

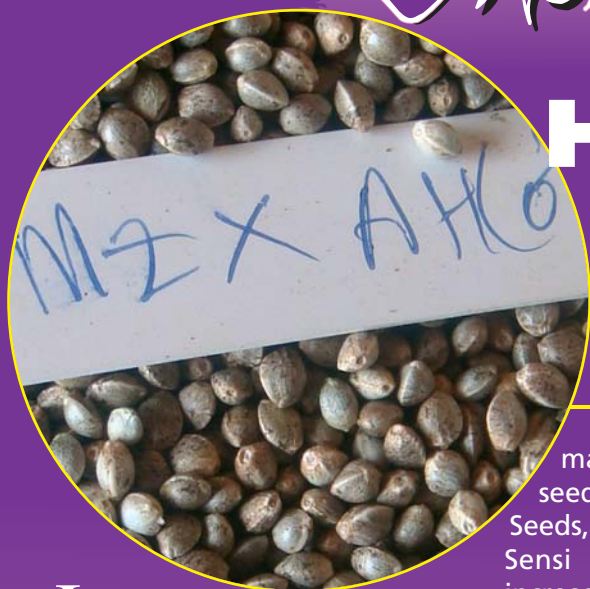
# Shantibabae



GROW tips

## Hobby breeding

### is a fast growing situation...why?



In the passed few years and most probably due to feminized seed sales the situation of growing has changed. Where people use to deal with male and female plants, the situation regressed to only dealing with female plants or at worst hermaphrodites. A lot of those who began with female seeds are now trying regular seeds once again but not for the reasons that originally lured a lot of growers to regular F1 seeds...they are looking for male plants!

At first I thought it was a phase but it seems a lot of online growers are beginning to grow dissatisfied with the mediocrity of their harvest and bought seed. Many growers are now becoming increasingly educated with the source of their seeds and where the origins arise from; they are taking back their rights to do it themselves. So it would seem the companies who maintained their parent plants both

male and female (regular seed breeders) such as Serious Seeds, Mr Nice Seedbank and Sensi Seeds are now getting increased sales on lines or strains that a good breeding male can be found in.

Of course it is difficult to understand why and how this new wave of hobby breeders came to this predicament so I decided to go online and ask directly people why they decided to breed their own seed strains, as well as other questions. The following is what I observed directly and personally from my several online helpdesks as well as my own growers forum at [www.mrnice.nl](http://www.mrnice.nl).

I began by splitting up the surveyed population of online growers into 3 distinct groups so it was possible to make some comparisons with the results.

All groups were seed buyers for various reasons from medical users to recreational users; a mixed cross section of plant use in general.

All groups were made up of indi-

**Group A** was made up of very experienced growers and regular online contributors who post on a lot of forums with grow reports(daily).

**Group B** was made up of moderately experienced growers who sometimes use online forums for feedback but not frequently (once a week).

**Group C** was made up of infrequent users of online or no online experience as well as being first time growers or with less than 3 grows of experience.

viduals who lived in at least 3 different continents, so there was really a feel of world wide feedback from various mediums and styles and growing techniques.

I know this is not really a controlled experiment nor was it intended to be, it was more to gauge a general feel of what groups and how information between online growers helped to increase awareness about



MNS Devil male flower in bloom



A small flower cluster of Mango Haze impregnated with developing seed

general issues to do with buyers of seed. This survey was taken over the passed year, 2007-2008 and used over 150 different individuals in the sample size.

Without revealing names or avatars the general opinion from **Group A** seemed to be based on personal experiences they had with female seed and interaction between world wide established growers. Most had tried feminized seed and most said they went into the grows expecting what the various seed companies had used in their advertising campaigns...100% female plants, no hermaphrodites, and better expressions of the strain with the self pollinated seed. However what they actually found was not exactly the case. All said they found some form of hermaphroditism expressing itself and some even got seeded crops vowing they would never entertain the idea of female seed again. No one said that they found a very special plant so far, while most agreed amongst themselves that they found acceptable smoking

plants. Of course without referring to any particular female seed seller, they did have better results with some companies than others.

**Group B** seemed to feel they made mistakes or questioned their own growing ability when they got hermaphrodite plants or seeded crops, and were a little embarrassed to talk online until they saw someone else talk about the very same problem they faced. Generally this group said they found something reasonable at the end, but many said they thought they could have done a better job with the growing side as they still felt they made mistakes or something went wrong with the room or the machinery or they got pests...

**Group C** had a very extreme set of responses on all issues asked. In general they did get a finished product but not what they thought it would be. Most were happy to see a plant grow and enjoyed that experience alone as it was something they had not

really done in their lives before. Nearly all said they would try again rather than rely on buying from other sources or on the street, even though they still bought from other sources or on the street as they did not make enough to satisfy their requirements. Some said it was a waste of time, but agreed it may be because they thought it would be easier to find a great plant first time. Nearly all said they had a lot to learn and would begin to use online forums to do reading so they could benefit from fellow growers experience. It seemed a general consensus from this group that they most probably did not look after the plant as well as they could on their next grow...so they all seemed to benefit from the growing experience even if they did not get the plants in the photos they originally bought the seed from, and most said they would try another company's seed to see if there was different results.

So after digesting most of the information I gathered or read, I

was able to see there was definitely a correlation between the amount of online interaction and education gained from others experience and a rich amount of great help available online between world wide growers, irrespective of what seed companies said to advertise their products. Proof seemed to be in the genetics of the seed they sort after, and most bought seed after talking to others online or based on advice they gained from online interactions. Another interesting element was that most individuals had learnt specific strains that helped certain ailments or sicknesses like learning a higher CBD ratio to THC aided muscle tension or helped with pain, while others with sensitive states of mind preferred indica dominant plant over sativa dominant plants. In fact it became evident to me that people in general began to narrow down a wide range of facets that exist on each different plant and through trial and error found something that better suited their personal needs especially the medical inspired growers.

So why then are certain groups of growers beginning to revert back to regular seeds to find males? It would seem that the general public who grow female seed do it to produce a dried flower. Most regular seed growers wish to control what goes into their medicine, especially organic growers or people who do not want to use dried flowers from other sources as they feel they want to control what makes up their final product. The more inexperienced growers or first timers are the bigger proportion of female seed buyers while the more experienced growers seem to choose strains that are originating from true breeding land races.



MNS Devil male flower in bloom

Inexperienced growers see female seed as an easier alternative since they lack growing experience. The experienced growers believe they can produce better and more consistent seeds and dried flower products if they breed with their selected females or tried and tested genetic lines by finding a true breed regular seed that has been on the market for many years with a lot of track records and specific online grow reports with photos. Not to mention the help from other growers who give independent opinions based on real life grows of specific strains.

It is easy to gain the information on how to make female seed or regular seed and since this plus genetic material have demystified basic Mendelian genetic breeding a lot of people who began growing for one reason got trapped and lured into becoming self taught plant breeders as a consequence of getting involved in growing their own medical plants, or simply their hobby became their passion. When I see this occur it usually means that these people are in it for



Mr Nice SSH growing seed



Mr Nice SSH with developing seed pods protected by resin glands



True Female protected by resin glands

the real reasons and their experiences plus a lot of chat amongst the growing community leads them to an answer, no matter what advertising campaigns or enticements they receive from seed companies to buy certain brands of seed. Genetics do not lie!

It is easy for seed companies to pull the wool over certain growers' eyes for a while since it takes several months from purchasing a seed before it is known if the plant is what it is meant to be! However, if the seed bought does not match up to what it was sold as or what it was sold to do then online growers tear it apart. So the internet in the growers' world has actually become a pretty honest way to keep it all real. Of course if you do not use the internet then you will take a lot longer to achieve certain information or will need to do a lot more trial and error on yourself to get to a state you may be able to achieve with a short question to experienced growers. Not to mention the fact that once you get to a stable and efficient level of growing, well the emperor wears no clothes! You do not need feedback to tell if the seed you got or the service you received when buying a seed was worth it or not. So for the Group A people they become more specialized and probably better growers in all ways than most of the seed vendors will ever achieve! In fact I now have one person working for me who

impressed me so much online I offered him a job. I might add I get 30 to 60 people a week asking for a job, and have never been able to offer a job to anyone of them.

So in actual fact the answer to why people are now buying regular seeds from established and proven true seed breeders is that they worked out that these companies have got something worth while genetically speaking and not only with an economic value but the real deal. While other seed companies are just copying F1 selected female clones with some chemical stimulus to sell what a good grower could do himself, maybe he could even do it better since a lot more time and effort goes into one strain than trying to make many strains. In fact if you look around at the various female seed sellers they offer seeds from plants that have gained respect and a good reputation most of which have come about due to these small fanatic hobby breeders and not from seed companies work. Rather than trust a lot of seed companies who pop up with huge lists of well recognized names to their seeds as well as enticing descriptions the better growers trust themselves way beyond the frills and advertising. People as they gain knowledge are unstoppable in the advancement for great plants and the truth.