

# More than 2,000 pot plants seized

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Geneva County Sheriff's deputies and state police seized more than 2,000 marijuana plants worth an estimated \$4

million on a remote piece of property in Geneva County on Tuesday.

Geneva County Sheriff's Sgt. Investigator Perez Bruner said sheriff's deputies and officers with the Alabama Law Enforce-

ment Agency seized the plants Tuesday as part of a joint marijuana eradication operation.

Bruner said deputies seized the plants from inside some woods on Highnote Road in the southern end of the county

near Hartford.

"It was somebody's property that didn't know it was there," Bruner said. "It was in the woods."

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## Plants

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Bruner said the plants were found in various stages of growth, ranging from a foot tall up to 8 feet tall. He said law enforcement in state police helicopters discovered the plants.

"The sheriff's office is going to maintain them, and then we're going to control destroy them," Bruner said. "We'll make sure nobody can get around it while we're burning it."

Bruner said 15 to 20 law enforcement officers from the Geneva County Sheriff's Office and state police, among others, seized the plants Tuesday.

"We were successful in locating and destroying 2,434 marijuana plants with an approximate

street value of over \$4 million," according to the Geneva County Sheriff's Facebook page.

Sheriff Tony Helms said no one was arrested in connection to the marijuana seizure, but that the investigation remains ongoing.

Helms said marijuana plant seizures in Geneva County that large were not that uncommon in the 1990s.

"This is the first time in a long time we've had one this large," Helms said.

Helms said unless state legislators change the marijuana law they are going to continue to enforce the laws, seizing drugs such as marijuana and make arrests.

According to a statement from the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, the seizure was part of

a joint law enforcement effort to the rid the state of the only major drug grown domestically.

The statement said narcotics agents with State Bureau of Investigation along with an aviation team will continue working with local law enforcement agencies across the state to locate and destroy marijuana plants drug dealers have "covertly" cultivated.

State Trooper Cpl. Jesse Thornton said in an email that funding for the marijuana eradication program comes from the federal Drug Enforcement Administration, which makes it possible for them to "aggressively pursue marijuana cultivation."

According to DEA website, law enforcement seized 4,300,833 plants in the U.S. in 2014.