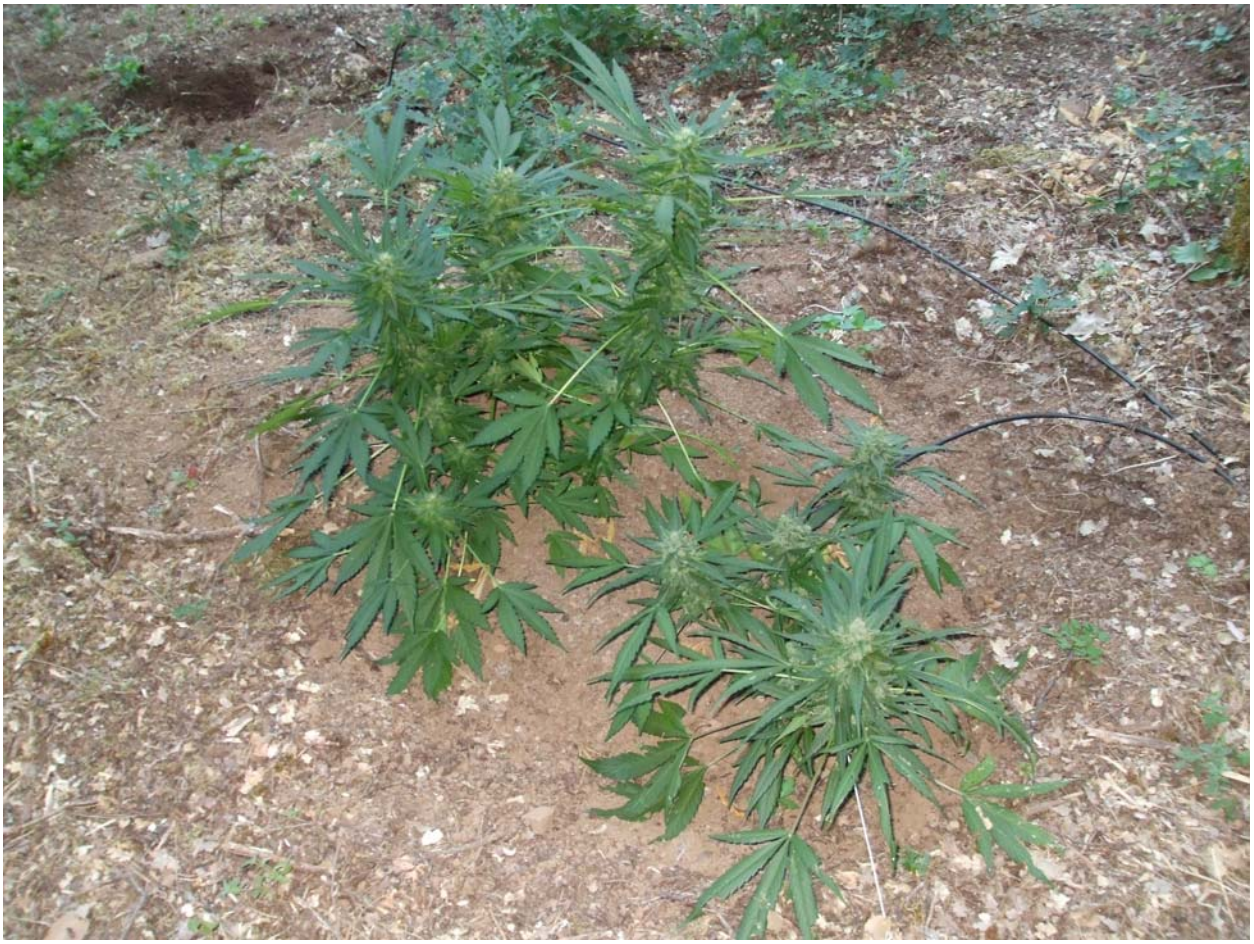
BUTTE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
MEDIA RELEASE

JERRY W. SMITH
SHERIFF-CORONER

DATE	**:**	**08-27-10**
RELEASED BY	**:**	**Sergeant Stephen Collins**
CONTACT #	**:**	**(530) 538-6666**

On 08-27-10, during the early morning hours, members of the Butte County Sheriff Office's marijuana unit, assisted by the Butte County Sheriff Office's SWAT team and United States Forest Service raided a Mexican national marijuana grow located near Platt Mountain in Forest Ranch.

The marijuana grow was located during aerial observations in July 2010. Upon entry into the marijuana garden, Deputies encountered a shelter with a Hispanic male inside, later identified as 40 year old Gonzalo Rueda-Cruz of Michoacán, Mexico. Just outside the shelter were three more Hispanic males, two were identified as 19 year old Arnulfo Verduzco-Duarte and 18 year old Juventino Duarte.

All four subjects attempted to flee when contacted by Deputies. The three listed above were taken into custody after discovering over 26 pounds of processed marijuana at the camp site and 1,517 mature marijuana plants in three grow locations. The fourth subject escaped capture.

Rueda-Cruz, Verduzco-Duarte, and Duarte were taken into custody and charged with the cultivation of marijuana and the sale of marijuana. All three subjects are illegal aliens from Mexico. Immigration holds have been placed on the three subjects making them ill eligible for bail.