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**MARIJUANA
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MAY 23 2007

Vancouver Island Seed Company

Breeding fine cannabis cognacs for your mind since 1980!

Written by G - Photos by Kat

Afghan



It was 1972 when my oldest brother passed me a joint and said, "Try this. It's marijuana. You'll like it". He was right - I liked it, a lot! I've been a hard-core fan ever since. By 1975 I had a box full of many different seeds packaged in individual baggies and labeled with as much strain information as I could get. Often I only knew whatever it was called when I obtained it.

The year 1975 saw my first crop. It was a major failure! I had 53 plants ranging from five to eight feet tall, and at the end of the season I had less than an ounce of very immature bud. This was the first of many lessons on genetics! Though discouraged, I never gave up my love of pot or the desire to grow my own. I was enamored with all things "cannabis", from growing to inhaling I had found my niche in life.

In the 1980s I was growing extensively and supplying my friends with seeds that could handle our BC climate, but I still had a lot to learn

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Bushy Blue



Bud Lite



Blueberry



Double Bubble



Black Velvet

British Columbian

Burmese

Blackberry

Birch

Cannofest

Burmese

Gold

Fucking Incredible

Big Blue

Alfon

Jellyfice

Evil

Olympic

Lady Liberty

Moonlight

Mother

F'n Blue

Over the years I collected and tried hundreds of different strains, making notes and gathering knowledge. I read – cover to cover – *Grow Yer Own Stone* by Dr Alexander Sumach, *Marijuana Botany* by Robert Clarke, *Marijuana Grower's Guide* by Mel Frank and Ed Rosenthal, and of course my personal growing bible, *Indoor Marijuana Horticulture* by Jorge Cervantes. (All of these books are available through the *CC Magazine* mail order on pages 95-96.)

By 1991 I was supplying the seeds for many growers both indoors and out and had a reputation as a "gourmet cannabis" supplier. My motto then was "Breeding Fine Cognacs for the Mind", and it still stands true now. But, of course, everything can't be perfect. There were a few people that I trusted when I shouldn't have and a few indiscretions on their part cost me a year and a half in jail. That was a major lesson for me. When I heard of Marc Emery and the attention he was bringing to cannabis and growing, I ran from the lime

Kush

light and hid. But Marc and his seed business did great things for many people and the movement, and by Christmas of 1998 I had a partner, a new name – Vancouver Island Seed Company (VISC) – with a full-page ad in issues of *Cannabis Culture*, and a deal to supply Marc's Hemp BC store with our seeds. It was at the first *Cannabis Culture* Cup, or "Tokers Bowl", in 2002 when VISC first attracted international attention. The strain Burmese x Fucking Incredible (now named 420) took first place overall, and other VISC strains consistently ranked in the event. ("Tokers Bowl" was a fabulous annual four-day competition and celebration in Vancouver where two hundred seed breeders and cannabis consumers judged the finest BC buds at various venues, partying and touring the Vancouver area. That wonderful annual gathering was last celebrated in July 2005, right before the DEA raid on Emery Seeds.) All cannabis breeders and growers have had low moments over the years, but the worst for us was on July 29, 2005.

Not only did Marc Emery Direct Seeds get shut down for good, but the Canadian government sold out Canada's sovereignty and allowed a foreign government to force the arrest of Canadians not only to face extradition to the US, but also life in US prison! That is unjust, and even frightening, but Marc Emery continues on and so will I. I'll grow cannabis for as long as I'm physically able, and supply quality seeds to others so they can do the same.

It has always been my policy that the average person should be able to grow the breeds we produce, or we're not doing our job correctly. You can grow our seeds indoors and out and produce a crop to be proud of, even without special elixirs or expensive fertilizers. To that end, we personally test each breed before a single seed is offered to the public. We have always maintained our "test before sell" policy, because in the past I have been criticized for using special methods and means to produce elevated results.

continued on page 24

KCB

Passionfruit

Ripper

Kush

Mythic

CS Pop

Mummy

Hashy Pop

Nucleus

Outdoors

Outdoors

Kometor

Comedian

Sly

Rx

Stealth

In order to provide a benchmark that anyone can realize, over the past few years we have tested all of our breeds using only products that can be bought almost anywhere: Miracle-Gro®, All-Purpose® and Ultra-Bloom® as fertilizers, and End-All® for the control of pests such as spider mites. The only thing that the grower needs is a little gardening knowledge and common sense, and they can produce gourmet weed. One plant grown in a two-gallon container of soil using the aforementioned nutrients can produce between one to four ounces of weed, depending on the strain. One of our plants was grown in three cubic yards of soil using a top-grade fertilizer and bud enhancer, and produced three pounds! In my opinion cannabis always tastes best when grown organically in soil, but these strains produce fantastic results regardless of the medium. You have my word: we're breeding fine cognacs for the mind that you can grow! 🍷

• Visit www.vancouverseed.com for more on Vancouver Island Seed Company

• VISC strains are available at Vancouver Seed Bank (see ad on back inside cover of this issue)

YAK



Cannabis & Cameras

Written by Kat

I am very pleased to offer you a glimpse of my passion for pot and photography. As a photographer and a connoisseur of marijuana, my opportunities have been unique and exquisite. My first camera was purchased when I was ten. I've spent many years viewing the world through lenses, capturing thousands of beautiful and breathtaking images both on film and digitally. My most enjoyable photo shoots have been in the fragrant gardens of mature marijuana plants. There are many cameras in my collection, both digital and single lens reflex: Nikon F-60SLR, Olympus C-5050Z (5 mega pixel), and Nikon D-70 (6.1 mega pixel), to name a few. I'm currently shooting most frequently with my Olympus C-750 Ultra Zoom, selected because of its high quality glass lens, 30x optical zoom, attachable lenses, and ability to focus manually. Enlarging an image using optical zoom increases the detail captured by the camera; a digital zoom simply enlarges the size of the pixels, and there is no gain in detail. The flexibility of an attachable lens gives the ability to switch from wide-angle garden shots to close-up buds and everything in-between. Manual focusing gives you the power to focus on an exact point rather than the focal point chosen by the camera's software. Your image will depend on the quality and power of the camera lenses; I have always achieved greater clarity and precision with glass lenses and find them superior to plastic. The lenses used to photograph the images in this article included the Olympus AF zoom 63-63mm 1:2.8-3.7, a wide-angle Olympus 0.7x wide conversion lens, and a set of Hoya macro lenses ranging in magnification of +1 to +4.

SWEET

Super Skunk

THC

Titanium

Vertigo

You Can Have It All!



*Our
genetics
are shown
in this issue
on pages
16-25*

vancouverseed.com

See us in the Vancouver Seed Bank Ad inside the back cover of this issue!