

INFO GUIDE #4

Tips on Growing Cannabis Plants in the Vegetative Stage

If you've succeeded in growing seedlings into established plants, it's time to move your plants into larger containers in the vegetative stage. This growing process aims to promote plant health, size, and stability before transitioning your plants into the flowering stage.

Step #1: Determine If Your Plants Are Ready to Enter the Vegetative Stage

Start by examining your plants to make sure they will perform during the vegetative stage. For the best results, pre-vegetative plants moving to this phase of growth should:

- ☑ 1.) Be a minimum of 6°-10° inches tall.
- ☑ 2.) Have at least 4 stem intervals called "nodes".
- \boxtimes 3.) Have multiple sets of fan leaves.
- ☑ 4.) Require several irrigations a week.



If your young plants exhibit most or all of these characteristics, it's time to transition them into the vegetative stage in bigger containers where they will become larger, more established cannabis plants.

Step #2: Transplant Plants into Larger Containers

Your plants will not make it to their harvest date in small containers. So, consider transplanting them into larger pots before transitioning to the vegetative stage. Afterward, plants can focus all their energy on root, vertical and horizontal branch production.

Select an Appropriate Container Size

Here are some things to consider when selecting an appropriate container size for your plants:

 Container Size = Plant Size: Expect at least one foot of vertical growth for every gallon of medium. E.g.) A 5-gallon container will yield a 5-foot tall plant.



2.) **Container Type**: Some fabric and ceramic pots will yield faster root development. Considering investing in high-quality containers for this final transplant.



Ceramic pot





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3.) Growing Space: Before transplanting your crop into large containers, make sure your dedicated growing space will be able to support your fully grown plants.



2.) **Ventilation Equipment::** Ventilation gear manages the heat-load produced by lighting. To figure out the size of fan you'll need, follow this simple calculation (L x W x H) and match the volume of your room to the Cubic Feet per Minute (CFM) rating to an inline fan of your choice.

Calculating the size of fan you need for your grow room



Step #3: Environmental and Nutrient Requirements

As your plants progress, they will require more intense light and stronger, more frequent fertilization. Here is a brief list of essential equipment:

1.) **High-Wattage Grow Light(s):** Horticultural specific LEDs or High-Intensity Discharge(HID) lamps like Ceramic Metal Halides (CMH), High-Pressure Sodiums (HPS), and Metal Halides (MH) are typically recommended for these stages. Set your high-wattage grow lamp(s) on a photoperiod of 18 hours of light and 6 hours of darkness for the best results during the vegetative stage.

Radio Waves Flowering Stage 620 - 780 nm Microwaves - 600 nm CMH, MH, or full-spectrum Infrared - 580 nm LEDs are arguably the most beneficial for plants during Visible Light 550 nm the vegetative stage. Ultraviolet - 475 nm-Vegetative Stage 400 - 500 nm X-Rays Gamma Rays For the best results during the vegetative stage, set your grow ionts to ours of darkne 8 hours of light

3.) Miscellaneous Environmental Equipment:

Thermometer/Hygrometers, Wall Mount Fans, Cruise Temperature Thermostat, Co2 Injection or Supplemental Equipment, pH/PPM Control.

4.) **Nutrient Requirements:** Make sure you're using a nutrient system with a well-rounded N-P-K ratio, and buffer this solution within a pH range of 6.0 - 6.5. As your plants grow, they will require more and more food. So, follow the recommended feeding tiers as described by your base nutrient program.





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Lastly, utilize available testing equipment to measure the inputs of your garden. PPM is one among many ways of testing the content of your nutrient solution and can act as your "eyes" when it comes to mixing nutrients. Here are some "tiers of feeding" or general levels of nutrient strength that most plants will enjoy during the vegetative stage:



Parts Per Million (PPM) Measurement

L Step #4: Take Notes, Monitor, and Inspect Your Crop

Since the vegetative period can last for weeks, it's a good idea to develop a routine in the garden. Fertilize your crop regularly (add plant food with every other irrigation), take notes on the average day/nighttime temperatures of your garden, and inspect your crop for insect activity, slow growth, and/or nutrient deficiencies.

