



The Seed

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM CEDAR VALLEY

It's Harvest Time!

Leaves & laughter filled the air as the Cedar Valley team recently joined together in unity and excitement for their 5th indoor harvest. The indoor greenhouse holds 1,500 potted plants and housed 5 successful strains of hemp this round. All hands on deck is a concept that stamps most processes at the Cedar Valley Farm but most especially at harvest time.

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Harvest day strengthens unity amongst the team and brings a sense of pride and worth from experiencing things full circle. Planting seeds with your own hands, seeing the cultivation and growth, leading the plants through harvest and on to processing them into a product that is then personally handed over to a consumer which in turn improves his life, is a one-of-a-kind experience. Everyone at Cedar Valley has a hand in each process involved, which allows our team to truly experience this seed-to-sale concept, a strong company value. Having the same hands in the dirt that shakes hands on a sale is a special feeling.

The Harvest Clock Strikes It's Hemp O'Clock



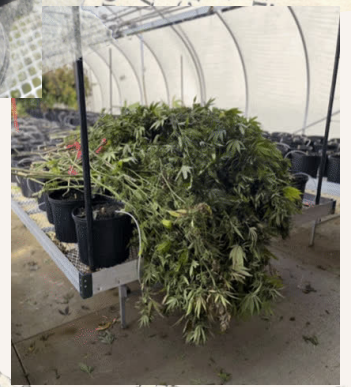
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Cutting the Stalks

One Last Glance

When the harvest clock strikes, the bay doors are pulled and the recently risen rays of sun peak in as employees prepare for the day ahead. Everyone takes a quick trip to the greenhouse to capture their last glance at the thick green stalks standing firm with their luscious green leaves and bursting, gooey buds that fill the atmosphere with an earthy, citrus fragrance. Euphoria wraps its arms around the team as they reminisce about the careful precision and passion that was poured into these small seedlings that now tower over them with essence and beauty. After a brief moment of reflection, team members clothe their hands with gloves, step into their respective positions, and harvest is officially in session!



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To the Barn for Shucking



The Process

First, the stalks are clipped at their base one by one and in sections by strain and then carried in large heaps from the greenhouse into the processing barn.

Next, the plants go through the shucking stage. Shucking the plants involves holding the stalk, one or two at a time, and stripping off the leaves and buds by hand into a large container. Bare stalks are placed in separate containers and then carried to a bulldozer to be discarded.



The leaves and buds are then weighed, recorded, and carried to the drying section of the barn where they are carefully placed in nets that hang from the ceiling. The leaves and buds will hang out here for a while until they dry out and will then move on to the trimmer, so that the leaves and buds can be separated from each other. Both buds and leaves are useful parts of the plant but serve different purposes. Following the trimmer, the buds and leaves are then off to be processed and made into products.

Due to the amount of crop this harvest, the drying nets were all filled, while there were still plants left over needing to be dried. That called for utilizing one of Cedar Valley's personal inventions that was mentioned in last month's newsletter - the hanging system.



Drying Nets



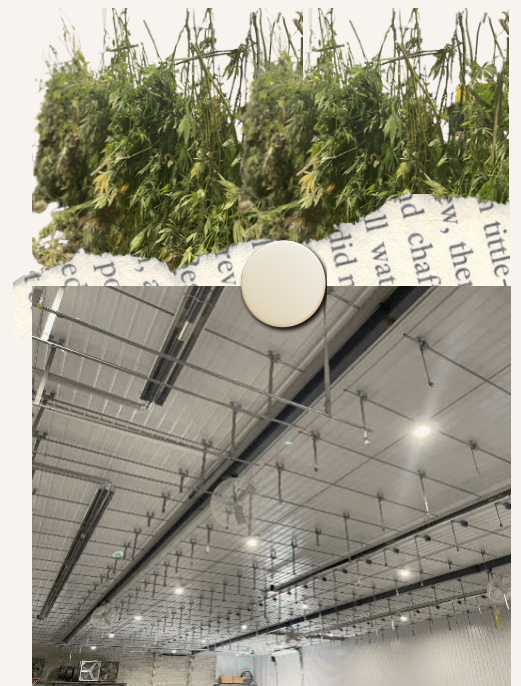
Raising the Bar A Personal Design

The Hanging System

Why do the plants have to be hung to dry even if they're not wet? The drying process is an essential part of preserving the buds of the plant, as it helps accentuate the flavor by absorbing the plant's terpenes. Terpenes are the organic compounds found in the plant that help determine its specific aroma and flavor. These terpenes are used in a variety of products such as cosmetic, cleaning, and even food and drink.

In order to dry plants in large multitudes, it's obvious that a specific system would have to exist. The current hanging system in place at the Cedar Valley Farm originated in the mind of one of its owners, Josh Cutter. Typically, this mechanism would be used for hemp that was picked from the outdoor field due to the mass amount of crop that would be coming in. However, seeing as how the drying nets were already at full capacity from the current greenhouse harvest, this system was more than a sufficient back up.

The hanging system allows the plants to hang freely to dry after being picked from the field, or in this case, the greenhouse. This personal design is not only efficient but quite fascinating. It covers the ceiling of the Cedar Valley processing barn in entirety and is operated by the use of a drill. The key feature that puts it above other systems is that it allows all employees to stay on the ground while the pole that strings a net which holds the plants raises and lowers at the push of a button.





Did You Know? A Sticky Situation

Stuck on Hemp

If you are in the hemp farming business, the image to the right may look familiar to you, especially after a few hours in on harvest day! When continually handling the plants, everything begins to get a bit sticky, such as the fingers of staff members' gloves, clothes, and any tools being used such as clippers or brooms and dust pans. Remnants of leaves begin to get stuck to the bottom of your shoes like this image of a Cedar Valley team member on harvest day. This is because the cannabis plant contains a stickiness that can be felt when handling its buds. What is this stickiness? The stickiness is called resin and is contained in what is called a trichome. Trichomes are tiny, hair-like features found on the bud of the cannabis plant. If a plant has an abundance of trichomes, that means it has a lot of resin or will be exceptionally sticky. The resin is an important component of the plant because it contains the cannabinoids and terpenes which is what is made into products. Resin also acts as a defense mechanism to protect the plant from pests and potential predators.



Check out the trichomes on this Bubbleberry plant from harvest day!

Cannab-ulary



Trichomes: Tiny hair-like appendages on the bud of a cannabis plant that hold resin

Resin: The sticky substance on the bud of a cannabis plant that contains terpenes and cannabinoids, also used to protect the plant

Terpenes: Essential compounds or oils within the cannabis plant that give the plant its specific aroma, used in a variety of products



*Thank you for reading September's newsletter!
See you next month!*

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