There is a lot of confusion at present about seed laws, seed companies and cannabis in general, even for the people in the know. However one thing seems to be clear, there seems to be more new seed traders, seed producers and seed growers in this day and age. While the USA looks to be more sympathetic to the Medical growers of Marijuana, why then is the UK suggesting reclassifying Cannabis into a harder drug category. Why are the controls and drug testing parameters in Europe becoming more rigid and less tolerable. There are a lot of questions I ask myself nowadays that, 10 years ago were not even questions!

"Ignorance is no excuse" and "buyers beware" are just two phrases that spring to mind when servicing my internet helpdesks and speaking to individuals from all over the world about their unique situations with regards to cannabis. More and more I deal with Medical patients and get asked about so many issues that up until a few years ago seemed to be clearer. So where is all this coming from? The business of seeds remains pretty simple, the plant has not gone through any extreme manipulation genetically, yet the laws of the land or the prevailing moods fluctuate like pollen in a windy set of alley-ways. There are many ways to view this issue but the one thing that seems certain is that the world laws in relation to this plant is inconsistent and are causing mass confusion.

As you read this, there are a lot of people who use to work in Cannabis in Europe who are now leaving the shores and heading for the land of the free and home of the brave...USA! Now that is a reversal of less than 10 years ago. Before the coffee shops of Amsterdam were filled with self-exiled American Cannabis users/workers, and nowadays they are queuing for the plane back. It has even gone as far as seeing Marijuana- business franchising being offered in California, while smoking inside a café in Europe is now illegal. So the winds are blowing and blowing turbulently.

Due to the unregulated industry of Cannabis seed companies, and a lack of any uniform set of practices, the business of picking a seed to grow is at times similar to buying a ticket in the lottery. There is very limited service to the customer or online helpdesks, especially by the so called larger seed companies and there is even less back up or direct access to breeders of the seeds. It means when you pay your money in a shop you are basically on your own, apart from the information you can attain from fellow growers online or in chat forums. Within other industry that is in existence today, companies would not survive with standards such as these!! However in this very grey area of business there is a silent scream starting to break through the invisible threads that bind together this industry, with its base set on floating foundations. It is thanks to the normal people who unfortunately are sick or are going through treatment for an illness, which may serve to save and bring back honor, respectability and fair trade practices.
Most people give the benefit of the doubt to a new company and give it a try. The biggest problem that the grower/buyer is faced with is the fact that they have nothing to compare the plant to since it is usually their first time with the company, and usually first time with the strain named by the company. So it takes at least a season for the grower/buyer to become aware of what they have. Seed traders or seed shops may feel all is ok for the customer since it is a long time, but in reality people only want to get what they ask for and it takes that long before you know what you have. After waiting for a growing season to see if they get what they felt they asked for, it is not always easy to bang a drum or complain if it does not live up to standards or expectations. Many seed companies do not even reply to customers or if they do they tend to blame some part of the process to something wrongly done. Basically there are very little assurances in the business of unregulated seed. THAT NEEDS TO CHANGE!!!

New problems arise daily and since a lot of people just want to grow a plant with minimum of ease, female seed would seem to be an easy alternative. The reservations I have with this style of armchair farming are what happen down the time line. A little bit like finding out what happens to people who eat McDonald’s food for 20+ years. You need to understand that true-breeding a strain takes at least 2 years to make one strain, plus essentially needs a male and female plant, and selection based on choice and criteria with a lot of trial and error. Whereas producing female seed does not need anything more than a female plant and chemicals. That is the main reason, as well as financial rewards of course, that so many seed companies and feminized seed companies are popping up like wild flowers. Countries like Spain; 10 years ago did not believe true bred seed was worth the money it was costing, and now they are producing female seeds and new seed companies like nowhere else. Any female selected clone that goes around the growers seems to be gobbled up, processed and feminized to be labeled with fancy names or offspring related names to genetics from original true breeds. Female seed producers do not even have to know what the origins of a plant are to produce seed!! In fact female seed can be made without any knowledge of biology or any experience in breeding. There is no skill needed, nor is there any reason to even know what a male plant looks like, so how then could you call this anything more than a convenience marketing package. Money related incentive with very little care to true selection of outstanding individuals, and with that attitude comes what is deserved…mediocrity. Maybe not directly but in the future we will have to accept what we bought into. Cheap, fast and a sure thing often is a recipe for impending disaster, not to mention it inevitably cost much more in the long run.

There is a place in the market for all seeds, feminized or regular. There is however only place in the market for seed companies who stand behind their products totally and not only in sales.

There are reasons for moods to change and why laws are inconsistent from similarly developed countries in the world, but it is mainly due to us and the motivations like greed or ease or convenience. Humans forget quickly their folly, they get caught up in hype and dreams and promises…the one main thing that remains solid is that life is a real thing based on each breathe. Keeping the genetics diverse and healthy in plants and animals means keeping companies honest and open, compromise any of these elements and we all loose!