

# Police asking area residents to be aware of outdoor marijuana grow operations

Halton Police are asking Halton residents to be on the lookout for outdoor marijuana grow operations.

Over the past several weeks police have responded to several reports of outdoor grow operations. They say the grow operations may continue into September.

People involved in growing marijuana will select rural areas that may include swamps, cornfields, wooded areas and rural rental properties with large acreage, say police.

Marijuana grow ops have been found in all four municipalities in Halton. Most owners of the properties may not even be aware of the illegal activity on their land.

Police say to start and maintain a marijuana grow operation, the growers may bring large bags of fertilizer, shovels, chemicals, pails, generators, pumps and marijuana plants to these locations.

The plants are put in the ground and maintained by the grower over the summer months as they mature. Due to the heartiness of the marijuana plant, the growers may have to be there only once every two weeks. In late September or early October, the growers return to harvest the plants, leaving the roots and waste items behind.

Marijuana plants are bright green, the leaves have seven jagged fingers, they grow up to three and five feet high and give off an odour similar to that of a skunk.

Police say common indicators of outdoor marijuana grow operations

include:

- Abandoned vehicles parked on side roads or trails
- Repeated attendance to remote locations
- People observed walking in remote areas for no apparent reason
- Persons trespassing onto fields on foot or by off road vehicles
- Bags of fertilizer, planting trays or chemicals located in remote areas or dumped at the side of the road
- Well trampled trails in wooded or swamp areas
- Cleared-out areas in swamps, wooded area or cornfields
- Posted signs within forests, cornfields which appear out of nowhere indicating "No Trespassing."

Anyone who discovers an outdoor marijuana operation is asked to call the Halton Police Service Drug Unit 1-905-465-8732 or contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477), by texting SMS# CRIMES (274637) or by visiting Crime Stoppers Online ([www.haltoncrimestoppers.com](http://www.haltoncrimestoppers.com)). If the matter is urgent, call 905-878-5511.

## If you find a grow-op

- Do not touch the marijuana plants due to possible chemicals on them.
- If confronted by a marijuana grower, just leave the area, record any licence plates and call police.
- Do not approach an outdoor grow operation, due to the low percentage of them being booby-trapped or guarded.



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