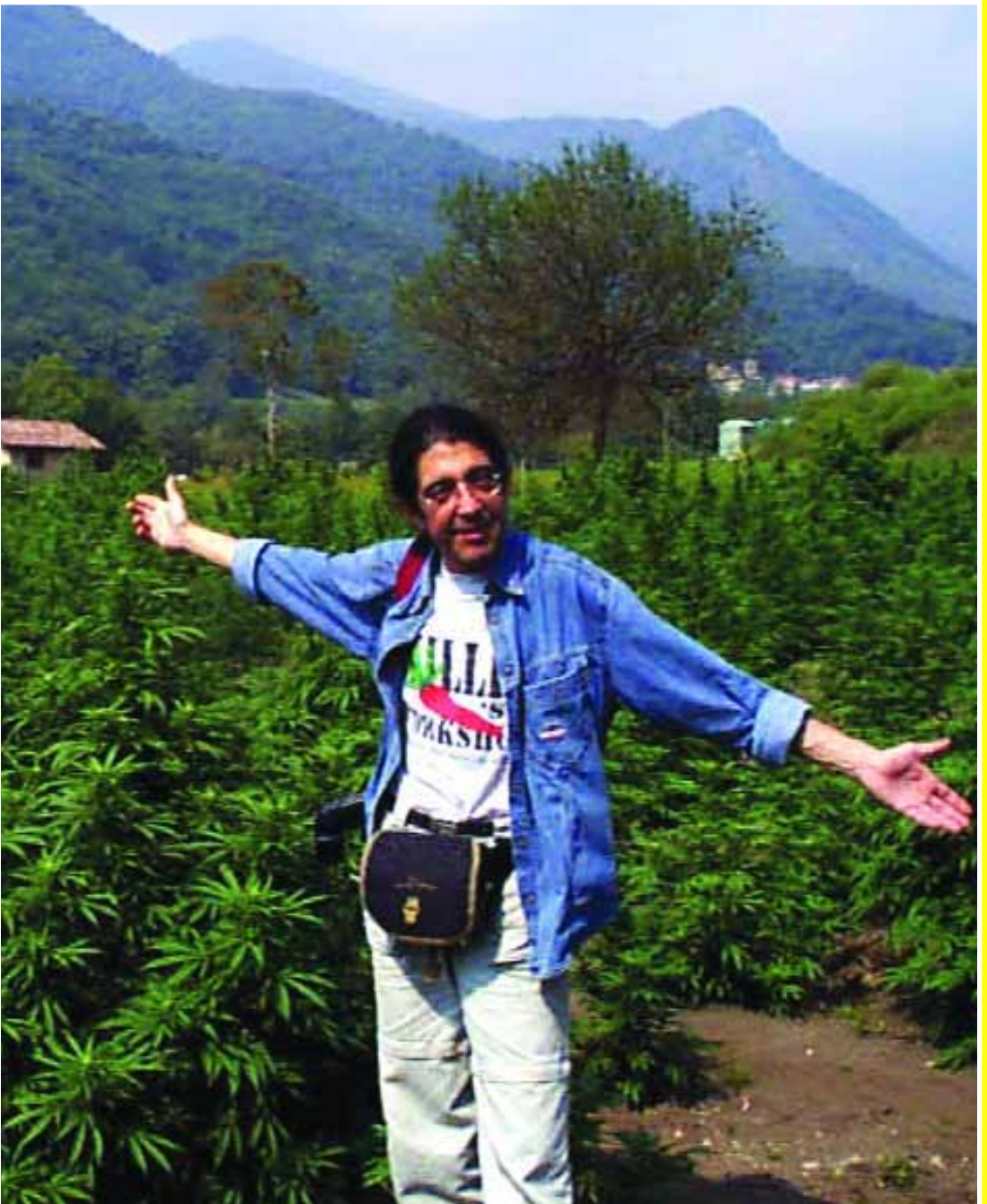


# Chapter SEVEN OUTDOORS



*Gregorio (Goyo), cannabis photographer and writer demonstrates a field of flowering females in Switzerland.*



*Peek-a-boo! This beautiful 'Jamaican Pearl' was planted in an obscure corner of the back yard.*



*The grower is peeking through this plant in his guerrilla patch.*

## Introduction

Much of the information that pertains specifically to outdoor cultivation is in this chapter. Many of the subjects within this chapter are covered in great detail in other chapters of the book. References to these chapters are made in the appropriate places.

Outdoor growing is more popular than indoor growing in countries with lax cannabis laws. The reason is simple—sunshine is free; lights and electricity cost money. More people grow outdoors than indoors for this simple reason.

Cannabis is a strong plant that can be grown successfully almost anywhere. As long as you pay attention to security, virtually any growing area can be altered enough, often with little effort, to grow a healthy crop.

Do your research before planting. Read garden columns and talk to local growers about the best time to plant and grow tomatoes or similar vegetables, then plan accordingly. Also inquire about common pests and insects. Collect publications on local growing conditions. These are often available at nurseries or through your local department or ministry of agriculture.

You can grow anywhere. For example, one of the first guerilla crops I planted was on a freeway on-ramp in a city in the Northwest U.S. in the 1970s. I planted seedlings in a clay soil in a blackberry infested environment in late June. I gave the plants a single application of time release fertilizer. By late September there were short little female plants with dense little buds to smoke. The harvest weighed in at just under a pound of fragrant but leafy little buds. Everybody called it "homegrown."

My first big guerilla crop was planted and harvested in the California foothills. I hiked up one of the many canyons carrying a 3.5 hp engine that weighed 30 pounds, (14 kg) plus the pump (another 30 pounds) and the plumbing connections that made it attach to a 2-inch (5 cm) inlet and a 1.5-inch (3.5 cm) outlet. Schleppling four, 30-gallon (115 L) plastic garbage cans to act as reservoirs, 10-foot (3 m) lengths of PVC pipe,

and 200 feet (60 m) of hose was a challenge!

I made these trips carrying conspicuous supplies at four in the morning. The hard part was carrying it all back down when I closed down the grow show!

After many trips up the canyon, I harvested six pounds of Colombian and Mexican bud. The quality was fair, but I harvested early and had the only fresh buds in town in mid-September.

In "the good old days," rural real estate for sale in northern California often advertised the number of marijuana growing holes that had already been amended.

Now Park Rangers carry guns and have the authority to arrest "suspected" growers. Latin mafias have also moved into the National Forests installing illegal immigrants with guns to grow and defend large patches of guerilla grass. The War on Drugs has turned much of America into an unsafe place to live and grow.

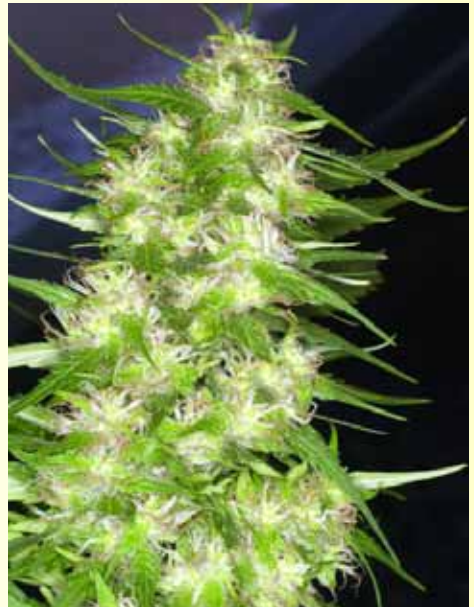
Australia, Canada, much of Europe, and many other parts of the world are significantly different; growers can plant in their backyards, greenhouses, or in remote locations with little fear of arrest.

## Strains

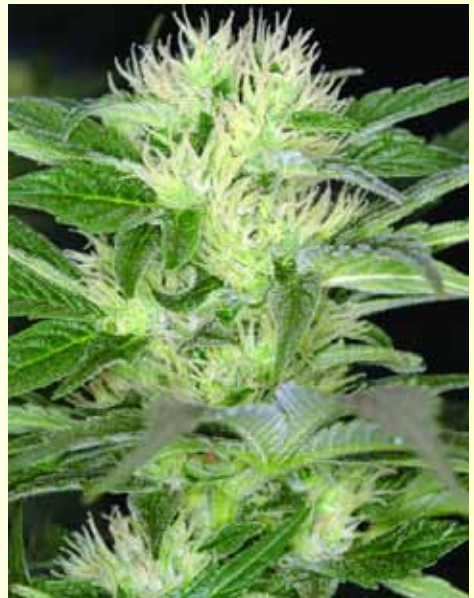
Selecting the right strains for your climate is just as important as finding the perfect location. This section on strains is adapted from a thread started by Leaf, a member of [www.overgrow.com](http://www.overgrow.com) and an expert outdoor grower with tons of experience. One of the Case Studies is also adapted from posts by Leaf. Much more information is also available on the site.

This is a quick rundown on some popular outdoor strains. The strains are grouped in five different categories distinguished by their finishing times. For more information on strains, hit the "StrainGuide" on [www.overgrow.com](http://www.overgrow.com).

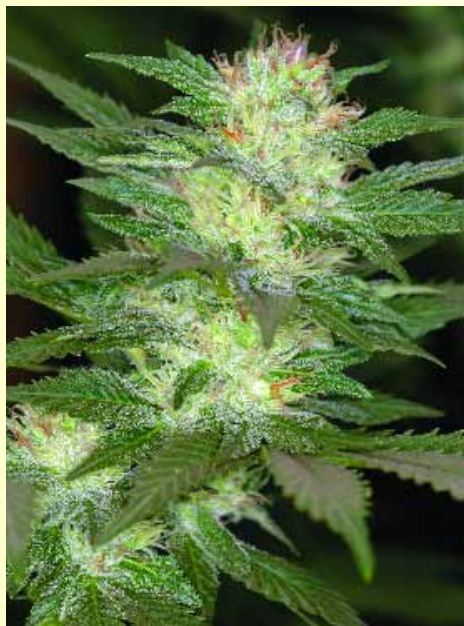
It is a good idea to grow several different strains with different finishing times to spread out the work and drying over the course of time. If you grow a spring crop, you can harvest much of the season.



*Cannabis strains mature at different times. Choose strains that grow well in your climate and that ripen before days grow cold and wet.*



*'Hash Plant', available from many seed companies, is ready to harvest in late August when grown outdoors.*



*'Early Riser', true to its name, is ready to harvest from late August to mid-September.*



*'Jack Herer' finishes from mid- to late-September.*

1. 'Hash Plant', 'Afghani', 'Hindu Kush', etc., are great varieties that finish mid- to late-August. The yield and potency are quite high, but the fragrance is high, too! These strains are for experienced growers. They need lots of intense sunlight and must be watered from below, not from above with rain. These varieties start to bud when the days are long and the sunlight is intense. The buds fatten up quickly on plants with a short, squat growth habit. Rain followed by hot sunny days can foster mold, which could decimate the crop in a short time. Leaf has seen dried, cured buds the size of softballs that were packed with mold. They were thrown away. To avoid mold problems, he suggests harvesting when about 10 percent of the pistils have died back. Even heavy dew can cause a moldy disaster! Leaf loves 'Hash Plant'.
2. 'Early Pearl', 'Early Queen', 'Early Riser', etc., 'Manitoba Poison', and similar strains finish from late-August to early-September at latitude 49° north. They are potent and yield a little better than the plants listed above. They grow from six to nine feet (1.8-2.7 m) tall and are quite bushy. Most of these strains are mold resistant and easy to grow—excellent choices for novices or growers with little time to look after their plants.
3. 'Mighty Mite', 'Durban Poison', 'Jack Herer', etc., finish mid- to late-September. The yield and potency are very good, and the odor is not too intense. All the plants grow a huge, dominant main cola with several large terminal buds on main branches. They may need trellising to avoid broken branches. Topping appears to increase yield. These strains are fairly low-maintenance, but the more love you give, the more they return. These plants grow well if left alone until mid-September and have a good harvest as long as they do not dry out or fall over. 'Mighty Mite' is another favorite.
4. 'Blueberry', 'White Widow', 'White Rhino', 'Super Silver Haze', 'Pure Power Plant', etc., tend to finish mid- to late-October. Yields and