



Department of Justice

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McFARLAND MAN SENTENCED TO 33 MONTHS FOR GROWING MARIJUANA

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Curtis Faustich, 23, of McFarland, Wis., was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb to 33 months in prison without parole for growing marijuana. This term of imprisonment will be followed by four years of supervised release. Faustich pleaded guilty to this charge on June 22, 2010.

Officers executed a search warrant at Faustich's home on April 13, 2010. In the basement, they found hundreds of marijuana plants with a street value of between \$1 million and \$3 million. Some of the plants were between five feet and six feet tall.

During the execution of the search warrant, the defendant's passport was seized by law enforcement. Prior to his appearance in federal court, Faustich obtained a new passport by lying on the application form.

In sentencing Faustich, Judge Crabb told him that she hoped he could use his education and intelligence in a way that contributed to society as opposed to committing crimes. Faustich's co-defendant Zach Czerkas pleaded guilty on August 17, 2010, and will be sentenced on October 19.

The charge against Faustich was the result of an investigation conducted by the Dane County Narcotics and Gang Task Force. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Elizabeth Altman.

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