

Treating Yourself

The alternative medicine journal

Vapor Swing wins it all!

**Cannabis,
Parkinson's Disease**
& the Endocannabinoid System

Boycott WalMart!

THC Oil
Made Safely and Naturally

Contest:
Win a custom
TY ROOR package,
a VOLCANO Digital Vaporizer &
OKIEF Tumbler

TYExpo showguide, Reviews,
Smoke Reports, Events, Recipes,
Survey and much more...



\$7.99 USD/CAD

0 55113 28954 5 02

The Importance of Cameras

By T.A. Sedlak
(Author of *Anarcho Grow*)

The two growers had made it to their patch early. The sun was low, and they hoped to finish their work before the heat came. Adam Maruska knelt, feeling the ground still moist with dew. He shoved bamboo rods into the ground and tied the branches of a marijuana bush to them, spreading the plant out like an octopus. He wiped sweat from his forehead and looked up. His eyes bulged. Fifteen feet away he saw a dark green box staring back.

"Jack," he said.

"What?" His friend turned.

"There's a camera."

The paranoid couple ripped down the camera, scoured the rest of their patches, then made the difficult decision to gather their hidden tools and abandon the plants. They'd spent four months on the grow operation, stopping twice a week to water, fertilize and spray with Neem oil. They invested numerous hours bringing the plants out in cups, then planting. They even did tasks not needed in the lush Midwest, like carrying out bags of potting soil, a full pallet, and dumping it into the holes for plants. Adam had just finished his last semester of college, had big plans, and was banking on one last outdoor grow. However, all his work was for naught. Such is the life of a guerrilla grower. There was a lesson learned, though. Never partake in guerrilla growing without the use of cameras.

Federal, state, and local governments spend millions of dollars each summer in an attempt to bust outdoor growers. They do flyovers, which leads guerrilla growers to become experts in camouflage. But once a patch is discovered, they use cameras to find out when the growers come and go in order to bust them.

"We should have been more astute," says Adam.



A good trail camera can be purchased for as little as \$60 (US)

"We always wore rubber boots and hiked up the creek to our patches, not leaving much of a trail. In the few places we did walk through weeds, the trails had widened out. There seemed to be new trails. I remember staring at them, thinking how unnatural it looked, at the same time, trying to convince myself it was deer."

Pictures on the memory card inside the camera reveal the officers had placed it in the patch on August 10. The next images are of Adam and Jack working in the patch on the 12th. Adam then found the camera on the 16th. If it weren't for rough weather that helped knock down vegetation the officers had used to hide the camera, Adam and Jake may not have ever found it and would have continued denying that cops had made the wide, beaten paths they'd found. Perhaps they'd be behind concrete walls right now. However, if the two had used cameras when they started the operation, they would have known about the officers when they visited the patch on the 12th.

Any marijuana grower will tell you the most important part of the process is being safe. For indoor growing, this includes eliminating odor, not consuming too much power and keeping home traffic to a minimum. For outdoor growing, it's choosing a safe place, camouflaging it and keeping the area under surveillance. Digital surveillance is a modern breakthrough in guerrilla growing. Trail cameras for tracking game have only been on the market for the last ten years. They can cost anywhere from \$60 to \$300 (US), but it's, obviously a small price to avoid incarceration. The photos included in this article are from a camera that retails for \$300 (US). However, we're not all purchasing our cameras with government money and might have to rely on a cheaper model. Clarity of the image isn't as important as the image itself. Generally, a patch has to be abandoned no matter who's wandered into it. So, making out the



Adam found a camera spying on him



A local agent setting up a camera to catch guerrilla growers

person's features might not be important.

For deciding on which camera(s) to use, research should be done. A simple glance on Amazon.com revealed more than ten different trail cams for under \$100 (US), and each with multiple reviews from buyers. Customer reviews showed that one of the cheapest models had the best response time between sensing motion and snapping the picture. There are also different features with each camera you'll want to learn about. For instance, some growers would rather opt for a more expensive camera with infrared technology than one with a nighttime flash.

Camera placement is also an issue. The best scenario is to put the camera in a place where it will spot intruders but is also camouflaged. If you place the cameras outside of your patches, and they're not hidden, it's likely people will just think they're for tracking game anyway. And, if those people see your cameras while trespassing, they'll be more inclined to leave the property.

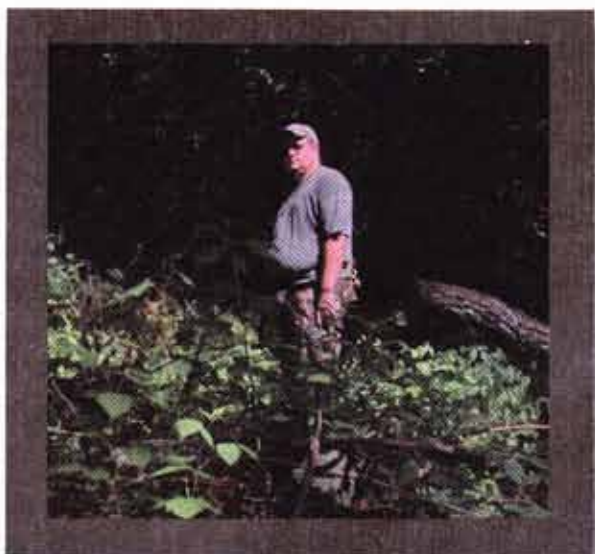
Trail cameras are not only good for surveillance of a patch that has been planted but also for surveying places you might want to grow in the future. Any guerrilla grower can think of a place he's thought about planting in but is unsure if people go there. Toss up a trail cam for the year and find out.

With law enforcement seemingly working harder than ever to bust guerrilla growers, new technology has to be taken advantage of to keep patches safe. Adam and Jack lucked out in their patch. You might not. If you want to avoid being locked up, cameras are recommended.

For more by T.A. Sedlak, visit www.tasedlak.com 



The agents caught on their own camera



No one wants to see an agent in their patch, but better on film than in person

Product Review

Trail Cameras from Cheap to Steep

By T.A. Sedlak
(Author of Anarcho Grow)



Wildview EZ-Cam

Amazon.com
Price: \$60.35 (US)

The Dope:

1.3 megapixel sensor, 30 foot flash, 8 megabyte internal memory with additional SD card slot, takes 10 second videos.

Review:

The photo quality isn't great, but it does the job. Trigger time (time between motion sensed and picture snapped) is exceptional. It's easy to use. However, this camera poses a problem for those not wanting a flash with nighttime photos. Those afraid of the flash will have to opt for a more expensive model. Best for those needing to purchase several cameras.



Moultrie Game Spy D-40

Amazon.com
Price \$84.99 (US)

The Dope:

4 megapixel sensor, 45 foot flash range, 16 megabyte internal memory with additional SD card slot, infrared motion sensor up to 30 feet, 2 inch LCD menu display screen, takes 10 second videos.

Review:

An extra \$25 will get you lots more features, but is it worth it? Don't be fooled by the 4 megapixel sensor, the picture quality is hardly better than the EZ-Cam. The trigger time doesn't test out as well. And, those hoping to get nighttime photos without a flash won't find it here. While the flash can be turned off, the pictures without it are unrecognizable. This camera's infrared feature is for determining that the motion is from a mammal to eliminate blank photos. The LCD screen is nice, though. You can check the photos on it in the woods. Overall, the Game Spy is probably better than the EZ-Cam, but \$25 better? Depends if you crave its added features.





trailcamspy.com



Bushnell Trail Sentry 5.0

Amazon.com
Price: **\$149** (US)

The Dope:

5 megapixel sensor, night vision functionality, range not given

Review:

The picture quality is fantastic, with a setting to choose between 3 and 5 megapixel images. Trigger time is superb. However, the whole story behind this camera is the night vision. This camera takes photographs at night without a flash. Actually, it uses an infrared flash that our eyes don't pick up. The pictures in this setting are black and white but good. However, LED lights glow when motion has been sensed. Therefore, you might want to put some black tape over the lights. For those looking for the cheapest camera with night vision, this is it. You should like everything else about it too. It's easy to use and has necessary the features without the superfluous ones.



Cuddeback Capture

Amazon.com
Price: **\$194.21** (US)

The Dope:

3 megapixels, 50 foot flash range, SD media

Review:

The picture quality is great, better than EZ-Cam and Game Spy. The trigger time is even a little better than the EZ-Cam and Trail Sentry. However, at \$194, one would think it would have the infrared system to take decent pictures without a flash. While this seems an excellent camera, \$194 is just way too much for most to spend. It's nice that it leaves a date and time at the bottom of pictures, and that it's camouflaged, but more is to be expected from a \$200 camera — namely night vision.

Final Thoughts:

A camera from any one of these companies could result in a lemon, and communication with the companies won't be fun, as none stand firmly behind their products. Luckily, companies like Amazon.com make returns easy.

Also, none of the cameras come with a great strap system for mounting or USB cords for viewing. Plan on purchasing them. None operate in temperature below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. It won't necessarily damage them, but it's not recommended. Any of the cameras may need the software updated through internet downloads, and sometimes SD cards have to be formatted on your computer. Good luck and grow safe! ❀