



INFO GUIDE #10

Grow Your Four's Guide to Harvesting and Drying Cannabis

By the end of week 8, your plants will likely be ready for harvest. Harvesting cannabis involves the important process of carefully drying plants to preserve and protect unique flavors and aromas. Much like the process of aging fine wine, carefully drying your crop has the potential to exaggerate the nose and taste of homegrown cannabis.

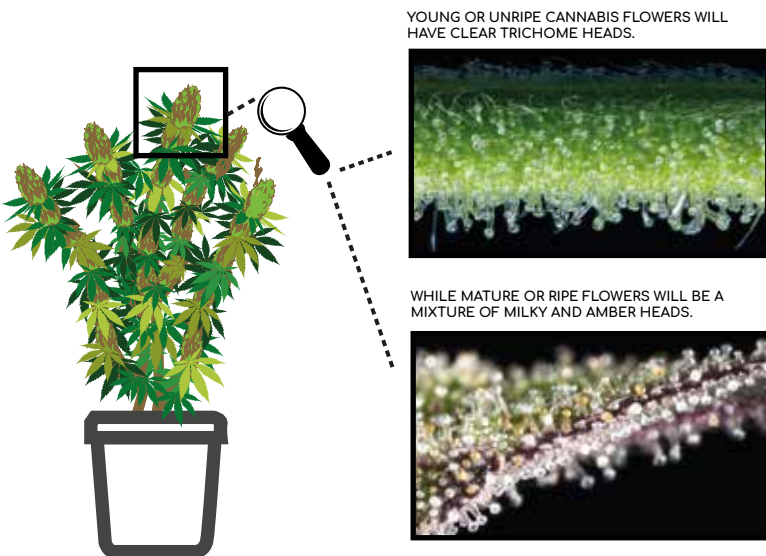
The Importance of Carefully Harvesting and Drying Cannabis

Carefully harvesting and drying your crop can help accomplish the goal of producing top-tier cannabis. Fully developed cannabis flowers are prone to bruising; so, plants must be diligently handled during harvest to avoid unwanted damage. Also, specific environmental parameters must be put in place during the drying process to protect flowers, influence moisture release, and exaggerate flavors and aromas.

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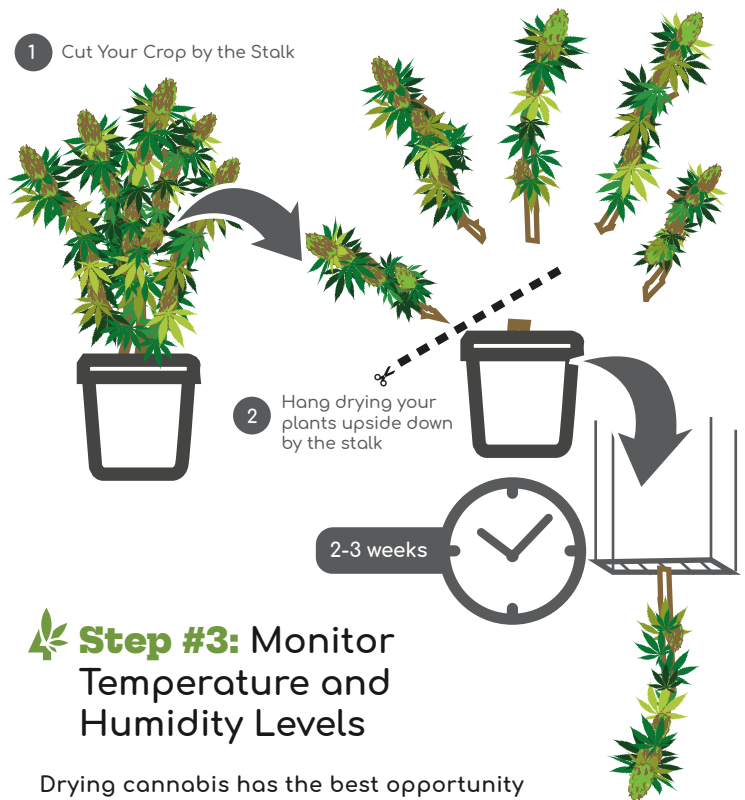
Step #1: Determine if Your Plants are Ready to Harvest

The easiest way to determine if your crop is ready for harvest is by examining cannabis trichome heads. Young or unripe cannabis flowers will have clear trichome heads, while mature or ripe flowers will be a mixture of milky and amber heads. It's highly recommended that growers harvest their plants once 1/3 of all inspected trichomes are amber.



Step #2: Cut Your Crop by the Stalk and Hang Upside Down

Hang drying your plants upside down by the stalk forces the remaining moisture and chlorophyll within the plant to continue to circulate, causing a slower, more evenly dried plant. To ensure your crop is dried to perfection, hang your plants upside down and allow your flowers to slowly dry over the next few weeks.



Step #3: Monitor Temperature and Humidity Levels

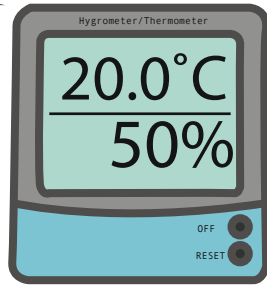
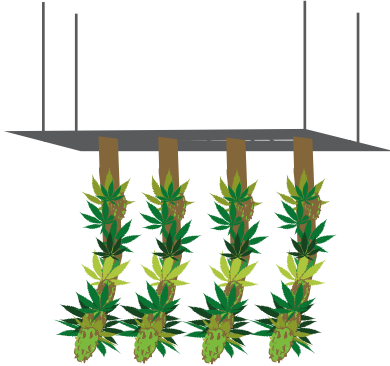
Drying cannabis has the best opportunity to develop intense and interesting flavors and aromas at temperatures between 65-70 Fahrenheit (18-21C) and constant humidity percentages of 45-55 percent. Flowers drying above or below these requirements can either dry too fast and fail to develop a unique aroma or dry too slow and be at risk for mold and mildew contamination.

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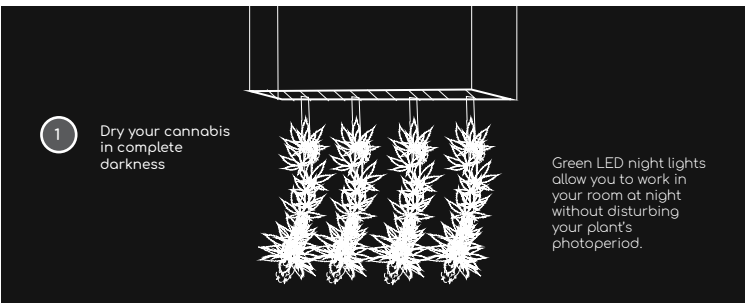
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1 Dry your cannabis between 65-70 Fahrenheit (18-21°C) and constant humidity percentages of 45-55 percent.

Step #4: Dry Cannabis in Complete Darkness

Drying cannabis in complete darkness is an industry-standard. Not only will a light source release heat, but the photosynthetic active radiation (PAR) emitted by horticultural lighting will often damage delicate trichomes during the drying process. For the best results, attempt to keep your cannabis plants in complete darkness while drying.

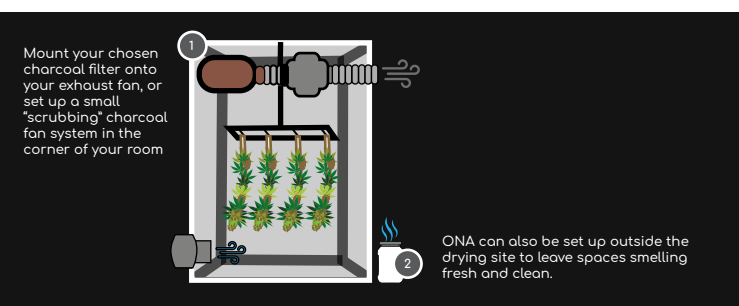


1 Dry your cannabis in complete darkness

Green LED night lights allow you to work in your room at night without disturbing your plant's photoperiod.

Step #5: Control Odor

Cannabis is at its most pungent when drying. If you're concerned about the odor produced by drying cannabis, consider setting up odor-controlling equipment inside and outside the drying room to contain the powerful odors produced by this process. Charcoal filters and odor neutralizing gels are great solutions for removing odor from the drying room.

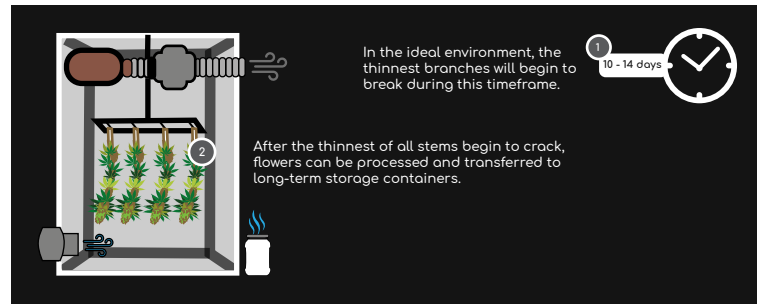


1 Mount your chosen charcoal filter onto your exhaust fan, or set up a small "scrubbing" charcoal fan system in the corner of your room

2 ONA can also be set up outside the drying site to leave spaces smelling fresh and clean.

Step #6: Dry for 10-14 Days

Since you hang drying your plants, test the flexibility of the stalk and branches of your crop after 10-14 days. In the ideal environment, the thinnest branches will begin to break during this timeframe. After the thinnest of all stems begin to crack, flowers can be processed and transferred to long-term storage containers.



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Congratulations on growing cannabis at home. Join us for more information about growing cannabis at home. For more tips on contact our team at Grow Your Four.

