



2024 ANNUAL REPORT

FLORIDA'S DOMESTIC MARIJUANA ERADICATION PROGRAM

A partnership coordinated by the
Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE)



Submitted by:
Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement May 2025

INTRODUCTION

Florida's climate and extensive rural woodlands create an ideal environment for illegal cannabis cultivation. By eliminating marijuana plants at the source, law enforcement directly disrupts drug trafficking, enhances public and officer safety, and reduces investigative costs.

The Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program unites federal, state, and local agencies in a cost-effective effort to curb domestically grown marijuana. Its success is reflected in Florida's impressive eradication statistics and its partnership with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP). For more than four decades, these initiatives have led to the detection of over **35,000** illegal grow sites, the eradication of nearly **2.8 million** marijuana plants—valued at over **\$3.3 billion**—and the arrests of more than **18,526** cultivators across Florida. (historical data provided on page 4).

Since its inception in 1981, Florida's DME Program has set national standards and served as a model for other states. Known for its progressive strategies, the program also specializes in aerial detection and indoor grow investigations. Initially focused on outdoor cultivation, Florida's rapid urbanization and the success of aerial detection have pushed illicit growers indoors. To address this shift, the DME Program continues to assist law enforcement in targeting both indoor and outdoor grow operations.

Recognizing the growing challenge of indoor cultivation, Florida lawmakers passed legislation in 2008 to lower the threshold for trafficking charges and strengthen penalties under certain conditions. The law, which took effect on July 1, 2008, contributed to a noticeable decline in annual eradication totals.



2024 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program is a voluntary initiative offered to local agencies through the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE). Each year, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) allocates funds to OALE, which are then distributed to local law enforcement agencies for training and reimbursements related to indoor and outdoor grow investigations. In 2024, OALE dispersed **\$225,082.96** to support the DME Program.

This 2024 Annual Report includes statistical data from **12** law enforcement agencies, encompassing federal, state, county, and municipal law enforcement agencies. Florida's DME Program directly disbursed **\$131,565** to **three** agencies for flight time dedicated to the aerial detection of outdoor marijuana grow operations.

These efforts dismantled **31** indoor and outdoor grow sites across **7** of Florida's 67 counties, resulting in the eradication of **1,839** marijuana plants, the seizure of **346** pounds of processed marijuana, **2** arrests, and the forfeiture of **\$1,600** in assets.

The DME Program funds also support specialized law enforcement training at little cost to participating agencies. OALE sponsored an Indoor Cannabis Investigations School and an Outdoor Cannabis Investigations/Aerial Detection School. During the fiscal year 2023-24, a total of **\$90,792.24—40.3%** was spent on training-related expenses.

Florida's 2024 Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program successfully achieved its mission, with reported statistics across all categories submitted to the DEA.

Evaluations of DME training programs reinforce the ongoing need for aerial detection techniques and indoor grow investigations to stay ahead of illicit cultivation trends.

Thanks to the coordinated efforts of Florida's law enforcement agencies, the program effectively targeted illegal marijuana operations in 2024. With continued state, local, and federal commitment, 2025 is expected to further strengthen the fight against domestically cultivated marijuana.



Historical Data

YEAR	GROW SITES	PLANTS ERADICATED	ARRESTS	EST. VALUE
1981	No Record	48,206	61	\$18.0 Million*
1982	341	43,500	149	\$16.3 Million*
1983	903	139,707	286	\$52.3 Million*
1984	769	106,645	426	\$40.0 Million*
1985	1,272	104,281	329	\$39.0 Million*
1986	1,332	97,408	333	\$36.5 Million*
1987	1,498	96,842	335	\$50.4 Million*
1988	1,568	134,794	358	\$79.1 Million*
1989	1,153	79,176	259	\$92.9 Million*
1990	1,148	92,901	330	\$92.9 Million*
1991	1,801	105,066	690	\$105.1 Million*
1992	1,893	243,452	784	\$243.4 Million*
1993	2,033	145,384	696	\$145.3 Million*
1994	1,406	99,862	501	\$99.8 Million*
1995	1,260	102,075	437	\$102.0 Million*
1996	1,059	96,661	362	\$96.6 Million*
1997	1,144	108,178	477	\$108.1 Million*
1998	604	55,311	404	\$55.3 Million*
1999	573	56,838	466	\$56.8 Million*
2000	611	32,219	408	\$32.2 Million*
2001	554	28,206	325	\$28.2 Million*
2002	550	37,897	347	\$37.8 Million*
2003	622	39,427	409	\$39.4 Million*
2004	488	28,006	334	\$28.4 Million*
2005	668	74,863	498	\$74.8 Million*
2006	819	47,665	639	\$138.6 Million*
2007	1,207	83,814	1,078	\$268.5 Million*
2008	1,321	94,700	1,223	\$287.2 Million*
2009	1,158	65,488	1,086	\$200.9 Million*
2010	1,139	51,366	1,047	\$160.8 Million*
2011	961	46,605	846	\$138.6 Million*
2012	772	37,388	723	\$114.7 Million*
2013	850	47,028	764	\$120.8 Million*
2014	598	31,344	520	\$95.5 Million*
2015	328	18,505	279	\$55.6 Million*
2016	193	15,619	155	\$38.9 Million*
2017	102	6,242	74	\$16.4 Million*
2018	116	4,101	15	\$3.5 Million*
2019	133	4,100	20	\$4.7 Million*
2020	45	795	11	\$1.5 Million*
2021	73	4,537	22	\$11.5 Million*
2022	42	677	13	\$7.0 Million*
2023	40	5,298	5	\$13.0 Million*
2024	31	1,839	2	\$4.3 Million*
Grand Total	35,175	2,764,016	18,526	\$3.3 Billion*

*Figures compiled using a base of \$3,500 average per pound for domestic indoor grown marijuana; \$775 average per pound for outdoor grown marijuana, based on average wholesale amounts published in the USDOJ National Illicit Drug Prices Bulletin- June 2008.

DOMESTIC MARIJUANA ERADICATION PROGRAM

Information can be found at the following web address:

<https://www.fdacs.gov/Business-Services/Domestic-Marijuana-Eradication>

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