



FLORIDA'S DOMESTIC MARIJUANA ERADICATION PROGRAM

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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 February 2026

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, enhancing public and officer safety, as well as reducing investigative costs.

The Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program brings together federal, state, and local agencies in a coordinated, cost-effective effort to combat domestically cultivated marijuana. Its effectiveness is reflected in Florida's impressive eradication results and its longstanding partnership with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Domestic Cannabis Eradication/Suppression Program (DCE/SP). For more than four decades, these collaborative efforts have resulted in the detection of over **35,000** illegal grow sites, the eradication of nearly **2.8 million** marijuana plants—valued at over **\$3.4 billion**, and the arrests of more than **18,526** cultivators across Florida (historical data provided on page 4).

Since 1981, Florida's Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program has set national standards and served as a model for other states. Originally focused on outdoor cultivation, the program adapted as urbanization and aerial detection pushed illicit growers indoors. In response, the DME Program expanded to include aerial surveillance and indoor grow investigations. The program continues to play a vital role in supporting law enforcement efforts to identify and eradicate both indoor and outdoor cultivation operations.

Recognizing the growing challenge of indoor cultivation, Florida lawmakers enacted legislation in 2008 to lower the threshold for trafficking charges and strengthen penalties under certain conditions. Following its implementation July 1, 2008, the state experienced a measurable decline in annual eradication totals, reflecting the law's impact in reducing illegal cultivation activity.



2025 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program is a voluntary initiative administered by the Office of Agricultural Law Enforcement (OALE) to support local law enforcement agencies. Each year, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) allocates funds to OALE, which is then distributed to participating agencies to support training and reimbursements related to indoor and outdoor grow investigations. In 2025, OALE distributed **\$177,694.59** in program funding, reinforcing its ongoing commitment to strengthening investigative capabilities and supporting coordinated eradication efforts statewide.

The 2025 statistical data in this report reflects the participation of **four** law enforcement agencies representing federal, state, county, and municipal jurisdictions. Florida's DME Program directly disbursed **\$161,220.00** to **three** agencies to support flight time dedicated to the aerial detection of outdoor marijuana grow operations.

These efforts resulted in the dismantlement of **one** indoor grow site operation spanning **seven** of Florida's 67 counties and the eradication of **632** marijuana plants.

DME Program funds also support specialized law enforcement training at minimal cost to participating agencies. During Fiscal Year 2024-25, OALE sponsored an Indoor Cannabis Investigations School, allocating **\$7,148.00** toward training-related expenses - representing approximately **4%** of total program expenditures.



Florida's 2025 Domestic Marijuana Eradication (DME) Program successfully fulfilled its mission, with comprehensive statistical data reported across all required categories and submitted to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

Evaluations of DME training programs highlight the continued need for advanced aerial detection techniques and specialized indoor grow investigations to effectively address evolving illicit cultivation trends.

Through the coordinated efforts of Florida's law enforcement agencies, the DME program successfully targeted illegal marijuana operations in 2025. The program is positioned to expand its impact and further strengthen eradication and enforcement efforts in 2026.

Historical Data

YEAR	GROW SITES	PLANTS ERADICATED	ARRESTS	EST. VALUE
1981 - 1989	8,836	850,559	2,536	\$424.5 Million*
1990 - 1999	12,921	1,105,728	5,147	\$1.1 Billion*
2000 - 2009	7,998	532,285	6,347	\$1.1 Billion*
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*
2025	1	632	0	\$2.2 Million*
GRAND TOTAL	35,175	2,764,016	18,526	\$3.4 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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