

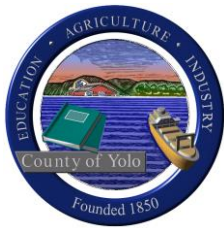
# County of Yolo

## CANNABIS TASK FORCE POLICY AND PROCEDURE

### CHAPTER 7, DIVISION 4, SECTION 1.5

#### Canopy Measurement Revised July 22, 2020 (July 16 Revisions are in **Red**; July 22 revisions are in also in **Red** and highlighted in **yellow**)

- A. PURPOSE:** To establish procedures on how Cannabis Task Force (CTF) staff shall measure garden canopy.
- B. FORMS REQUIRED:** None
- C. POLICY:** Yolo County Code §5-20.03(L) - “Garden canopy” means **the total aggregate area(s) of marijuana cultivation** on a single Legal parcel as measured around the outermost perimeter of each separate and discrete area of marijuana cultivation at the drip line of the canopy expected at maturity and includes, but is not limited to, the space between plants within the cultivation area, and the exterior dimensions of garden beds, garden plots and Hoop houses.
- D. PROCEDURE:** The following procedures shall be used as a guideline to measure garden canopy at licensed cannabis cultivation sites during an on-site inspection.
1. Identify plants that shall be included in the total aggregate area.
    - a. All cannabis plants that are showing **any** signs of flowering, such as a mass of pistil measuring greater than one half inch wide at its widest point, presence of bud and/or presence of resin gland and trichomes.
    - b. Plants found in its final resting place, such as plants found in the ground. **This is the location the plant will be harvested from and has been designated as a canopy area on the premise map.**
  - \*Plants found in the vegetative state and not in the final resting place shall not be included in the canopy measurement.
  2. Identify the type of canopy a licensee has, based on the measurement methods detailed below.
    - A. **Greenhouse or Hoop-House:** Greenhouse means a completely enclosed structure whose structural members are made of pre- formed, rigid construction materials. The walls, roof, and ends are typically covered using a transparent material, often glass, that is fixed in place, and which allows solar radiation to penetrate the surface and affect the growing environment of the plants inside.



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Hoop house means a structure with structural members that are made of flexible and somewhat rigid construction materials, typically PVC pipe or similar material. The ends may be covered or left open and the material covering the structural members is readily removable and is typically removed and re-affixed frequently. (YCC Section 5-20.03)



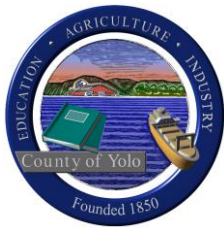
**Greenhouse/Hoop-House Width Definition:** The red line in the picture above represents how the width of a greenhouse/hoop-house is measured.

**Calculation:** (Length in Feet) x (Width in Feet) of greenhouse/hoop house, which provides square footage. If the plants do not occupy the entire length of the greenhouse/hoop house, the cannabis enforcement officer must measure where the plants end and base canopy calculation on the length measured.

**\*\*In the event the licensee chooses to designate a separate and discrete area of marijuana cultivation located within a greenhouse or hoop-house such as raised garden beds, hedgerows, or grow tables, garden canopy shall be measured using the length times width method of that distinct area (see E1, below). If at any time plants are found to have grown beyond the smaller designated area found inside the greenhouse or hoop-house, the entire dimension of the greenhouse or hoop-house shall be used in canopy measurements (E2).**

Raised bed measured at 5' wide by 100' long = 500 square feet

Raised bed measured at 5' wide by 100' long = 500 square feet



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E1 - Total dimension of raised bed = 500' + 500' = 1000 square feet

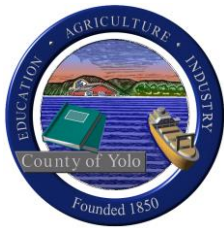
E2 - Total dimension of Greenhouse/hoop house = 15' x 120' = 1800 square feet

- B. **Hedgerow Method:** Plants in this canopy are grown in tightly packed rows of similar length, with **minimal space** between the plants **from drip line to drip line**. This method of grow is easy to calculate as you simply count the number of rows for the whole cultivation site. Additionally, the plants are usually trellised **or marked with stakes to determine the plant width at maturity**. If plants are not trellised or staked, the cultivator should be asked to identify the anticipated width of the plants at maturity through trellising or staking. If trellising or staking is not installed, width at maturity can be based on the CTF approved premise map submitted as part of the license application process.



**Hedgerow Width Definition:** The “width” used in the “Hedgerow” formula is the distance from one side of a plant to its other side and is measured at the plants’ widest points. Utilizing a measuring tape is practical for this method. Again, the red line in the picture above demonstrates the dimensioning of width.

**Calculation:** (Length in Feet) x (Width in Feet) of the row x (Number of Rows), which provides square footage.



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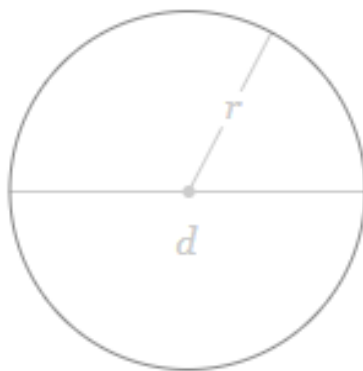
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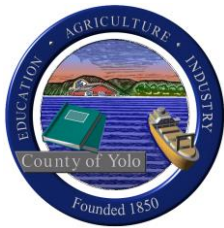
- C. **Pot Method:** Identified by determining the spacing between vegetation. Vegetation is usually spaced graciously, with separation between plants spanning over 1 foot. The use of a measuring tape is required. The pot's diameter, divided by 2, is its radius. The radius is then squared. The squared radius is then multiplied by 3.14 (pi) to find the area, in square footage, **of the discrete area of the pot**. The square footage is then multiplied by the total number of pots in the grow.



**Diameter Definition:** Straight line passing from one exterior side of the pot to the parallel exterior side. The red line in the picture above visually represents how this is accomplished.

**Calculation:**  $(\text{Area} = \pi r^2) \times (\text{Number of Pots/Plants})$ , where  $\pi = 3.14$





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If pots have enough space between them where the Officer can clearly walk between the plants, then the diameter of each pot must be measured. However, if plants are found to have grown beyond the discreet area of the pot, yet there is still space to clearly walk between the plants, a new measurement shall be made based on the drip line of the plant canopy to determine the new diameter. Lastly, if there is insufficient space between the pots where the Officer can't walk between the pots, then the canopy for the pots will be measured in the same way as either a hedgerow or cultivation area footprint, depending on the dripline of the plant canopy, as stated above.

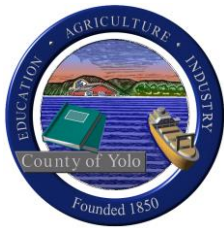
During routine inspections, the Officer shall discuss canopy with the licensee or his/her designee, and whether there is the potential for the canopy to exceed the licensed size. If it is anticipated that at full maturity a licensee is expected to exceed canopy based on dripline at maturity, a warning to the licensee should be noted in the inspection report.

However, if it is observed that more than the licensed amount has been planted, an NOV may be issued depending on the severity of the violation (see below).

When a canopy measurement is conducted, the inspection report must document how the canopy was calculated so the licensee has that documentation.

3. **Violation Degree** – If a canopy measurement is over the licensed amount, the following guidelines shall be followed:
  - If the over-canopy is 250 square feet and under, a **minor** violation shall be notated on the inspection report. The licensee must correct the violation either by voluntary abatement during the inspection (if site is licensed for a 1-acre canopy) or making a canopy payment for increased canopy (not to exceed 1-acre) within 3 days.
  - If the over-canopy is over 250 square feet, a **major** violation shall be notated on the inspection report. A Notice of Violation shall be issued and corrective actions must be completed within 3 days of receipt of the Notice or administrative penalties will begin accruing.

In the event a canopy measurement is made by the assigned Enforcement Officer and the licensee does not agree with the measurement, a secondary measurement shall be performed by the Cannabis Program Supervisor. The secondary measurement shall be performed to confirm the same canopy area measured by the Officer. The licensee is not allowed to alter the canopy area, such as voluntary abatement or harvesting of plants, prior to the secondary measurement.



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Approved by:

7/22/2020

Susan Strachan  
Cannabis Policy and Enforcement Manager  
Original Effective Date: 7/16/2020  
As modified on: 7/22/2020

Date