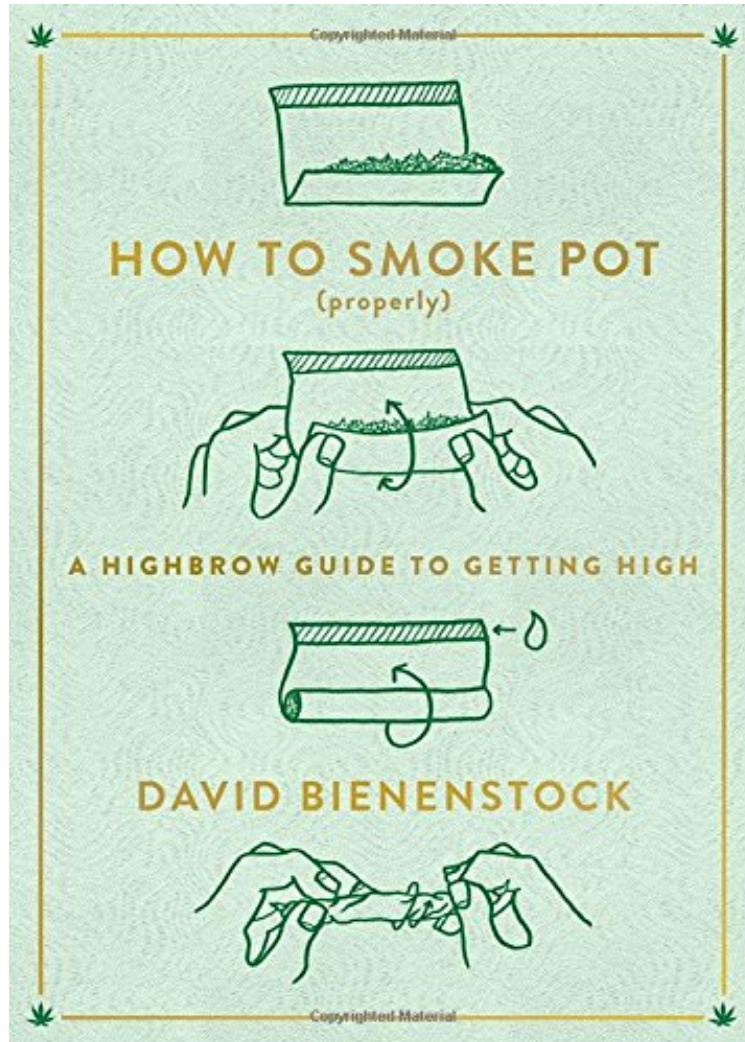


(Read now) How to Smoke Pot (Properly): A Highbrow Guide to Getting High

How to Smoke Pot (Properly): A Highbrow Guide to Getting High

David Bienenstock

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David Bienenstock : How to Smoke Pot (Properly): A Highbrow Guide to Getting High before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Smoke Pot (Properly): A Highbrow Guide to Getting High:

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review helpful. Finally! A Simple Guide to Pot Smoking!By Tim ChamberlainI've been smoking pot for years but boy was I doing it wrong!This book contains a cornucopia of information organized into easily digestible sections that are sure to improve your pot smoking experience!If you're new to pot or a savvy veteran this book will surely teach you a thing or two!Kudos to the author!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Good ResourceBy goddess18As a nurse I became increasingly interested in learning about Medical marijuana. I started with this book and am glad that I did. The author is a long-term cannabis user and advocate who earns his living as a journalist. He is not new to the subject, I found his knowledge to be credible and extensive. This book is exactly what I was looking for. It's a great way to get the best overview of this much maligned plant.

Once literally demonized as the Devil's lettuce, and linked to all manner of deviant behavior by the establishment's shameless anti-marijuana propaganda campaigns, cannabis sativa has lately been enjoying a long-overdue Renaissance. So now that the squares at long last seem ready to rethink pot's place in polite society, how, exactly, can members of this vibrant, innovative, life-affirming culture proudly and properly emerge from the underground without forgetting our roots, or losing our cool?In *How to Smoke Pot (Properly)*, VICE weed columnist and former High Times editor David Bienenstock charts the course for this bold, new, post-prohibition world. With plenty of stops along the way for "pro tips" from friends in high places, including cannabis celebrities and thought leaders of the marijuana movement, readers will learn everything from the basics of blazing, to how Mary Jane makes humans more creative and collaborative, nurtures empathy, catalyzes epiphanies, enhances life's pleasures, promotes meaningful social bonds, facilitates cross-cultural understanding, and offers a far safer alternative to both alcohol and many pharmaceutical drugs.You'll follow the herb's natural lifecycle from farm to pipe, explore cannabis customs, culture and travel, and discover how to best utilize and appreciate a plant that's at once a lifesaving medicine, an incredibly nutritious food, an amazingly useful industrial crop, and a truly renewable energy source. You'll even get funny and informative answers to burning questions ranging from: How can I land a legal pot job? to Should I eat a weed cookie before boarding the plane? In two-color, with charts and illustrations throughout, *How to Smoke Pot (Properly)* is truly a modern guide to this most revered herb. And remember, marijuana has the potential to help us live more meaningful, satisfying and authentic lives, and create safer, happier, more harmonious communities, but first we must learn to consume this miracle plant properly.

Charminga heartfelt plea to keep pot weird The Los Angeles TimesBEST NONFICTION FOR SPRING 2016 Bustle"A humorous and informative trip through the drugs various medicinal compounds, a timeline of the its history, and recipes that take you beyond the standard pot browniewith pro tips from cannabis-friendly celebrities sprinkled throughout." Vanity FairIt's refreshing, in the midst of our binge culture, to find a voice that clearly articulates the benefits and pitfalls of cannabis enthusiasm while strongly encouraging responsible consumption and cultivation. There is no better spokesperson for the cannabis-positive lifestyle in the post-prohibition era than David Bienenstock. Ben Sinclair, co-creator and star of HBO original series *High Maintenance* "David Bienenstock's writing skills and sense of humor are matched only by his intimate knowledge of marijuana customs, history, industry and etiquette. As cannabis moves from the underground to the mainstream, no book can better help you navigate the intricacies of this wonderful new era."Danny Danko, High Times Senior Cultivation Editor "David Bienenstock is my official weed mentor, and as such has taught me many fascinating things about an innocent little plant that's shifted the tectonic plates of history time and time again. In *How To Smoke Pot (Properly)*, he compiles these insights and many others to provide the most comprehensive guide to cannabis to date." Abdullah Saeed, author of VICE's *Weediquette* column and host of *Bong Appetit* This is much more than the how-to book that the title implies. While the presentation is somewhat kaleidoscopic, *How To Smoke Pot (Properly)* provides, especially to novices, an excellent overview of cannabis and its extraordinary Western acculturation over the last four decades. Dr. Lester Grinspoon, Associate Professor Emeritus at Harvard Medical School and author of *Marihuana Reconsidered* and *Marijuana: The Forbidden Medicine* "I read the shit out of this super funny and informative book, which includes a surprising answer to Should I eat pot brownies before boarding an airplane? David Bienenstock is like a really smart version of Ricky from *Trailer Park Boys*, who can form sentences that teach you stuff about weedand also make you laugh hard as fuck." Mike Clattenburg, co-creator of *Trailer Park Boys* and *Black Jesus* Humans have been using cannabis and hemp for tens of thousands of years, but only recently have smart people begun again to think and write clearly about what pot really does and what it's really good for. David Bienenstock leads the pack in this newly liberated thinking. Free your mind and your grass will follow.Julie Holland, M.D., author of *Moody Bitches*, *Weekends at Bellevue*, and *The Pot Book* "In our rapidly evolving new age of marijuana appreciation and education, *How to Smoke Pot (Properly)* provides a thoughtful, historical and comprehensive account of all things cannabis. Filled with useful information that encompasses just about every situation imaginable, from rolling your first joint to properly passing one in a foreign land with new friends, David Bienenstock expresses his passion and commitment in a way only someone dedicated to keeping it weird possibly can." Alex Lifeson, guitarist of *Rush* *How To Smoke Pot (Properly)* is a delightful book proclaiming that marijuana smoking can be an exhilarating, creative experience. David Bienenstock sets the tone in his

introduction when he says, Its no longer sufficient to talk about the harms of marijuana prohibition. Weve got to start loudly and proudly celebrating the many serious benefits this plant brings into our lives and communities."Keith Stroup, NORML Founder and Legal Counsel "Its a healthy development that society has reached the point where it needed this book, andIm glad someone of David Bienenstocks eloquence and experience has written it."Doug Fine, author, Farewell, My Subaru, Too High to Fail, Hemp Bound "A comprehensive look at all aspects of cannabis, penned by a master of prose...I love this book!"Jorge Cervantes, author of Marijuana Horticulture and The Cannabis Encyclopedia

Whether you're a weed rookie starting from scratch or a seasoned smoker who's gathered disparate strands of information about the plant over decades, How to Smoke Pot (Properly) presents everything in one place, at the right moment in time. Mashable.com

About the Author DAVID BIENENSTOCK is the former West Coast editor of High Times magazine and has more recently grown a following as a journalist and video host/producer at VICE, where he writes the Weed Eater column and produces a video series called Bong Appetit. Hes appeared as a weed expert on NPR, Fox News, MSNBC, CNN, CNBC, and HBO, and has been quoted in Salon, Fast Company, AdWeek, Playboy, and The Nation.

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CHAPTER 1 Farm to Pipe

So powerful it can quell grand mal seizures, so gentle youll never suffer a hangover, cannabis is the closest thing on Earth to a miracle plant. So what could be more fascinating than getting up close and personal with lovely Ms. Mary Jane?

Prior to first meeting Valerie Leveroni Corral, co-founder and director of the Wo/Mens Alliance for Medical Marijuana (WAMM) in Santa Cruz, California, Id already had the honor and privilege of documenting dozens of different marijuana grows legal and illegal, indoors and outdoors, organic and hydroponic, one-light closet tents and large guerrilla gardens clandestinely planted in remote, difficult-to-access backcountry. But typically I stuck around just long enough to take a guided tour, interview the cultivators, inventory the plants, and sample the goods before heading home to write my story. Then, in 2010, after seven years working out of High Times headquarters in midtown Manhattan, I relocated to Northern California, and took on a new role as the magazines West Coast editor.

Seeking the true heart and soul of the California cannabis movement, I made WAMM one of my first stops upon reaching the left coast. Id already heard and read much about the collectives politics how for twenty years theyve focused on low-income, seriously ill patients otherwise unable to afford medicine; how they helped pass Americas first statewide medical-marijuana law; and how they survived a DEA raid, then turned around two weeks later and defiantly distributed marijuana to the terminally ill on the steps of city hall but I had no idea how they managed to plant, tend, and harvest a garden productive enough to supply their hundreds of members with cannabis for an entire year with only a skeleton crew and a small, dedicated team of volunteers.

On the chilly spring morning when I visited WAMM for the first time, the collectives fledgling seedlings were just getting transplanted into five-gallon pots. Valerie put my wife, Elise, and I to work right away, digging holes and mixing soil. She also welcomed us into an amazing community of reefer revolutionaries, and encouraged us to come back for more. So over the next year (and the years to follow) I got to closely follow the crops natural life cycle from seed to harvest for the first time, while making a lot of new, kindhearted friends, learning the art and craft of outdoor cannabis growing, and at long last, getting some dirt under my fingernails.

Growth is so obvious in the garden you dont have to wait long to see it, Valerie once told me, explaining that many seriously ill and even terminal patients find the process of producing their own medicine to be highly empowering. The garden gives us an opportunity to build something bigger than ourselves. That not only helps the healing, it puts us more in touch with the cycles of life.

So lets begin by understanding how the cannabis plant germinates, grows, flowers, and reproduces, and then well explore the many ways clever cultivators seek to optimize this process in search of higher potency and heavier harvests.

THE CANNABIS LIFE CYCLE

Like humanity, Cannabis sativa is a dioecious species, which means it predominantly produces distinctly male and female organisms, in roughly equal number. Pot is also an annual, meaning individual members of the species complete their entire life cycle in less than one year. In nature, each plant begins life when a previously dormant seed begins to germinate in early spring. Only the strongest and most viable of these seeds manage to throw off their seed casings, stretch into seedlings, grow into mature plants, and propagate the species. The rest, at some point along that journey, fall by the genetic wayside, helpfully winnowing the herd through natural selection.

Seeds and Clones

Whether dropped naturally in the autumn by a wild pot plant in the far reaches of Afghanistans rugged Kush mountain range, or carefully placed into a moistened rock-wool cube by a state-licensed marijuana grower in Boulder, Colorado, every genetically distinct cannabis plant on Earth starts as a seed though like many commercial crops, from bananas and avocados to vanilla and lavender, the vast majority of the marijuana in circulation actually began life as a clone or cutting. Seedlings grow faster and heartier than these cuttings, but only after a long, delicate germination period. So most cannabis cultivators opt to start each new crop not from seed but by plucking healthy leaves from the lower branches of a special mother plant kept for this purpose, and then replanting those leaves in soil or a medium to take root a technique that saves weeks of growth time on the front end, and also ensures a genetically uniform set of plants moving forward, which is especially important when trying to manage a tightly packed indoor grow.

Another big advantage of using cuttings is that all of your plants will be female (assuming you start with a female mother plant, of course). Only females produce THC and marijuanas other medicinal and/or psychoactive components in appreciable amounts, so taking clones saves the trouble of waiting for seedlings to show

their sex (at about six weeks) and then culling all the males. Vegetative Growth Seedlings and clones require a couple of weeks to establish themselves, at which point they take root, and enter a period of rapid growth. Whether cultivated indoors or out, cannabis will remain in this vegetative state growing taller and wider, and producing a large number of leaves, but not budding as long as its exposed to more than twelve hours of light per day. Flowering As the days grow shorter in the autumn, and in particular when the available daylight dips below twelve hours per day, female cannabis plants begin flowering. At which point, they stop growing significantly taller or wider, instead focusing energy on producing more and larger buds covered in trichomes resinous glands that look like tiny crystals to the naked eye, and like a fluid-filled globe atop a matchstick when magnified. Male cannabis plants also flower, but unlike females, their flowers don't produce significant amounts of THC-laden resin, so savvy marijuana cultivators either grow all females from clone or, if growing from seed, kill off all their male plants long before they reach maturity. Either way, the resulting all-female crop, if effectively shielded from pollination, will reach maturity without seeds (or sinsemilla, as the technique is commonly known). Now, as anybody of a certain age can tell you, there's nothing wrong with smoking seeded pot, once you remove the seeds, but it's also, assuredly, less than ideal, because all of the unique compounds in cannabis, collectively known as cannabinoids including the ones that get you high and help prevent Alzheimers are predominantly found in the trichomes. And once a formerly virginal female comes in contact with the wind-blown pollen of a male plant, she immediately curtails cannabinoid production in favor of literally going to seed. Harvest and Curing As a female cannabis flower matures, its trichomes change color, starting off clear, turning a translucent milky white, and finally darkening to amber. Harvesting on the early side (translucent trichomes) can limit overall potency but offers a more cerebral, soaring high, while waiting until the trichomes turn amber yields a stronger, but more sedative stone. Whenever harvest happens, it takes weeks after cutting down a plant to properly dry, trim, and cure its flowers. Start by strip-ping off the large fan leaves and hanging the buds from their stems in a cool, dark place with steady air circulation for seven to ten days. Trimmed leaves can be saved to make hashish (see page 53), while smokable flowers, once sufficiently dry, are carefully manicured with scissors to remove the smaller, higher-potency sugar leaves. From there, the buds must be cured to leech out the last traces of moisture trapped inside an often overlooked process that actually plays an outsized role in the smokability of the end product. It's a lot like the aging of a fine wine, legendary cannabis breeder DJ Short, creator of Blueberry, Old Time Moonshine, and other popular strains, told me once for a High Times story. The benefits of properly cured cannabis include even moisture content and a complete breakdown of chlorophyll, which allows the full, clear expression of taste and aroma to emerge. Most growers cure buds by carefully stacking as many as possible into an airtight container without damaging them. Over time, trace amounts of moisture inside the buds will evaporate. Periodically opening the container and turning the buds over releases this moisture and allows more to sweat out until the buds are perfectly and evenly dry (usually about a week). At which point, at long last, the herb is ready to blaze. YOUVE GOT TO HIDE YOUR LOVE AWAY: HOW PROHIBITION CHANGED WEED GROWING Back in the Jazz Age, when pot smoking first achieved international notoriety, there was no such thing as indoor chronic anywhere on Earth, and marijuana was still an import crop in the United States. In those pre-prohibition days, the nation's rather meager supply reached our shores not as a commercial product per se, but rather as a friendly camp follower passed around among in-the-know aficionados. Still legal in most states until the mid-1930s, in part due to its obscurity, the herb counted among its earliest adopters migrant Mexican farmhands, who grew marihuana at home and brought it with them when moving north in search of work, and New Orleans' free-wheeling jazz musicians, who got their hands on Caribbean-grown ganja from sailors freshly arrived at the city's bustling port. Both groups eagerly spread the practice to outsiders they encountered, but it was the jazz cats who turned gage into a national phenomenon, literally scattering cannabis seeds far and wide during their travels on the music circuit, and figuratively doing the same by inserting sly, appreciative references to reefer into their recordings and radio appearances. As Cab Calloway sang on his 1933 hit Reefer Man, which doubled as a somewhat impractical guide to finding a pot dealer, If he trades you dimes for nickels, and calls watermelons pickles, he's probably the reefer man. Of course, no good turn goes unpunished in America, especially if you're black or Mexican, and so once the establishment caught a whiff of this fragrant new cultural trend, the government and the media started cooking up a scare campaign designed to turn marihuana into a terrifying menace. Then they used the resulting public panic as a way to seek authoritarian control over both the cannabis plant and the undesirable people consuming it. I consider marijuana the worst of all narcotics, far worse than the use of morphine or cocaine, Judge John Foster Symes declared in 1937 while sentencing Samuel Caldwell, the first person arrested under federal marijuana prohibition, to four years of hard labor for dealing two joints in the lobby of a seedy Denver hotel. Marijuana destroys life itself. I have no sympathy with those who sell this weed. The government is going to enforce this new law to the letter. Maybe so, but soon enough, a loosely knit black market sprouted up to supply marijuana to the masses despite this new prohibition, headed by an iconoclastic, decentralized corps of small-time international pot smugglers a system that remained largely in place until 1973, when Richard Nixon created the DEA, and tasked them with stopping the steady flow of foreign weed into the United States. Within a few years of that first salvo in the modern War on Drugs, imported herb became expensive and hard to score, due to massive interdiction efforts on the borders, and the long prison sentences handed out to those who got caught. Eventually, the little guys wouldn't take the risk anymore, and the

real criminals quickly discovered that cocaine brought in much higher profits, and so a market vacuum opened that didn't make people stop smoking pot but did inspire large numbers of them to start experimenting with growing their own. A lot of high-paying jobs were thus created right here at home by transforming the nation's underground marijuana supply line from an import business into a cottage industry. Which made everyone happy, except the smugglers, and the human pariahs running the DEA, who decided to respond to the scourge of people growing unauthorized plants on their own land, or out in the middle of nowhere, by recruiting a bunch of combat helicopter pilots who were battle-hardened in Vietnam and ordering them to fly sorties all over the country, seeking out marijuana plantations from the air and terminating them with extreme prejudice. And so, in a classic case of unintended consequences, the DEA basically invented indoor marijuana growing. Not by secretly designing and selling the high-intensity discharge lights required to cultivate full-potency pot indoors (unless you believe some seriously far out conspiracy theories) but simply by creating a set of incentives that unleashed a massive wave of American ingenuity on the question of how to transform cannabis into a hothouse flower. As a result, once again, our nation's incredibly resourceful cannabis community went a little further underground. In many cases literally underground, as a large, unfinished basement is often the ideal place to grow indoor marijuana away from the prying eyes of Big Government's black helicopters. At least, that was the case ten years ago, when even the world's most skilled indoor cannabis cultivators typically helmed operations of just a dozen 1,000-watt lights, most often concealed within their own homes. Nowadays, of course, state-licensed marijuana cultivation facilities can be truly industrial-sized operations, employing dozens of people, and producing hundreds of pounds of usable bud or more per month. A few days before Colorado's recreational pot stores opened to the public for the first time on January 1, 2014, I visited one such operation, the awe-inspiring cultivation facility of Denver's Medicine Man, which ranks among the state's leading marijuana dispensaries. Seeking background for a trilogy of VICE articles (Tomorrow, I'm going to buy legal weed; I just bought legal weed; I just smoked legal weed), I took a guided tour of a grow room the size, scale, and professionalism of which I could have scarcely dreamed possible just a few years earlier. Medicine Man features a sleek, modern retail space up front, with 40,000 square feet of dedicated cultivation and processing space housed in the same building albeit behind locked and heavily secured doors. Andy Williams, Medicine Man's principal owner, told me he'd rather not put a number on the amount of marijuana they harvest on-site every month, lest any nefarious characters start to get ideas, but let's just say it's more than enough to make Snoop Dogg blush. Andy, however, never blushes. He's a former military officer and aerospace executive with a hard nose for business and an unshakable determination to build his family-run enterprise into an industry leader. Only he doesn't smoke pot, and doesn't know a thing about growing it. So he leaves all that to his green-thumbed brother Pete. People think it takes a lone mystical grower, some guru, to produce top grade marijuana, Pete, who most certainly does get high on his own supply, told me, but it doesn't. It takes a standard operating procedure. Of course, Pete didn't start from scratch when designing and building Medicine Man's state-of-the-art cultivation system, but rather took a scientific approach to scaling up and refining a series of techniques and procedures long developed by underground growers. Because whether you're cultivating just four illicit plants in a closet for head stash and extra cash, or tending to an indoor acre of fully legal commercial cannabis, the objective remains the same: to yield the largest amount of high-quality marijuana possible, as quickly and efficiently as possible. Unfortunately, many of the methods developed to meet this goal resemble the agribusiness world of monocropping and factory farming far more than I'd like to admit, with the added drag of running all those energy-intensive grow lights eighteen to twenty-four hours a day. Which means the dirty little secret of the cannabis industry is that a product typically identified with green values can have a shockingly high carbon footprint, and other serious environmental consequences, depending on where and how it's grown. From a purely technical perspective, however, indoor growing offers several clear advantages, which explains why it retains market dominance even in states with fully regulated cultivation. For starters, skilled indoor growers can achieve total mastery of their plants' environment, including consistently providing the optimal temperature, humidity, nutrients, air circulation, and irrigation needed to promote rapid growth. Indoor growers also decide exactly how much artificial sunlight their plants will receive, including when to induce flowering by lowering the photoperiod below twelve hours per day. So while outdoor gardens produce only one harvest each year (typically in late September/early October), indoor growers usually start flowering their plants a mere two to four weeks after they take root as clones, with the entire clone-to-harvest cycle taking just ninety days or so. My good friend and cannabis colleague Danny Danko, senior cultivation editor at High Times, believes that, closely examined, indoor marijuana isn't just a different process from outdoor, it's in many ways a different product. Marijuana flowers grown indoors tend to be denser than their outdoor counterparts, and because people tend to grow less indoors than outside, the quality of the trimming is usually better too, with less leaf material present. This means the bud-to-leaf ratio tends to be higher for indoor pot, making it taste better (less harsh leaf taste) and burn better, Danny asserts.