



'Many cultivators overlook the staminate (male) plant, considering it useless if not detrimental. But the staminate plant contributes half of the genotype expressed in the offspring. Not only are staminate plants preserved for breeding, but they must be allowed to mature, uninhibited, until their phenotypes can be determined and the most favorable individuals selected. Pollen may also be stored for short periods of time for later breeding.'

(Rob Clarke-Marijuana Botany)

'Cannabis is a dioecious plant, which means that the male and female flowers develop on separate plants, although monoecious examples with both sexes on one plant are found. The development of branches containing flowering organs varies greatly between males and females: the male flowers hang in long, loose, multi-branched, clustered limbs up to 30 centimeters (12 inches) long, while the female flowers are tightly crowded between small leaves.'

(Rob Clarke-Marijuana Botany)



likelihood of contaminating your female plants with unwanted seeds. If the plants you are using were derived from seed then labeling the males a, b, c, d and so on... this will allow you to refer to them as individuals until you reduce them to the selected alpha male, that your final decision will lead you to.

Let us use an example to explain what to do when going about this type of project. Say we begin with 20 regular seeds of Mr Nice Critical Mass. We plant all the seed the same, germinate them all and grow them under 18 hours light until we reached a desired height or maturity of the plant. We now force the flowering cycle by turning the lights to 12 hours day and 12 hours night and within 10 days to 14 days the sex of the seed plant will begin to show. Sativa and Indica plants show slightly different times and some plants can fool you until the last minute, so stay attentive. This is the critical time for a hobby breeder, a seed maker or a botanist as it is the window of reproduction that will determine if the union of selected male to female pollination works or fails.

As the 20 seed plants reach sexual determination you

### Criteria I use for selecting Male plants are

- 1 **Resin Production** and Potency- the quickness, the amount and where it is being produced will all be factors. An eye glass will be the most accurate means to view this trait.
- 2 **Aroma** - if there is a distinct aroma or something interesting to the nose.
- 3 **Quickness to flower and release of pollen** maturation and speed to reach pollen dispersal.
- 4 **Internode spacing** - based on the Fibonacci ratio of 1:1.6, this ratio is used in many applications, one of which is a rating of beauty and another in stability and consistency of some genetic factors in a plants makeup.
- 5 **Leaf structure and Stature** - whether it is more leaning to sativa or indica and how the plant grows in visible structure.
- 6 **Resistance to hermaphroditism** - no visible signs that the male flower has any naturally occurring female pistillates combined within the male flower.
- 7 **Vigor and fitness**- visible factors that show the plant to behave in a healthy normal growth pattern.
- 8 **Depth of coloration** - of the plant from lime green to deep dark green (ornamental trait).

separate all the males from the females that are clearly sexed leaving the unknown as a third set until they are clearly sexed. Since different males will open their pollen sacks at different times and before the female