

INTERNATIONAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION QUESTIONNAIRE

ICCQ
Version 1.1

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INTERNATIONAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION QUESTIONNAIRE (ICCQ)

Purpose: To measure patterns of small scale cannabis cultivation.

Description: The ICCQ is an 35-item measurement that is designed to measure patterns of small scale cannabis cultivation. The questionnaire includes items on experiences with growing cannabis, methods and scale of growing operations, reasons for growing, the participant's personal use of cannabis and other drugs, participation in cannabis and other drug markets, police contacts and participant's involvement in other non-drug related illegal activities and demographic characteristics. The ICCQ also includes items to test eligibility and recruitment source, and a set of items that should be included in pages on participant information and informed consent.

Primary reference: DECORTE, T., BARRATT, M.J., NGUYEN, H., BOUCHARD, M., MALM, A. & LENTON, S. (2012). *International Cannabis Cultivation Questionnaire (ICCQ) (Version 1.1)*. Global Cannabis Cultivation Research Consortium. Accessed at worldwideweed.nl (access date: XX/XX/XX).

Availability: Prof. dr. Tom Decorte, Professor in Criminology, Institute for Social Drug Research (ISD), Department of Penal Law and Criminology, Ghent University, Universiteitstraat 4, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.

GUIDELINES

The ICCQ questionnaire is currently being used by a group of researchers interested in better understanding patterns of cannabis cultivation. This group of researchers created a network – the *Global Cannabis Cultivation Research Consortium (GCCRC)* - and developed the ICCQ as a core online questionnaire for an international audience of cannabis growers. This group of researchers is currently running on-line surveys on patterns of cannabis cultivation in their individual countries (Australia, the US, Canada, the UK, Belgium, Denmark, Finland and the Netherlands). Each country survey is funded locally or nationally. In most of these countries the ICCQ was used as a core model questionnaire and country-specific items were added.

Researchers who would like to join this international comparative study are welcome to contact one of the participating teams (for a list, see at the end of this document), and may use the ICCQ as a basis for their own study, on the condition that they cite the ICCQ as indicated on the previous page and mention the GCCRC network. Participating countries can add extra items according to their preferences and the focus of their own studies.

The first three questions (A, B and C) are mandatory questions and are designed to determine the eligibility of participants for the study. The numbered questions (1 to 35) are optional, in the sense that participants can skip questions or chose options such as ‘I don’t know’ or ‘I don’t want to answer this question’.

Most questions allow participants to select only one answer; when participants are allowed to select more than one answer (multiple response set), this is mentioned explicitly (“Check all that apply”).

The questionnaire contains grey text boxes with some explanatory information for participants. Individual countries can add extra information in these preambles, or rephrase the wording if this is considered to be more appropriate given the national circumstances.

Several questions allow individual countries to add extra categories to meet country-specific circumstances.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND CONSENT

INSTRUCTION: INSERT PARTICIPANT INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT PAGE. THE ITEMS INCLUDED IN THESE PAGES MAY VARY FOR EACH COUNTRY, BUT AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE INCLUDED.

- The ICCQ is designed to study patterns of small-scale cannabis cultivation
- Mention the university and researcher(s) conducting the study
- The ICCQ was developed by members of the *Global Cannabis Cultivation Research Consortium* (GCCRC). The GCCRC should be mentioned. For more information on the activities of the GCCRC, see www.worldwideweed.nl
- This study provides an opportunity to challenge negative stereotypes of cannabis growers. Suggested text: “The general community typically has a very unrealistic view about people who grow cannabis. We want you to help set the record straight by completing this questionnaire”.
- Inclusion criteria: participants must have grown cannabis at least once, they must be living in the host country and they must be at least 18 years of age.
- Mention what participation in the study involves: an online questionnaire, provide a summary of topics covered (ensure these actually match with the items of the ICCQ, including country-specific variations and additional items!).
- The questionnaire contains 35 questions, but participants probably won’t have to answer all of these. It usually takes about 15 minutes to complete the ICCQ.
- Mention the web address where summary of results will be available upon completion of project.
- Participation is voluntary. Participants can withdraw consent at any time, consent will be assumed upon submission of data.
- Mention that information is strictly confidential, that no identifying information will be collected, that no IP addresses will be logged, and that for added protection participants are welcome to use an anonymiser (e.g. Tor). Also mention how long data will be stored securely at host university.
- Mention that results will be presented at conferences and in academic papers. Data will only be presented in aggregate form. Identifying information of individuals and groups will be removed to maintain anonymity.
- Add contact information for study representative.
- Add formula “By clicking ‘begin survey’, I confirm that...” in informed consent page
- Ask participants to complete questionnaire only once, and to answer each question carefully and honestly.

PAGE 1 - ELIGIBILITY

Thank you for agreeing to participate in our questionnaire. The general community typically has a very unrealistic view about people who grow cannabis. We want you to help set the record straight by completing this questionnaire. We look forward to being able to provide a fuller picture of cannabis growing and cannabis growers in [host country].

The following questions are necessary to determine your eligibility for the study.

INSTRUCTION: THE NEXT THREE ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS (A, B and C) ARE MANDATORY. THE NUMBERED QUESTIONS ARE OPTIONAL FOR THE PARTICIPANT.

A. Have you ever grown cannabis?

- Yes
- No -----> **IF NO: EXIT SURVEY**

B. Are you 18 years or over?

- Less than 18 years old -----> **IF <18: EXIT SURVEY**
- 18 years or over

C. In which country do you reside?

- [Host country]
- Other country -----> **IF OTHER COUNTRY: EXIT SURVEY**

If not eligible:

Thank you for your interest in our survey. Unfortunately you are not eligible this time.

If you reside in a country other than [host country], please head to our [international project website](#) where you can access surveys for growers in your part of the world.

If you have any questions concerning this study, please contact [name principal investigator] by e-mail [add e-mail address], voice [add telephone number] or Twitter [add Twitter account].

You are invited to ask us questions or simply follow the project's progress through our website www.worldwideweed.nl and Twitter account [@wor1dwideweed](#) We would also be grateful if you told your friends about our study (provide social media sharing buttons).

PAGE 2 – RECRUITMENT SOURCE

Before we look at cannabis growing, we would like to know how you found out about this study in order to assess which recruitment methods are the most successful.

*We will **not** present our results for specific identified websites or communities, to reduce risk to those forums or communities who have supported us. However, we really appreciate the support of forums and other groups and will acknowledge their support in our publications and presentations where forum administrators agree to this.*

1. How did you first find out about this survey?

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES CAN DECIDE TO MOVE THIS QUESTION TO THE END, BUT IT IS VERY USEFUL TO HAVE AT THE BEGINNING FOR METHODOLOGICAL PURPOSES TO UNDERSTAND THE SOURCE OF PEOPLE WHO STAY VERSUS THOSE WHO DROP OUT.

- News article
- Television
- Radio
- Magazine
- Grower Magazine
- Flyer
- Street press advert
- Google search / Google adverts
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Email alert
- Banner advert
- Cannabis communities/websites [specific to your country]
- Through another [insert your university] study
- Through a friend
- Other: _____
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES CAN DECIDE TO ADD RECRUITMENT SOURCES WHEN THEY ARE USED IN A SPECIFIC COUNTRY.

PAGE 3 – GROWING EXPERIENCE

The following questions are about your level of experience as a cannabis grower and whether others know about your growing. When asked to estimate times and numbers, please give your best estimate if you are unsure.

This survey is completely anonymous. We would appreciate it if you answered each question honestly and accurately so we can get a fuller picture of cannabis cultivation in [host country]. However, should you feel uncomfortable answering any question, please choose 'I don't want to answer' and move on to the next question.

2. How old were you when you grew cannabis for the first time?

Drop down response options:

- 10 or less
- 11, 12, 13, 14, etc. up to 99
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

3. How long ago did you last grow cannabis?

- I am currently growing cannabis or have grown it in the last 12 months
- 1 to 5 years ago
- 6 to 10 years ago
- Over 10 years ago
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

4. About how many crops of cannabis have you grown so far?

- 1 crop
- 2 to 5 crops
- 6 to 10 crops
- 11 to 20 crops
- 21 to 50 crops
- More than 50 crops
- I have not yet harvested my first crop -----> **SKIP TO Q6**
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

[IF PARTICIPANT HAS GROWN 1 OR MORE CROPS]

5. How many times did you fail before you succeeded in getting a crop?

- I succeeded the very first time
- It took me 1 attempt before I succeeded
- It took me 2 attempts before I succeeded
- It took me 3 attempts before I succeeded
- It took me 4 attempts before I succeeded
- It took me 5 attempts before I succeeded
- It took me more than 5 attempts before I succeeded
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

6. How many other people do/did you grow your crop with?

- I grow alone
- I grow with 1 other person
- I grow with 2 or 3 other people
- I grow with more than 3 other people
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

7. How many people know/knew about your cannabis cultivation, including [any associates / anyone you grow with]?

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES SHOULD CHOOSE 'ASSOCIATES' OR 'ANYONE YOU GROW WITH' AS APPROPRIATE.

Only include people who know your real name/identity.

- None
- 1 other person
- 2 to 5 other people
- 6 to 10 other people
- More than 10 other people
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

8. Do you communicate with other cannabis growers online that you have not met face-to-face?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

PAGE 4 – GROWING METHOD AND SCALE

The following questions are about your growing method and the scale of your typical grow. When asked to estimate times and numbers, please give your best estimate if you are unsure. And remember that this survey is completely anonymous.

9. Do you typically grow indoors or outdoors?

- Indoors
- Outdoors
- Indoors and outdoors
- Seedlings grown indoors, then planted outdoors
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

10. How much space (length x width) do you typically use to cultivate cannabis? (drop down menu)

Please give your best estimate if you are unsure of exact numbers.

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES CAN ALSO ASK THIS QUESTION IN SQUARE METRES OR SQUARE FEET.

Length in metres _____

Or: Length in feet _____

Width in metres _____

Width in feet: _____

Drop down response options:

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
- More than 20
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

11. How many plants do you typically grow per crop?

Please give your best estimate if you are unsure of exact numbers.

Number of juveniles/seedlings/cuttings _____

Number of mature plants _____

Number of mother plants _____

Drop down response options:

- 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 through to 100
- More than 100
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES CAN CHOOSE TO USE CATEGORIES HERE. WE SUGGEST CONTINUOUS SCALES SO THE DATA CAN BE USED TO CALCULATE YIELD PER PLANT.

[IF PARTICIPANT HAS GROWN 1 OR MORE CROPS]

12. How much yield (i.e. usable dried cannabis) do you typically get per crop?

You can answer as total yield (ounces, kilograms or grams) or average yield per plant (ounces or grams). Please give your best estimate if you are unsure of exact numbers.

Total yield (ounces) _____ Or: Yield per plant (ounces) _____
Total yield (kilograms) _____ Yield per plant (grams) _____
Total yield (grams) _____

Drop down response options:

- 0.25, 0.50, 0.75, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 through to 100
- More than 100
- I don't weigh the crop
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

13. We know that it probably varies over the growing period but, on average, how many hours per week do you typically spend taking care of your crop?

- Up to 1 hour per week
- 2-3 hours per week
- 4-5 hours per week
- 6-10 hours per week
- 11-20 hours per week
- More than 20 hours per week
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

14. Below is a list of places where growers often obtain their seeds/cuttings. Please indicate which of these you use most often.

- From previous crop/s
- From other growers that I know
- Ordered from the internet (an online store)
- Seeds from cannabis I bought
- From other growers that I know online
- From a cannabis dealer/supplier
- Other _____
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES CAN ADD OTHER OPTIONS SPECIFIC TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES (E.G. 'GROWSHOPS', IF THEY EXIST IN THAT COUNTRY).

PAGE 5 – REASONS FOR GROWING

The following question is about your reasons and motivations for growing cannabis.

15. Why do/did you grow cannabis? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- Cheaper than buying cannabis
- It provides me with cannabis for personal use
- I get pleasure from growing cannabis
- I wanted to see whether I could grow it
- The cannabis I can grow is healthier than the cannabis I can buy
- I can flush the cannabis I grow to remove chemical residue
- To avoid contact with criminals
- Because the plant is beautiful
- Because the plant is easy to take care of
- Growing your own cannabis is not as risky as buying it
- So I can share it with / give it to my friends and acquaintances
- The cannabis I can grow is milder than the cannabis I can buy
- The cannabis I can grow is stronger than the cannabis I can buy
- The cannabis I can grow is a more consistent product than the cannabis I can buy
- So I can sell it
- It is easier to grow than to buy
- For activist reasons (e.g., ecological ideology, fair trade, etc.)
- To provide others with cannabis for medical reasons
- To provide myself with cannabis for medical reasons
- Other reasons _____
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

PAGE 6 – PERSONAL USE OF CANNABIS AND OTHER DRUGS

The following questions are about your use of cannabis and other drugs. We don't assume people who grow cannabis use other drugs. However, understanding your personal use of cannabis and other drugs will help us to build a more diverse picture of cannabis growers and to dispel stereotypes in the community. And remember that this survey is completely anonymous.

16. How old were you when you first used cannabis?

- Less than 16 years old
- 16 to 17 years old
- 18 to 25 years old
- More than 25 years old
- I have never used cannabis -----> **SKIP TO Q18**
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

[IF PARTICIPANT HAS EVER USED CANNABIS]

17. When was the last time you used cannabis?

- Today
- Not today, but in the last week
- Not in the last week, but in the last 30 days
- Not in the last 30 days, but in the last 12 months -----> **SKIP TO Q19**
- I have not used cannabis in the last 12 months -----> **SKIP TO Q19**
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

[IF PARTICIPANT HAS USED CANNABIS IN THE LAST MONTH]

18. In the past 30 days, on how many days did you use cannabis?

Please give your best estimate if you are unsure of exact numbers.

Drop down response options:

- 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Up to 30
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

19. In the past 12 months, have you used any of the following drugs?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

Please exclude any pharmaceutical drugs that you are taking as directed by your doctor or other specialist.

- Alcohol
- Cigarettes
- Cannabis that is not home-grown
- Hash (resin)
- Methamphetamine (meth, crystal, ice)
- Amphetamine (speed)
- Cocaine (includes crack cocaine)
- Ecstasy (MDMA)
- LSD
- Magic mushrooms
- Synthetic cannabinoids (Spice, Kronic, K2, etc)
- Heroin
- Other opioids (e.g. OxyContin™, codeine, buprenorphine) for non-medical reasons
- Benzodiazepines and sedatives (e.g. Valium™, Stilnox™) for non-medical reasons
- Other pharmaceutical drugs for non-medical reasons (please specify)
- _____
- Other drugs for non-medical reasons (please specify) _____
- None of the above
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

PAGE 7 – MARKET PARTICIPATION

These questions are about your participation in cannabis and other drug markets. We don't assume people who grow cannabis will sell it or sell other drugs. However, understanding how you participate in drug markets will help us to build a more diverse picture of cannabis growers and to dispel stereotypes in the community.

We understand that this is a sensitive topic and would like to remind you that this survey is completely anonymous. Should you feel uncomfortable answering any question, choose 'I don't want to answer' and move on to the next question.

[IF PARTICIPANT GREW CANNABIS IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS]

20. About what proportion of the cannabis you grew in the last 12 months did you:

Please give your best estimate if you are unsure of exact numbers. Your answers should add to 100%.

- Consume for personal use %
- Swap with other growers %
- Give away (or share) %
- Sell to cover costs of growing %
- Sell for profit %
- Keep in your possession %

100 %

- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

[IF THE PARTICIPANT SOLD A PROPORTION OF THE CANNABIS GROWN IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS]

21. In the last 12 months, what percentage of your total income came from cultivation activities?

Total income includes income from both legal and illegal sources.

- Income from growing (provide sliding scale from 0-100%)
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

22. Have you sold any drugs other than cannabis or cannabis products in the last 12 months?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

PAGE 8 – POLICE CONTACT AND OTHER ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

These questions are about police contact and your involvement in non-drug-related illegal activity. We don't assume people who grow cannabis engage in other illegal activity. We believe that information about police contact and levels of illegal activity will help us challenge stereotypes of cannabis growers in the community. And remember that this survey is completely anonymous.

23. What do you estimate is the risk of you getting caught by police for growing cannabis?

- Very high
- High
- Low
- Very low
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

24. As an adult, have you ever been convicted of a crime other than minor traffic violations?

- Yes
- No -----> **SKIP TO Q26**
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

[IF PARTICIPANT HAS EVER BEEN CONVICTED OF A CRIME OTHER THAN MINOR TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS]

25. What type/s of criminal conviction/s do you have? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- Cannabis possession/use
- Cannabis cultivation -----> **SKIP TO Q27**
- Cannabis supply
- Cannabis trafficking
- Other drug-related possession/use, cultivation, supply or trafficking
- Driving-related (e.g. drink driving, dangerous driving)
- Property (e.g. burglary, fraud, theft, robbery, blackmail)
- Violent (e.g. assault, stabbing, shooting, rape)
- Other _____
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

[IF PARTICIPANT DID NOT CHOOSE 'CANNABIS CULTIVATION' AT Q25, ASK]

26. Have you ever come into contact with the police because of your cannabis growing?

- Yes
- No -----> **SKIP TO Q28**
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

[IF PARTICIPANT SAID YES TO Q26, OR IF PARTICIPANT CHOSE 'CANNABIS CULTIVATION' AT Q25, ASK]

27. Which of the following legal actions has ever happened to you because of your cannabis growing? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- Caught by police
- Informally warned
- Formally cautioned
- Given an infringement notice
- Arrested (taken into custody / back to the station)
- Charged
- Been issued a summons
- Been to court (in person or in absentia)
- Been convicted
- Been imprisoned
- Other _____
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES CAN ADD OTHER COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OPTIONS.

28. Have you engaged in any illegal activity in the last 12 months, excluding all cannabis and illicit drug use, cultivation, selling? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- None
- Non-criminal offences (e.g. fare evasion)
- Driving-related offences (e.g. drink driving, dangerous driving)
- Property offences (e.g. burglary, fraud, theft, robbery, blackmail)
- Violent offences (e.g. assault, stabbing, shooting, rape)
- Other non-drug-related illegal activity _____
- I don't know
- I don't want to answer

PAGE 9 – DEMOGRAPHICS

This is the final page of the survey. You are almost finished!

On this last page, we invite you to tell us a little more about yourself.

29. Are you male or female?

- Male
- Female
- I don't want to answer

30. How old are you?

- Age in years (drop down menu, 18 to 100+)
- I don't want to answer

31. What province/region/state/territory/jurisdiction do you live in?

- [Amend for individual countries]
- I don't want to answer

32. How do you describe your ethnic origin?

- [Amend for individual countries]
- I don't want to answer

33. What is the highest educational qualification that you have completed?

- [Amend for individual countries]
- I don't want to answer

34. What is your current employment status? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- Full-time work
- Part-time or casual work
- Self-employed
- Full-time student
- Part-time student
- Unemployed - looking for work
- Unemployed - not looking for work
- Benefits/pension
- Retired
- Home duties (stay-at-home parent or carer)
- Other _____
- I don't want to answer

INSTRUCTION: COUNTRIES CAN ADD OTHER COUNTRY-SPECIFIC OPTIONS.

35. Who else lives with you in the same household? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- My spouse / partner / boyfriend or girlfriend
- My child/ren
- My parents
- My grandparents
- My siblings or other family members
- My friends
- My housemates
- No-one, I live alone
- Other _____
- I don't want to answer

OPPORTUNITY FOR FEEDBACK

Do you have any comments or feedback about the project?

[insert large text box]

THANK YOU AND CLOSE

You have finished answering the questions in this survey. Thank you for your contribution to this project. Your time and effort is greatly appreciated! We look forward to presenting our results publically as a way of dispelling commonly-held stereotypes of small-time cannabis cultivators.

You are invited to ask us questions or simply follow the project's progress through our website www.worldwideweed.nl and Twitter account [@wor1dwideweed](https://twitter.com/wor1dwideweed)

We would be grateful if you told your friends about our study. Please post our website to your networks [insert social media sharing buttons].

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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