

Home : News :



A photograph of a cannabis (also known as marijuana) plant. (US Fish and Wildlife Service) [Large Photo](#)

More Talker Stories

Hermit Snail-Like Shells: New Way to...
Science tells us that stopping to catch some Z's mid-day is ...

Dermatitis Again Linked to Toilet Seats
For decades it has been widely rumored, and almost as widely ...

Son Stabs Dad Over PlayStation Soccer...
An Italian couple's good intention of keeping their son away ...

Gerard Butler Scoops 'Scot Of Year'...
Even though Gerard Butler has mostly played all-American parts ...

Ind. Town Residents Feel They're...
People living in one Indiana town are looking uneasily to the ...

Apple's New Tablet Computer Could End...
It looks like the free digital lunch may be over. As Apple gets...

Overloaded Car Leads to Beer Arrest
A couple of thieves in New Zealand should have gotten a bigger ...

Chimp at the Center of Custody Lawsuit
A Florida chimpanzee is at the center of a heated custody ...

Will Rosie and Barbara Mend Fences?
After Rosie O'Donnell exited "The View" almost three years ago,...

Stock Market Could Be Big Winner in...
Investors have many ways to predict what the stock market will ...

Are the Feds Blocking Medical Marijuana Research?

Updated: Thursday, 21 Jan 2010, 8:35 AM MST
Published : Thursday, 21 Jan 2010, 8:32 AM MST

About eight out of 10 Americans favor legalizing marijuana for medicinal use. Fourteen states have now done so. The Obama administration has announced it will not prosecute medical marijuana users.

Yet the federal government is making it exceedingly difficult for research to verify that marijuana is an effective treatment for conditions ranging from glaucoma to multiple sclerosis, reported [The New York Times](#).

Many patients with conditions such as cancer, glaucoma, AIDS or chronic pain swear by marijuana's effectiveness. It appears at least as safe as many prescription drugs used for similar purposes. Yet there have been few scientific studies on it, and even fewer with conclusive results. Much of the evidence for its validity as a medical treatment is anecdotal.

In the United States, researchers who wish to study the effects of marijuana have only one source for their raw material. It is grown at the University of Mississippi, and its distribution is controlled by multiple federal agencies. To use it, researchers must apply to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and must get approvals from the DEA, FDA and a special Public Health Service panel.

The majority of research requests are denied by one or more of these agencies. If they are approved, the researchers are limited to the few varieties of marijuana grown by the university. Other varieties have somewhat different medicinal properties, which cannot be studied as long as access to them is denied. The federal government does not make it as difficult to study Ecstasy or LSD.

In 1985, the FDA approved [Marinol](#), a pill made from synthetic THC, an active chemical in marijuana. The agency claimed that it has the same medicinal effects and less risk. Many patients who have taken Marinol, however, say it did not work for them, or gave them more side effects than smoking marijuana.

Email This
Bookmark This
Print this story
View Story on a Single Page

Latest News

- [Body of Morgan Harrington Found](#)
- [Hermit Shells: New Way to Nap at Work](#)
- [US Airways' Puppies In-Flight Program](#)
- [Dermatitis Again Linked to Toilet Seats](#)
- [Dictionary Banned For Sex Definition](#)

More News >

Most Read Stories on MyFoxPhoenix.com

Advertisement

Suggested Search

Advertisement

Marketplace

Share this: Twitter Facebook Myspace Google Tumblr Digg Fark More [Send us news tips](#)

Outbrain

Many pages in this Fox Television Stations, Inc. web site feature links to other sites, some of which are operated by companies unrelated to Fox Television Stations, Inc. Fox Television Stations, Inc. has no control over the content or availability of any linked site. TM and (c) 2010 Fox Television Stations, Inc., and its related entities. All rights reserved. Any reproduction, duplication, or distribution in any form is expressly prohibited.