



**Vermont Cannabis Trades Association (VCTA)**  
**Shayne Lynn and Tom Hirschfeld**  
**House Natural Resources, Fish, and Wildlife - January 15, 2019**

VCTA serves as a trusted resource on issues related to the safe and responsible use of cannabis for medical and non-medical purposes. We are comprised of the following organizations: Champlain Valley Dispensary, Southern Vermont Wellness, Vermont Patients Alliance, and PhytoCare Vermont. We are a statewide voice for the cultivation of cannabis and the production and testing of infused products. We promote industry standards, and support the development, growth and integrity of the regulated cannabis industry. We work collaboratively with patients, state health and law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, and lawmakers. We are committed to safe, high quality, accessible products, and conduct activities with integrity and in accordance with the highest ethical standards.

The Vermont Medical Marijuana Program has seen many successes over the years, namely the ability to offer alternative symptom relief to the population suffering from severe illness. VCTA's initial focus was medical marijuana. With the expansion of hemp-infused products and an increase in the number of farmers growing hemp, we believe that working together to promote Vermont cannabis products and set future standards will only serve to strengthen our efforts to meet the needs of Vermonters.

**Natural Resource & Energy Use of Cannabis Cultivation**

We are very mindful of the environmental impact of growing cannabis and have taken steps to monitor and minimize our energy consumption footprint as much as possible. We grow cannabis indoors, in a green house, and outdoors. The numbers below only reflect the indoor cultivation space. To sustain our indoor cultivation space, we utilize:

***Water Usage***

- 402,000 gallons of water per year are consumed.
- Approximately 5% is wastewater, and the rest is absorbed by the plants or evaporates.

***Electrical Usage***

- 615,000 kilowatts hours/year are consumed.
- We worked with Efficiency Vermont in selecting our High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights to ensure the most efficient lights. In addition, we were able to receive rebates on their purchase price. We are currently testing and considering using LED lights.

***Fertilizer***

- We use 306 lbs. per year of fertilizer and 46 yards of growing media per year.

***Pesticides***

- The usage of pesticides is limited. In total, less than a gallon of pesticides per month are used: 4740.52 ml of liquid formulations; 30.67 gm of water dissolvable granules.

Pesticides serve one or more of the following functions:

- Fungicide;
- Biofungicide;
- Biostimulant;
- Insecticide;
- Miticide; and
- Biological larvicide.

We abide by internal and Department of Agriculture screening protocols for pesticide approval.

When evaluating a pesticide, we consider the following:

- Mode of Action – will it be effective/complimentary to existing practices?
- Look up label online – does it have an EPA registration #?
- Is it OMRI listed?
- Is it approved for use on Hemp and/or Cannabis?
- Read label carefully – are there any red flags in terms of storage, handling, mixing, and/or disposal?
- What is the Pre-Harvest Interval? Most of our sprays have PHI < 1 hour.
- What is the Re-Entry Interval? All of our sprays have a REI < 4 hours.
- Call the manufacturer – inquire about best practices and work with other cannabis growers.
- Call/email C.Giguere from State of VT Dept. of Ag. Request permission to trial the product. Include: what state in the lifecycle, frequency of use. Attach a copy of the label with correspondence.

### ***Solar Energy***

- We have a Solar Power Purchase Agreement for 250,000 kilowatt hours per year. 40% of electrical demand is offset by solar power.

### ***Delivery***

- Hybrid cars are used for delivery to minimize the use of fossil fuels.

### **Packaging and Waste**

#### ***Packaging***

On average, we utilize approximately 4000 mylar bags each month for packaging. Whenever possible we use post-consumer recycled materials that are themselves recyclable. Whenever possible, we minimize packaging while also maintaining compliance. Given the regulations around packaging, specifically labeling and child resistant packaging, we are occasionally required to use more packaging than is ideal.

#### ***Disposal of Waste***

We bring lab generated waste to a specific waste disposal company who is certified to dispose of hazardous materials.

#### ***Composting***

All biomass is composted.