



## Hernando County Sheriff's Office

A STATE ACCREDITED LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

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### Media Release

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**From:** Corporal Wendy McGinnis  
Public Information Officer, 352-754-6830

**Re:** Marijuana Grow Operation Search Warrant Reveals Dangerous Traps

**Date:** August 12, 2011

**Case#:** 2011-26868

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On Thursday, August 11, 2011, the Hernando County Sheriff's Office Vice and Narcotics Unit conducted a search warrant on a marijuana grow operation located at 15204 Ganster Drive, Brooksville. The search warrant was obtained as a result of Withlacoochee River Electric Company filing a report with the Sheriff's Office for theft of services.

A perimeter check of the residence prior to making entry, revealed traps strategically placed outside in an effort to deter or possibly injure law enforcement officials. The following items (traps) were discovered on the premises:

- Boards with nails outside of residence under windows
- Barbed wire running through property about 10 inches above the ground. (would never be seen in low light situations)
- Electric fence wire on the front porch steps and handrails which was connected to an outlet inside the residence

Upon making entry into the residence, the following items were seized:

- 56 marijuana plants
- Numerous items of paraphernalia
- Several root balls
- 36 grams of processed marijuana
- Over 20 pounds of "shake" from previous grown marijuana

At this time there are no suspects however, the investigation is ongoing.

“The booby traps around this marijuana grow operation show that violence and drugs are inseparable. These are not victimless crimes. This is yet another example of how both the public and my deputies are in danger the moment a grow house is set up in a community,” said Sheriff Al Nienhuis.