

## HERMAPHRODITES - WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW



Cannabis plants are monocious - male or female. But with hermaphroditism, a plant has male and female characteristics, like pollen sacs and buds. You do not want males or hermies in your crop as male flowers make pollen and just one hermie can pollinate an entire crop and leave you without seedless buds with high THC for smoking or making cannabis products. Even though hermaphroditism is important - like continuing the species if there is no male - it's a bad thing in cannabis plants. Hermies can still be used, but their potency, quality and quantity of bud is inferior to female cannabis.

### **CAUSES OF HERMAPHRODITISM:**

- Light poisoning - when the flowering night cycle is interrupted with light, hormones are sent out that cause a female to throw male flowers. Simply enter your darkened room in the day, take time to adjust, and check for light leaks. Cover all timer and appliance lights with tape.
- Simple genetics, when hermie features in a plant's DNA are passed down through generations. Hermie seeds that genetically get their traits from a hermie mother are "true" hermaphrodites. The offspring don't always become hermies, but do have a higher chance under stressful conditions.
- Environmental influences. With stressful conditions, a plant will hermie as a coping mechanism. A lack of water, low or too much light and lack of important nutrients may cause it.
- Once a female realises there are no males for pollination, it might hermie to try and procreate. So, not harvesting on time increases the chances of producing hermie.

## WHEN TO DO WHAT WITH A HERMIE

A plant can be slightly or majorly hermaphroditic. When single male flowers are between the branch and stalk nodes, you can remove them as they grow - be thorough and check daily. If male flowers are growing from the buds the situation is bad. You can remove all male anatomy as it appears, but it'll be harder to find and more prevalent. You must then ask: Should I let the plant live and risk the crop being ruined by seeds?

## CAN YOU SAVE A HERMIE PLANT?

Yes, and still harvest decent buds from it, but it takes work.

- At first sight of a hermie, immediately remove it and keep it apart from your other plants to minimize pollination. Watch the hermie's sex organs. When you see male pollen sacs/balls/nanas, remove them with sterilised tweezers. Check daily and remove reappearing male organs. If you do everything right and quickly remove all of the male sex organs from the hermie, you might get close to the harvest you were hoping for. The THC in hermies is very low, but you can make concentrates from them.

Once a hermie has appeared, the plant shouldn't be propagated further.



## WOULD I WANT A HERMIE?

Purposefully creating a hermie is called selfing. Spraying a female plant with gibberellic acid or colloidal silver makes feminised seeds and male flowers. The pollen can only produce female seeds as there are no male parents. But don't use feminised plants for breeding - they were produced without a true male so they are genetically inferior and have a higher chance of growing into another hermie. Similarly, a hermie is useful in feminizing seeds - pollinating cannabis crops with hermie pollen so that eventually, all the seeds that grow out of it are feminized.