

Sourcing Good Genetics

Finding high-quality THC genetics is a complex task in a gray market.

By Tucker Cole

In a legal or black market, the grower's greatest asset is their genetics. Their strain portfolio, whether 10 or 100, can separate them from being a successful or a failing company. A grower can be only as good as their genetics allow them. Some strains are more forgiving to climate swings or pest pressure while others take an art in managing them to produce high-quality yields and cannabinoid production. It takes time and a keen eye to find the right genetics for your facility.

DISCOVERY AND INTRODUCTION

Once a grower is ready to introduce new genetics to the market, they face government regulations that vary state by state. Strict states provide a small window of opportunity to

introduce strains from outside the grower's facility, leaving the company to commit to their find for the foreseeable future.

The product likely traveled across multiple state lines before finding its way to its new home, yet the state looks the other way as if these genetics came out of thin air. Illinois, for example, will only give a grower limited windows to allow for new genetics to come into the facility. Colorado, on the other hand, allows for a more flexible schedule. State governments that have spent more time in the industry show a willingness to further the players in the industry, rather than hinder their progress.

A common, yet federally illegal, practice to discovering new genetics is to purchase seed (in person) from a California or Colorado dispensary to ship back to their

GENETICS

facility. This is the unfortunate reality in a newly regulated state. Once a company has taken the risk to find the genetics, they need to verify that they are of value to them and the market. Most of the time these sought-after genetics are read about in Instagram posts from other growers — very few are in catalogs or field trials.

TESTING NEW GENETICS

As with any new genetic, the process of testing can take six to 12 months. This time constraint forces the company to invest thousands of dollars upfront before one can learn the efficacy of the seed. In the vegetable or flower industry, it can take up to five or more years to guarantee a new variety is of quality to mass produce in the market. In the cannabis industry, a finished grower may only have six months to find a good phenotype within the pack of six to 12 seeds.

Furthermore, cannabis breeders are skipping a vital step by producing homogeneous parental lines to create stable F1 hybrids leaving the grower to phenotype the seeds. Each seed will have different traits while growing — inconsistent heights, different flower sizes or varying amounts of THC. The grower will trial each seed with the hopes that



Dedicated to providing growers with TOP QUALITY PRODUCTS.



Pot Washing

The Pot Washing and Sterilizing System scrubs pots clean with rotating brushes. It then dips the pots in the sterilizing tank to clean pots for reuse.

- Quick attach brushes for fast change over
- Works with different size pots from 1 - 7 gallon
- Foot operated switch, tub drain valve, water level auto on/off switch
- 110V single phase electric

Feminized Seeding

The Precision Needle Seeder will sow a wide variety of seed types into most standard plug trays. This patented seeder is designed for the grower who demands speed and accuracy when sowing small, difficult, and odd-shaped seeds.

The Precision Needle Seeder will give you increased sowing accuracy, simplicity of operation, quick change-over, and low maintenance. This unit features an illuminated dust separation seed pan that helps separate dust from seeds.

EP 2200

The EP 2200 fills and drills a wide range of containers up to 7 gallon. Change-over from one pot size to another is quick and simple, no pot holders required. The EP 2200 can be fitted with optional power sweeps and a rotary brush, same as a standard flat filler, allowing you to fill trays, pots and cell trays for added flexibility.

- 16" clearance for tall pots
- extended auger style soil return for the heaviest soil filling conditions
- no spillage



Established in 1959 and Still Growing!
BOULDINLAWSON.COM

(800) 443-6398
sales@bouldinlawson.com
70 Easy Street, McMinnville, TN 37110



one of their methods will work consistently in their production style. Not only do seeds have different attributes, but production facilities have their own practices and techniques in place. A greenhouse variety needs to be resilient to pests and climate pressures while an indoor variety must manage the input pressures of high light intensity. In a vertical indoor environment, a plant should be able to handle high light intensity while also being short to maximize multiple levels.

Cannabis breeders are slowly working to tailor genetics for the different regions and production methods; however, the days for a cannabis grower to purchase a verified seed are not yet here. The alternative is to become a finished grower in a state that allows for plant transfer from operator to operator. Another option would be to invest in the research and development of new genetics from seed companies. In most states, the latter is the only option. Genetics in some cases are a company's greatest asset; starting the investment is crucial to their success. ❖

Tucker Cole is cultivation consultant with WD Consulting. He can be reached at tucker@wdconsulting.net.

Gothic Arch Greenhouses

Greenhouses & Equipment

From large scale commercial greenhouses to hobby greenhouses and beyond, we have the products you need.

Serving the Horticulture Industry Since 1946

Gothic Arch Greenhouses, Inc. PO Box 1564 | Mobile, Alabama 36633
T +1 800-531-4769 | **F** +1 251-471-5465 | **M** info@gothicarchgreenhouses.net

www.gothicarchgreenhouses.com