

**Complaint:** They planted the crop right up to the lot line/road. Their lights are too bright.

Q: What is the setback? What can the county do about the lights?

A: Josephine County currently has no setback or lighting requirements pertaining to the marijuana industry. Setbacks, lighting, and other management tools are being considered. Follow the Josephine County Calendar of Events to learn more about the proposal. The calendar is on the county's website: [www.co.josephine.or.us](http://www.co.josephine.or.us)

**Complaint:** They're using butane and other chemicals I'm afraid will explode.

Q. Do you know if they have a permit?

A. Chances are if they have a permit, the Building Safety Department (B/S), or the Fire Marshal (FM) have already inspected the property. You can contact those agencies and they might let you know if an inspection has been completed.

#: B/S – (541) 474-5405  
FM – (541) 618-7982

**Complaint:** There are camping units out there and people are living in them.

Q. Are they in a recreational vehicle, or a tent?

A. Josephine County doesn't distinguish between a recreational vehicle, tent or yurt. All camping units are regulated. State statutes limit the time they can be on site in some zones. If there is a recreational vehicle, or other titem being used for camping purposes, and it has been on site more than thirty days, you are encouraged to file a complaint with the Josephine County Code Enforcement Administrator (CEA).

#: CEA – (541) 474-5425

**Complaint:** STOP calling it marijuana! It's cannabis.

Q. Why does the county keep referring to the cannabis industry/crop as 'marijuana'?

A. To avoid confusing the public, the county uses the same terminology as the state. The State of Oregon laws use the term 'marijuana'.

### Disclaimer

This brochure is for informational purposes only and is not a complete list of all questions encountered in the marijuana industry. A complete set of codes is available online and at the Community Development Department. Rules, this FAQ handout, and other flyers are subject to change, and likely will. Please always check to verify you have the most current flyer or codes, both available on the website.

### Violations

We take violations seriously. If non-compliant with state and county codes, it could result in legal action or affect the license holders ability to grow marijuana in the State of Oregon.



## Josephine County Oregon

Community Development  
700 NW Dimmick Street, Suite C  
Grants Pass OR 97526  
541.474.5421

Email: [planning@co.josephine.or.us](mailto:planning@co.josephine.or.us)  
Website: [www.co.josephine.or.us/planning/](http://www.co.josephine.or.us/planning/)

## MARIJUANA, NEIGHBORS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT



### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Whether it be for recreational purposes or for medical reasons, growing marijuana in Josephine County, Oregon, is legal, provided the appropriate licenses and permits (when applicable) are obtained. Some areas do allow it to be grown for profit. Regardless, marijuana, like other crops, can create disruptions in the neighborhood or if not tended to properly can potentially damage the environment. This guide is designed to help the crop thrive while maintaining neighborhood relations and the beautiful sanctuary that draws residents and visitors to Josephine County.

(Be advised each agency treats the confidentiality of complaints differently. Some require disclosure, some honor anonymity, some do not require the name of the complainant. If you have a concern, ask the agency you are calling.)

Be advised the Josephine County Community Development Department has various flyers providing more information about marijuana, fences, and other uses that may be helpful to the landowner or neighbor. Please visit our website for the most recent version of each informational brochure.

**Complaint:** They cut down the forest to make room for their grow.

Q: Did they haul the timber off-site, or are they stockpiling/burning it on-site? How much was cut?

A: Cutting the timber and converting it to a farm field is a 'forestry conversion'. Call the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). They may also be concerned if the timber is hauled off-site. ODF also limits the amount of land that can be clear-cut without a management plan. If being burned on-site, notify the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). ODA can also inspect to ensure water quality is not threatened.

#: ODF – (541) 664-3328  
ODA – (541) 414-8797

**Complaint:** Runoff from their dirt piles and/or compost pile, or excess irrigation, is entering the creek.

Q: Does the runoff appear to have sediment or other matter in it?

A: Runoff is naturally occurring phenomenon in many cases. If however the water is carrying sediment, nutrients, or other particles, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Division of State Lands (DSL), might want to investigate. Sometimes the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) gets involved too.

#: ODA – (541) 414-8797  
DSL – (503) 508-4035 or (503) 986-5200 (main office)  
ODFW – (503) 508-4035 or (503) 986-5200 (main office)

**Complaint:** They dug ponds, put in culverts, and/or water diversions (irrigation ponds or ditches, culverts to cross a stream, diversions to move water from streams for irrigation).

Q: Does the project impact fish habitat or fish passage (like a culvert in a stream)?

A: If fish habitat or passage is affected, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) would get involved. In all water circumstances, you should also contact the Water Master (WM). Additionally, the Oregon State Police (OSP) may be concerned as well. The OSP have Fish and Wildlife Troopers that respond to clean stream issues.

#: ODFW – (503) 508-4035 or (503) 986-5200 (main office)  
WM – (541) 479-2401  
OSP – (541) 776-6114

**Complaint:** They dammed the stream and are taking the water.

Q: Can the water flow over or through the dam?

A: Damming the water is of concern to the Department of State Lands (DSL). Taking the water would be a concern to the Oregon Water Resources Department/Water Master (WM).

#: DSL – (503) 508-4035 or (503) 986-5200 (main office)  
WM – (541) 479-2401

**Complaint:** They're shooting guns all night/I'm worried for my safety.

Q: Is this occurring in an unincorporated area, on private property?

A: The Josephine County Sheriff's Office (SO) or the Oregon State Police (OSP) might respond, depending on the circumstances, and time of day. With limited funding, not every call can be answered. For help, call the Sheriff's Office, NOT 911 (unless it's a life threatening situation).

#: SO – (541) 474-5123, ext. 3

**Complaint:** They put up a plastic fence. It looks terrible.

Q: Have you talked to your neighbor?

A: Sometimes a fence is required by the OLCC, and sometimes vegetative or other screening is required. Talking to the neighbor at the first signs of a crop and/or development of the fence may help the owner decide what type of product to use.

Be advised the Josephine County Community Development Department regulates fences, and, it is likely the landowner may need a permit for the fence. Contact the Community Development Department to see if they have a permit; if they don't, you can file a complaint and the Code Enforcement Administrator (CEA) will conduct an investigation and follow up accordingly.

Tarp fences do not meet code, are a violation, and if a complaint is filed, the Department will try to get it removed. Fence violations are a lower priority than some of the more egregious violations, so please be patient—it takes a long time to resolve some of the violations.

#: OLCC – (541) 618-7554 or 776-6193 or (800) 452-6522 (main)  
CEA – (541) 474-5425

**Complaint:** They don't have a license. It's illegal.

Q: Are you sure?

A: The OLCC regulates recreational production; the OHA monitors medical production. If you know for sure it is a recreational grow, contact the OLCC and they can investigate. Contact OHA/OMMP (Oregon Medical Marijuana Program) regarding concerns about medical marijuana. Be advised there are growers that are not enrolled in the recreational or the medical program—they are illegal and would be a concern to law enforcement.

#: OLCC – (541) 618-7554 or 776-6193 or (800) 452-6522 (main office)  
OHA – (800) 699-9075

**Complaint:** It smells like skunk and I cannot enjoy my property.

Q: Is the grow indoors or outdoors?

A: If outdoors, there is little you can do other than contact an attorney to initiate a civil complaint (the Right to Farm Law prevents government from interfering with odor, but as a civilian, you can initiate a lawsuit). If indoors, a carbon scrubber or other device might reduce the smell—talk to your neighbor. Keep in mind, what one may find offensive, another may find acceptable.

**Complaint:** Their greenhouse is right up to my property line.

Q: Isn't there a setback for a greenhouse?

A: Greenhouses do have to meet setbacks. The Josephine County Community Development Department investigates greenhouses, and other structures, that don't meet setbacks. If you suspect a violation, you can file a complaint and the Code Enforcement Administrator (CEA) will conduct an investigation and follow up accordingly.

#: CEA – (541) 474-5425

**Complaint:** Our subdivision has rules that don't allow 'xxxx'.

Q: Are they in your subdivision?

A: If in your subdivision, the CCRs might apply. However, the county is not responsible for, nor can it enforce, restrictions contained in CCRs. Enforcement of the CCRs would be a civil matter. Call your attorney or Home Owner's Association, if there is one.