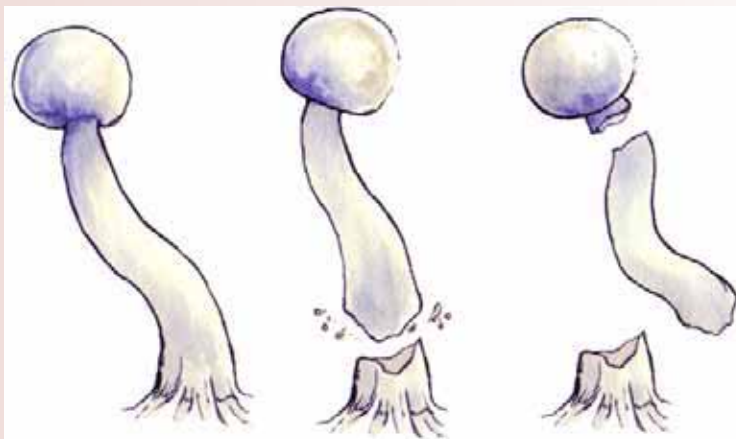


Chapter FIFTEEN HASH AND OIL MAKING



This piece of Swiss hash was collected and pressed shortly after harvest



Resin glands generally break off near the bottom of the stalk and just under the round head.

fumes. Chemical damage may result from premature use of the end-product before all solvents and residuals have been extracted. You can find much information on these

Introduction

Hashish is the connoisseur's smoke. Hashish, also called hash, is the resin heads of glandular trichomes that are collected, pressed together, and shaped. The more resin on the input material, the better the hash. Here we will touch on the basics of making hashish using safe extraction methods. I have omitted detailed information on chemical extraction methods using butane, acetate, different alcohols, etc., because of possible health risks from explosion, fire, and

subjects at www.overgrow.com.

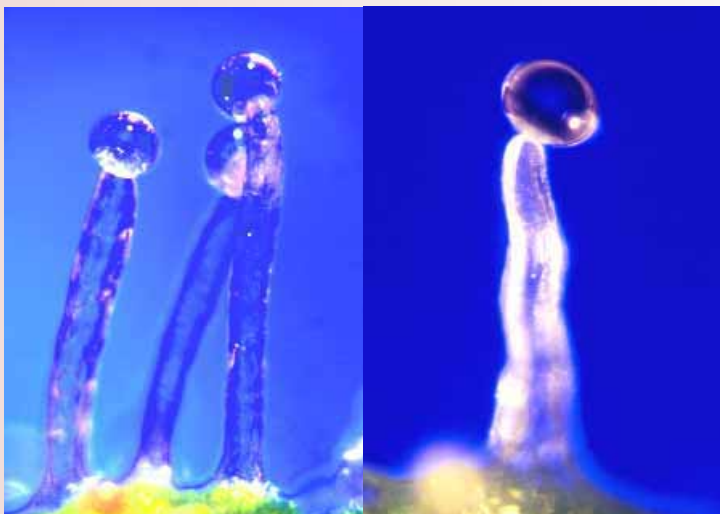
Resin can be collected by scraping it from your hands after handling resinous plants or buds. It can be scraped from tools, too. Resin can be collected by separating it from foliage and letting it fall through a sieve. Or it can be separated from foliage using cold water and sieves.

Before Making Hash

Make sure your plants are as clean as possible. Any oil-based residues on leaves will show up in

the hash. For example, if extracting resin with water, you can see impurity residues as a sheen of oil in the water. During the month before harvest, do not use any harmful chemicals that leave residues. I prefer to use only water-based organic products to avoid potential health risks to the consumer.

Flush plants with water for seven to ten days prior to harvest, to remove built-up



*Capture resin glands with small heads with a smaller mesh sieve.
Courtesy of the Greenhouse.*

Pollen - In Europe and other parts of the world, sieved resin powder is called pollen. The term is used because the two look similar, but resin powder is not pollen. When you hear somebody talking about "pollen," you know they are referring to resin powder.



Your tools and hands are a great source of "finger hash." Scrape the resin from tools and manicuring gloves.

fertilizers in the soil and foliage. This will help ensure clean, sweet-tasting hash.

Freeze First - Collect more resin by making foliage and resin glands brittle. Cold, brittle resin gland heads snap off and separate easily. Once dry, freeze leaf trim immediately to prepare for making hash. Place leaves in freezer for an hour or longer. Remove them from the freezer, and use a dry or wet sieve to separate gland heads from foliage.

Yield per gram of leaf and small buds

Quantity	Dry Sieve	Water Extraction
100 gm leaf	4-6 gm	6-10 gm

Keep the entire operation clean. This is the key to keeping everything separated properly and having minimal contamination.

The yield from 7 ounces (200 gm) of leaves and small buds is around 0.2-0.7 ounces (6-20 gm) with the average around 0.36 ounce (10 gm). The quantity of hash produced depends in large part upon the quality of your original material.

Clean stems, dead material, large leaves with no visible resin, and other debris leaf and bud before making hash with it.

Male plants contain resin with THC but much less overall than female plants.

Outdoor plants are subject to wind, rain, dust, etc., which may prevent resin growth or cause much of the resin to be knocked off the plant. Because they live in a protected environment, indoor plants are able to exude as much resin as possible. Such plants with heavy resin make the best hash. Great hash comes from the close



This piece of "finger hash" was scraped from fingers and trimming tools in a single day of trimming!



This beautiful brick of Moroccan hash was pressed a month before the photo was taken. The resin crystals glisten in the sunlight. Now European and North American aficionados are learning to make better hash!

trim around the buds.

Sativa-dominant strains have smaller trichome heads than *indica*-dominant strains. Smaller mesh sieves do a good job of separating smaller resin heads.

Hand Rub Hash

Hand rubbing hash is simple and easy, but horribly inefficient and wasteful. All you need to hand rub are a good pair of hands, adequate cannabis buds, and desire. Much of the resin falls to the ground or becomes "lost" deep within buds or sticks to other foliage. Overall hand rubbed hash is lower quality and contains more debris than sieved or water-extracted hash.

Hand rubbing is most common in the Himalayan Foothill regions of Nepal, India, and Kashmir where "charas" (the Indian word for [hand rubbed] hash) are fairly common. Most small-scale and commercial growers collect the little bit of hash from their hands and tools during manicuring. This is the closest thing to hand rubbed hash most growers experience.

Plants that are best suited to hand rubbing have sticky resin that adheres to hands much better than it sticks to other foliage. At the same

time, the resin must be relatively easy to roll into little balls to remove from hands.

Collect hand rub from healthy, strong, mature plants with green leaves. However, some large leaves may already have started to turn yellow. Remove brown, crisp, and dead foliage before rubbing. Remember, cannabis plants are generally pretty tough and can take vigorous but not abusive rubbing.

Once collected on hands, resin must not be allowed to collect other debris or foliage. Any foreign matter that sticks to resin-laden hands should be able to be brushed off easily.

Gather resin by rubbing individual flowering branches firmly between hands. Slowly move hands up from the bud, continually rubbing back and forth.

Rub palms and fingers in between resin-covered flower clusters so they come in contact with as much resin as possible. Each branch should be rubbed 20-30 seconds or more. After rubbing a few branches, you settle into the intoxicating, hypnotic rhythm. Aromatic fragrances are released as you rub the buds.

The resin sticks to hands slowly at first, but once they are covered with a light sheen of resin, the accumulation process speeds. Brush off any foliage or debris from hands as soon as it sticks so the resin remains reasonably pure.

To remove the resin from hands, rub your palms together so resin clusters together into sticky little balls. At first the resin will ball up relatively quickly. Lump the balls together to form a single piece. Use this piece to rub on resin that is still on your hand to help remove it. If hands are moist or sweaty, soak up moisture with a paper towel before removing hash.

Once collected, knead it in your hand until it reaches your desired consistency. Hand rubbed hash is best enjoyed within a few weeks of collection. Collecting hand rubbed resin is time consuming. An average collector can rub all day and collect a mere five to ten grams!