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Operation Casa Verde Nets Massive Haul of Marijuana



The Sarasota County Sheriff's Office announces the successful culmination of Operation Casa Verde, a long term joint narcotics trafficking investigation with the United States Attorney's Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) extending from Sarasota to Miami-Dade Counties.

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office detectives, working in conjunction with the North Port Police Department, executed search warrants on three houses in North Port on Tuesday morning, September 29th and found 288 marijuana plants. Overall during this months-long operation, 750 plants have been seized in Sarasota County, weighing approximately 375 pounds, with an estimated street value of \$1.5 Million. Weapons and vehicles were also seized. Suspects arrested during this operation will face federal prosecution.

"This is a large scale indoor marijuana grow operation," said Sheriff Tom Knight. "We will not allow these individuals to come into our community and endanger our neighborhoods. We will continue to put all available resources into initiatives like this to keep our county safe."

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office personnel from Warrants, SWAT, Emergency Response Team, and Special Investigations were involved in Tuesday's operation.

Other parts of this investigation were carried out by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, Collier County Sheriff's Office, Charlotte County Sheriff's Office, and Naples Police Department.