



Texas Department of Public Safety

Information for the News Media

Media Relations Office

(512) 424-2080

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Domestic marijuana seized in record numbers

See video and photos: <http://snipurl.com/t2nwt>

DPS has documented a record increase in domestic marijuana seizures this year in Texas, specifically the North and East Texas regions.

The Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) program is an annual effort funded by the Drug Enforcement Administration. It is coordinated by the DPS Criminal Investigations Division with the combined efforts of local, state and federal agencies.

According to the DPS Criminal Investigations Division, the program resulted in a significant increase in the seizure of cultivated marijuana. In calendar year 2009, the combined law enforcement effort in Texas resulted in the seizure of nearly 62,000 marijuana plants—the most ever for cultivated marijuana in the history of the program. This compares to 2007, when 40,172 marijuana plants were seized and 2008 when the number of confiscated plants totaled 36,280.

DPS is investigating whether the increase in domestic marijuana production in Texas is part of a trend by Mexican drug trafficking organizations moving grow operations into Texas.

These are sophisticated grow operations with irrigation and are camouflaged to prevent detection by law enforcement. The growers are usually undocumented immigrants who live in campsites at the grows to maintain and protect the operation. Many of the marijuana grows seized over the last several years topped 10,000 plants at each site.

If anyone has information on suspected narcotics activity, they are urged to call a DPS toll-free hotline, 1-800-868-6274.

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