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The Path to Seedless Cannabis: How Triploid Sterile Varieties Can Help Farmers Stop Worrying About Unwanted Pollen

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Abstract: One of the most important aspects of cannabis production today is taking steps to avoid pollination and subsequent seed production in a grow operation. Pollination is thought to reduce yields and flower products containing seeds are viewed as an inferior product in the market. "Sensimilla" has long been a term used to describe cannabis grown in the absence of pollen. Avoiding pollination is most commonly done by utilizing female only clones or feminized seed, or by screening and culling male plants before flower maturation. However, cannabis is known to be prone to hermaphroditism and will occasionally produce male flowers on female plants. These male flowers have the capability of pollinating an entire crop of cannabis, drastically lowering its value. For this reason a large amount of money is spent on labor and resources to constantly scout cannabis plants to identify and remove male flowers. Furthermore, as the hemp industry continues to grow there is an increased chance of hemp fields which could contain male or monoecious plants cross pollinating drug type cannabis fields. Cultivators currently spend money and effort on pollen detection and filtering systems to stop unwanted fertilization. For these reasons it becomes obvious that the creation of sterile cannabis varieties could directly lead to reduced production costs and decrease the chances of crop failure. This presentation will describe how Dark Heart Nursery has utilized ploidy manipulation to produce the first seedless drug type cannabis varieties and provide information on their yield, performance, and sterility compared to standard varieties.