

Monday, 29th December 2008

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More pictures and video from police raid on Northampton cannabis factory

Published Date: 17 November 2007

By Liz Lee

SWEEPING drugs raids have brought the number of cannabis factories shut down by Northamptonshire Police to more than 20 since April, with hundreds of thousands of pounds worth of the drug taken off the streets.

The closure of a sophisticated hydroponics set-up in Spencer yesterday brought the number of factories discovered and closed down in just over six months to 23... more than three per month.

The latest swoop was launched following information provided by residents, and a spokesman for Northamptonshire Police thanked Chronicle & Echo readers for their help, adding that the success of the force's crackdown on the supply of illegal drugs relied on tip-offs from the public.

She said: "It is thanks to Chronicle & Echo readers and the public who look out for suspicious activity in their areas that we are able to close down these factories, and that is the reason why more and more of them are being reported to police."

A team of 24 specialist scene of crime officers spent hours systematically removing about 300 mature plants from a hydroponics factory, hidden in an inconspicuous semi-detached family home in Pembroke Road, Spencer in Northampton. They were thought to have a street value of about £100,000.

The details of the raids since April are as follows:

March 20: Possibly the largest cannabis factory ever discovered in the county was found in St George's Street, Semilong. More than 3,000 plants destroyed.

April 9: Large hydroponics factory was dismantled in a home in Witham Way, Kings Heath. Two men were arrested.

April 18: About 500 plants were seized from a home in Raeburn Road, in Kingsley Park.

May 2: Cannabis factory found in Dalkeith Road, Wellingborough, following a call from a member of the public. About 300 adult plants found, with street value of about £75,000.

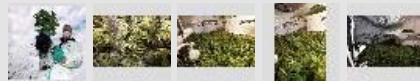
Video



Click Play to watch video from the police raid



Drugs raid, Pembroke Road, Spencer.



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June 5: Thousands of cannabis plants found following raids on five addresses in the north of the county in Kettering, Rothwell and Cottingham and two addresses in Market Harborough.

August: Two cannabis factories discovered in Kettering within one week of each other. The first was found in Rutland Street, and the second in Windmill Avenue. A total of about 800 plants were destroyed.

September 6: About 300 plants in poor condition discovered at abandoned factory in St Paul's Road, Semilong. Later in the same day another hydroponic factory was found in Adams Avenue, Abington.

September 13: A significant amount of plants found at a large semi-detached home in Hinton Road, Kingsthorpe. Almost every room in the house was given over to the production of drugs, and 600 cannabis plants were found with a value of £140,000

September 28: Factory found in Desborough. A total of 355 adult plants and 120 seedlings recovered.

October 4: Hydroponic factory uncovered in Cranford Road, Kingsthorpe. Cannabis weighing about 30kg destroyed.

November 13: A 50-year-old man charged with the cultivation of cannabis following the discovery of 600 plants in three properties Corby.

November 14: Following a search of a house in Corby, 250 mature cannabis plants were discovered with a value of around £75,000.

November 16: Five properties searched following information from the public in south west areas in Northampton.

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