

# Cannabis Related Articles for BudAdvisor

## Article 1: Should I Grow Marijuana or Buy Pot from a Dispensary?

With marijuana legalization on the nationwide horizon and over 28 states allowing the recreational or medical use of cannabis, consumers now have the ability to make greater decisions about their herb. Dispensaries offer a large selection of strains, concentrates, edibles, topical solutions, and even infused beauty products. The strict requirements set by the state require dispensaries to consistently check their potency and chemical composition, protecting and informing consumers of what they are putting in their body. Dispensaries are popping up like weeds (no pun intended) in legal states, increasing the accessibility and ease of purchasing marijuana.

While there is certainly no shortage of selection when it comes to buying store bought weed, consumers have begun to question, "Is it cheaper for me to just grow this stuff at home?" Here, we take a look at the pros and cons of growing your own marijuana versus buying pot from a dispensary.

### DISPENSARY PRICING

Dispensary prices vary per state. Factors such as government regulations and taxes, availability of supplies, and climate (for outdoor operations) can contribute to the cost of your tokes. For this comparison, we will focus on marijuana flower only. If you are interested in making your own edibles, [this guide](#) will show you how to make cannabutter that can be used in any recipe that calls for butter. Concentrates can be a much more difficult and sometimes dangerous process to create. [This thorough guide](#) outlines the different methods of doing so. Below is an average total cost (tax included) of common quantities of cannabis in recreationally legal states.

1 Gram	\$5-\$15
1/8 Ounce (3.5 grams)	\$20-\$35
1 Ounce (28 grams)	\$100-\$300

As you can see, the larger of a quantity you buy, the lower your cost per gram becomes. Frequent smokers are usually better off buying in bulk. In addition to the fluctuating prices per state, the cost typically increases with an increase in potency (percentage of THC or CBD content).

Another factor to consider is distance of a dispensary from your home. If you live in a town that has banned dispensaries, or a county that has inflated pricing, you may need to factor in the cost of gas (or bus/train ticket). Some dispensaries also offer reward programs or coupons. If you are a medical patient, the prices are even lower. For the most part, purchasing costs associated with a dispensary are fairly straightforward.

## HOME GROW PRICING

If you're thinking about growing your own marijuana, there are a lot of factors to consider. First, is the amount of space you can dedicate to your grow. Two common setups are a "closet grow," a small, enclosed space that hosts anywhere from 1-4 plants, or a dedicated room grow, usually around 6' x 6' and can fit anywhere from 6-20 plants. Outdoor growing is another option, and depending on your climate, can be a cheap alternative to indoor setups. However, the unpredictable weather and limited regions of usable land can make outdoor setups difficult and time-consuming if you do not live in the ideal conditions.

Do you want to grow organically, or with the help of nutrients? Organic grows are cheaper, but more difficult to control and usually provide less of a yield. Nutrient fed plants are highly regulated, and can provide two to three times as much of smokeable herb, but can cost significantly more to set up. Generally, one well maintained organic cannabis plant can yield anywhere from ½ ounce – 1 ounce. One well maintained, nutrient controlled cannabis plant can yield anywhere from 1-3 ounces. While much higher yield have been reported and achieved, starting out, this is a good range to keep in mind.

The next factor to consider is how you will start your plants. Clones, a small, already grown baby plant taken from a branch of the "mother," is a common option, especially for those in legal states. Seeds are another preference, and can even be ordered online and shipped to your door (beware of sketchy websites, however). Clones, if obtained from a reputable source such as a dispensary, are usually the easier option. If your clone comes from an unknown or untrustworthy source, it can carry diseases that can harm or kill your plant. Seeds can be finicky and don't always sprout. If you can acquire quality seeds, growing your cannabis "from scratch" can allow for greater control.

For this example, we will be looking at the costs associated with a nutrient fed, closet grow hosting 2 clones. For a detailed price breakdown of a 6' x 6' operation, [click here](#). Please note that we are not taking into account the price of odor control, this setup is created with the assumption you are in a legal state that does not require you to significantly hide your grow.

Once you have cleared out a closet-sized space and obtained your clones or seeds, the next step is choosing the correct lighting. Two common and easy to find lighting sources are compact fluorescent bulbs or LED grow lights. You can buy lighting setups for your closet anywhere from \$50-\$300+. A detailed explanation of the different lights available can be found [here](#).

Your next step is to consider the type of medium you'd like to grow your marijuana in. From compost to nutrient-rich soil, to hydroponics and soilless mixes (like coco

coir), there are plenty of options to choose from. Coco coir is a great option for beginners. Nutrients and a PH kit are another cost to consider. Almost all grows will require the use of nutrients to ensure the highest yield and handle any problems that may arise.

Here is a very generalized breakdown of what you can expect to pay for the initial setup costs of a small closet grow hosting 2 females clones.

Female clones	\$30 for 2 clones at \$15 each
Two 5 gallon buckets	\$10
6 pack of GE compact florescent lights (100 watt)	\$45
6 light sockets with cords	\$35
Two compact fans for cooling	\$30
Timer to control the lights	\$10
Power cord with surge protection	\$10
Nutrients	\$50
2 bags of coco coir + perlite	\$45
PH kit	\$15

Total: \$280

Some additional factors to take into consideration, if anything goes wrong, you may have to start over or buy additional materials to remedy the situation. With a small closet set up, your electricity bill isn't going to increase too much, but you may want to take an additional \$10-\$30 into account. Keep in mind that this is the initial start up cost, if you continue to grow your own marijuana, the price per yield will drop as you won't have to buy all new materials each time.

As previously mentioned, the cost of a home grow setup can be decreased by organically growing you marijuana, or by growing it outside, reducing the costs of the lights.

Growing your own marijuana can be a challenging and rewarding experience. The knowledge you gain from nurturing a clone or seed to maturity is difficult to put a price tag on. While store bought is convenient and consistent, there's still nothing quite like a "home-cooked" toke.

Have you tried growing your own cannabis? Which do you prefer, dispensary bought or home cultivation? Let us know in the comments below!

### **How to Identify Quality Weed**

Weed is a lot like pizza. When it's good, it's great. When it's bad, well... it's still weed. Much like pizza, however, there are a few factors that can really damper your good time. Mold, for instance, is probably something you never want to see on the slice headed towards your mouth or the bowl you're about to spark up (blue cheese

being the exception). Much of the experience comes down to personal preference; however, there are a few points of reference to keep in mind when selecting your herb. Here, we've compiled a list of easiest ways to identify the quality of your cannabis so you can stop worrying and start smoking.

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purchasing unregulated marijuana. The easiest way to ensure you're buying quality, state-regulated weed, is to purchase from a dispensary.

## **The Visual Components**

The next step to identifying quality bud is by visually examining it. First, if the dispensary will allow you to, gently feel the bud. The nug should be firm, not too dry, and certainly not wet. The bud should be [well trimmed](#), meaning there are little or no stems, leaves, or seeds. Next, look for a clear, sparkly, sugar-like coating. These sticky specks are called trichomes. This is what makes the strain so potent. The trichomes pack a serious punch, contributing to the aroma, potency, and flavor of the strain. Usually, the more trichomes you can see, the more potent the bud. You can still find quality strains that aren't covered in trichomes, especially if you're looking for a lower potency strain. Just make sure the bud you are looking at is properly trimmed, [cured](#), and labeled.

Other visual components to consider are the color and structure. The color of the bud can vary, some strains are a vibrant green, and some have hues of orange or purple. The bud should look healthy, not brown, gray, tan or maroon. If the cannabis is crispy, spotty, or looks like it has chemical burns, find a new dispensary. The structure of the flower should be dense and compact. The buds can be fluffy, as long as they are not few and far between.

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While the look, feel and aroma of your bud can help you identify the quality of your purchase, the safest and most effective way to determine the quality is by consulting with an expert. Your budtender, a local grower, or cannabis connoisseur will be able to help you identify the best bud for your buck. With the required lab testing restrictions placed on dispensaries, cannabis lovers can rejoice in knowing bad weed is a thing of the past.

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### **Article 3: The True Story of Marijuana That People Don't Want You to Hear**

Bias drug programs, scare tactics, unjust sentencing and [misinformation](#) have plagued the marijuana movement for decades. Teachers, government officials, and the general public are fed lies by politicians and lobbyist with ulterior motives. With centuries of misinformation surrounding cannabis, it's no surprise the public has many unanswered questions and concerns about the legalization of cannabis in over [28 states](#). Finding unbiased information on the effects, medical and recreational uses, and community impact of marijuana can be difficult, if not impossible.

Cannabis crusaders have risked their livelihood to spread the truth about marijuana, and their efforts are finally paying off. The fight isn't over yet, with countless public figures and politicians still denouncing the undeniable benefits of cannabis, sharing the facts about this plant is now more important than ever.

[Medical studies](#), [testimonials](#), and lifesaving stories are making their way into mainstream media. Heartwarming stories of cancer patients, epileptic children, and people living with Parkinson's changing their lives with the power of hemp are increasing. The medical benefits are almost undeniable, yet politicians and lobbyist continue to condemn the use. This is the true story of marijuana that people don't want you to hear.

Cannabis consumption dates back as far as the [3500-3000 B.C.](#) Records of ceremonial, agricultural, and medicinal use are sprinkled throughout history. Before the stoner stereotype took over the cannabis lifestyle, farmers, [religious leaders](#), and [even our first presidents](#) used hemp for various reasons. The [industrial uses](#) of cannabis are endless. Textiles, paper goods, beauty products, and food can be easily and cost effectively produced from hemp. If cannabis provides us with so many benefits, why does it remain illegal and controversial nationally?

There are many speculations as to why cannabis became illegal. Some believe it was a racist ploy [to remove the Mexicans](#) that were coming over during the Mexican Revolution (sound familiar?). Others believe it is in the public's best interest. While that argument may have held up before cannabis research became more readily available, it is difficult to argue that cannabis is so harmful it must be kept from society, especially when there have been [no recorded deaths](#) from cannabis consumption alone, and an [average of 6 people die](#) from alcohol poisoning every day.

If cannabis became illegal to stop the Mexicans from immigrating, shouldn't that argument have died by now? While that may be one of the contributing factors to the cannabis prohibition, [large industries](#) are continuing to lobby against legalization. [Pharmaceutical companies](#) benefit from the [illegality of cannabis](#). If medicinal cannabis becomes legal, the hundreds of ailments and conditions patients' pay thousands of dollars to treat will no longer be necessary. Police unions, private prisons and prison guard unions run the risk of being defunded. Over [7 million cannabis users have been arrested](#) between 2001 and 2010. Losing this huge,

mostly non-violent population can lead to a notable decrease in capital. The [alcohol and tobacco companies](#) have largely supported the marijuana prohibition as well. Fear of competition has fueled these industries to donate [large sums of money](#) to anti-cannabis groups.

Unfortunately, the argument that the prohibition of cannabis is in the best interest of the general population no longer holds true. Capitalism and greed have fueled the illegality of cannabis for decades. Lobbyists have spread misinformation to the public in hopes of keeping their selfish motives afloat.

The legalization of recreational cannabis provides a safer, more regulated environment for use. As recorded for decades, there is, and always will be, a demand for cannabis. Whether consumers buy and support the illegal cartel operations or fund [education](#), the department of health and many other government entities is up to the lawmakers. In addition to increasing the state tax revenue, state-regulated cannabis is much safer for consumption. Legal cannabis is regularly tested for contaminants, potency, and requires a legal form of identification, stating the consumer's age, name, and residence. Illegal suppliers are not held to any standard and can sell to minors without sufficient government oversight. Many of the fear tactics claimed by lobbyists, such as an increase of teen consumption and impaired driving, have already [been debunked](#).

While the recreational benefits seem clear, some lawmakers still argue for the complete prohibition of cannabis. Many of these politicians have been misinformed, or have ties to the previously mentioned industries fueling the hatred. Recreational use may always remain controversial, but the medical benefits recorded are no longer disputable.

CBD, a major cannabinoid found in hemp made waves when the story of [Charlotte Figi](#), a 5-year old who's parents tried CBD oil as a last ditch effort and saved her life, was published on CNN. Charlotte has Dravet Syndrome, an epileptic condition that caused her to have over 300 grand mal seizures per week. After months of ineffective prescriptions and hospital treatments, her parents lost hope. After accepting her daughter's fate, Charlotte's father discovered a video of a boy in California with the same condition, who successfully treated his symptoms with CBD cannabis oil. As any parent would, her parents immediately began researching the treatment. With little to no substantial research (due to the unjust illegality), her parents cautiously decided to give it a try. After trying the organic, all-natural remedy that no doctors mentioned or prescribed, Charlotte's life was forever changed. Her seizures almost entirely vanished, leaving her family shocked and forever thankful for the discovery of this plant.

As relieved as Charlotte's family was, the frustration and disappointment in the failing healthcare and government system that kept this treatment from their hurting daughter were paramount.

As medical cannabis research continues to grow, stories like Charlotte's are becoming more common. Cannabis research has found [medical uses](#) for HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer's, arthritis, cancer, chronic pain, Crohn's disease, epilepsy, MS, and a wide range of other patients who suffer from life debilitating conditions. With cannabis research only now becoming more widely expected, the list of treatable conditions is only expected to grow.

After decades of distortion of the real story of cannabis, it is only natural for resistance and questioning to occur. Now, with the Internet's ability to provide ample resources on the true history and results of cannabis consumption, consumers can make a more informed decision on its legality.

Overall, the future of cannabis legalization is looking bright. States are continuing to recognize the medical and recreational benefits, and the public is becoming more informed on the real history and properties of marijuana. While there will be many [roadblocks ahead](#), cannabis crusaders will continue to fight for the legalization of this natural, healing plant.

## **Article 4: Cannabis Enthusiasts biggest fears: zombie apocalypse, ghosts, and bad weed**

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