost bags or gardening equipment may be left outside the rear of the premises.
- ✦ Visitors to the premises occur at unusual times of the day or night.

The Scottish Police Service is committed to detecting and dismantling cannabis cultivations and is working in partnership with a range of organisations in the public and private sector to achieve this, including energy suppliers, local authorities and neighbourhood watch schemes.

If you spot any of the signs above, or are aware of a property being used for this illegal and dangerous enterprise, please contact your local Police office or call the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

Alternatively complete an online form at: **www.crimestoppers-org.uk** and help to make our communities safer.