



Department of Justice

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CROSS PLAINS MAN SENTENCED FOR GROWING MARIJUANA

Madison, Wis. - John W. Vaudreuil, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Zachary Czerkas, 19, of Cross Plains, Wis., was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb to 12 months and one day in prison without parole for growing marijuana. This term of imprisonment will be followed by four years of supervised release. Czerkas pleaded guilty to this charge on August 17, 2010.

Officers executed a search warrant at Curtis 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.

Czerkas was arrested as he was leaving the residence. It was determined that Czerkas had been helping Faustich take care of the plants for at least the prior three weeks. On August 25, 2010, Faustich, 23, McFarland, Wis., was sentenced to 33 months in prison.

In sentencing Czerkas, Judge Crabb told him that she hoped he would make the right choice and take advantage of education, programming, and treatment in prison.

The charge against Czerkas and 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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