

Monster Technology Helps Marijuana Cultivator Increase Efficiency While Complying with State Regulations



The legalization of recreational and medical marijuana in recent years has skyrocketed cultivation of the product. The multibillion-dollar industry is growing millions of pounds of marijuana annually and production is only expected to increase in the coming years. The rapid expansion is not without its share of operational and regulatory challenges.

Within the US and Canada, legal marijuana businesses must comply with state or provincial mandated “seed to sale tracking” for their cultivation operations. This includes accounting for plants, plant materials and harvested waste. Part of these regulations also define specific waste disposal requirements. The disposal methods often include grinding up marijuana waste and blending it with non-marijuana waste like soil or cardboard.

Strategies for maintaining compliance is something companies like Matrix NV, LLC, a large marijuana cultivator in Southern Nevada, have had to figure out. Matrix NV has been at the forefront of the recreational and medical marijuana boom since its inception in 2014. While implementing the vision of becoming the highest quality producer in Nevada they have also been learning that having well run operations, leading experts to rely on and an overall business focus have been necessities for ongoing success.

Growing Pains

Matrix NV, along with many other marijuana producers, have faced challenges when it comes to marijuana disposal regulations. The most recent regulations require marijuana plant waste to be rendered unusable by grinding and incorporating it with other ground materials. This mixture must be at least 50 percent non-marijuana waste by volume. Failure to comply with marijuana waste disposal requirements can lead to monetary fines and/or the cancellation of the business’s marijuana license.

To achieve the 50 percent ground waste mixture Matrix NV was drying the marijuana waste, combining it with cut strips of cardboard and feeding the marijuana and cardboard mixture into a woodchipper. This method was an acceptable option for Matrix NV in the early days of developing the business, but it was certainly not the most efficient. The drying step was required because the woodchipper could not process wet waste. Even with this precaution, the woodchipper was susceptible to frequent jamming and shutdowns. It was not designed for shredding the stringy plant materials, rocks and sticks which are common in the marijuana waste.

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Beyond the shut downs due to clogging, the woodchipper was producing unpleasant dust and gasoline engine exhaust fumes. It was also an extremely noisy operation making for a very unhospitable work environment. Overall, the woodchipper option was more of a mess than a solution.

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Time to Upgrade

Gregg Frye, Facilities Manager and Ron Carroll, Co-Facilities Manager of Matrix NV, needed a more capable solution for their cannabis destruction operations, which would allow the facility to function and flow more effectively. “As our operations grew it was difficult to get rid of all of this waste with a woodchipper and it was really starting to build up” said Frye. “We explored several machines to get rid of the harvest waste that were geared toward industrial waste disposal, but nothing seemed to be the right fit.”

That is when Frye and Carroll found JWC Environmental, a company that manufactures grinders specifically for marijuana waste destruction. One feature that excited them immediately was the fact that the grinder could process both wet or dry materials, meaning Matrix NV would no longer need to dry the waste before grinding.

After some consultation with the JWC team, Frye and Carroll settled on a Monster Industrial 3-SHRED-H-1200 horizontal grinder from JWC. The electric powered 3-SHRED utilizes low speed and high torque to shred even the toughest debris. Since it is electric powered it operates with minimal noise and is suitable for both indoor and outdoor use. The powerful and rugged dual shafted cutting design easily shreds marijuana waste and non-marijuana waste without interrupts including entire cannabis plants, root balls, soil and plastic pots.

75% Labor Savings

Frye’s and Carroll belief that there was a more efficient way to process the Matrix NV marijuana waste was proven to be correct. With the introduction of the Monster Industrial 3-SHRED into the disposal operations, Matrix NV was able to process the same amount of waste in 3-4 hours that would have typical taken one- to two-days with a woodchipper. This 75% reduction in processing time saved both labor costs and made for a much better work environment. Best of all they can easily dispose of both wet or dry waste without interruptions and keep the total cultivation operations running smoothly.



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The focus by Matrix NV on having a well-run operation and reaching out to experts like JWC Environmental for support is paying off. “We previously couldn’t process the waste like we can now – it is efficient, clean and hassle-free” said Frye. As Matrix NV continues to expand the efficiencies gained through taking a sound business approach, they will insure their long-term success.

JWC Environmental is a world leader in solids reduction and removal system for municipal wastewater operations as well for commercial and industrial applications. We offer our legendary Muffin Monster and Monster Industrial grinders and Monster Separation Screening systems, IPEC industrial screens and FRC DAF systems.



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