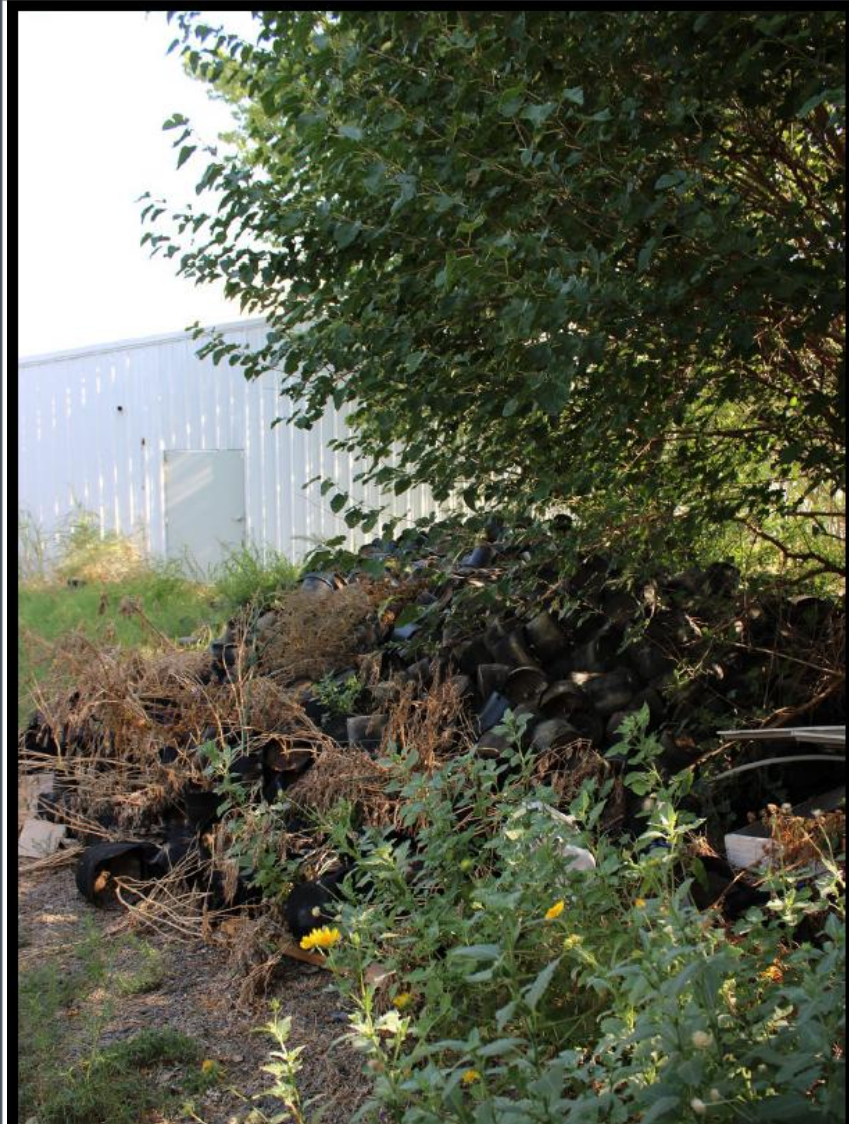




Bureau of Narcotics & Dangerous Drugs Control
Oklahoma

ABANDONED MARIJUANA GROWS: PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Donnie Anderson | Director



OVERVIEW

- Surge in marijuana cultivation has led to abandoned sites
- Many tied to fraudulent licenses or criminal enterprises
- Post-enforcement, sites often left unsecured and hazardous
- Presents environmental, safety, and jurisdictional challenges

BACKGROUND

- OBNDDC leads investigations and shutdowns of illegal grows
- Since 2022, the number of licensed marijuana grows has been reduced by 75% (which is over 6,000 grows)
- Many of these grow sites are now abandoned



PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

- Chemical hazards: domestic and foreign pesticides, fertilizers, solvents
- Structural dangers: unsafe wiring, damaged buildings
- Biohazards: mold, human waste, decaying plant material
- Water contamination and fire risk
- Community impact: blight, trespassing, rural strain































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