



## **Delta Genetics Alaska**

### **Clones vs Seeds.**

This is a guide from my point of view to answer questions about clones vs. seeds. I hope to cover briefly advantages and disadvantages in a non-technical way.

### **Looking for the best plant**

When we plant seeds we look for plants that have the ideal traits we are looking for, smell, potency, yield or a combination of those traits. The ideal method is to plant as many seeds as possible looking for the plant with outstanding traits. Unfortunately, there is a bit of luck involved in looking for that plant with outstanding traits. You may find one keeper you may not. This is what is called a “pheno hunt” growers are looking for exceptional expressions of a plant.

You have to look within the plants you have to find that special keeper. The good thing is that you selected that plant and with cloning you can perpetuate the “Froot Loupe” plant. In a way you have found something special to you. Gorilla Cookies “Froot Loupe” cut.

There is a lot of time and resources invested when looking for that keeper plant.

### **So why clones?**

Clones are a way to eliminate the search for a plant with outstanding traits. The search has been done for you. You have to know how the clone was selected, and if its been proven. This is why I provide information on clone background, you are not going in blind. I still test locally to prove that it is what it says it is. I rely on grower feedback as well as my own test grows.

This is why I generally go to nurseries that have proven cuts, or have been run in a large market for some time. This is why I go to great lengths and take risks to bring in cuts from other areas. You might get a clone from a local grower, but did they go through the sorting and selection to find that outstanding example?. I’ll be honest here, most growers do not run populations big enough to look for that keeper. The clone not only should be proven for outstanding traits but should be selected because it has no undesirable traits like hermaphrodite traits.

When we grow SIN semilla (No seeds), we absolutely do not want any bad traits. This is why we need clones with a proven track record. This can wreck the crop, with the time and money invested in a typical grow proven clones are a way to fast track a garden.

### **Why don't I just use Feminized seeds?**

Feminized seeds are an interesting way of getting exceptional genetics to the masses however they are very controversial. Some growers or breeders will not use feminized seed stock due to theories on hermaphrodite traits showing in populations.

As much as I would like to dive into the technical terms, let's just say that feminized seeds could carry increased risk of hermaphrodite trait showing. I am not saying that feminized seeds will hermaphrodite on you but the risk is there. I'll go more into this in another document.

You would have to observe the population to determine that risk, but given that cannabis is wind pollinated all it takes is one undetected plant to cause crop damage.

Hermaphrodite traits is one of the most undesirable things for people growing seedless crops.

### **So back to clones**

I only look for high quality clone stock with proven track records.

I look for unique genetic stock or in demand genetics.

I am constantly looking for feedback from other growers on how the crop went. Any negative feedback like hermaphrodite, or inaccurate description of the clone performance, and I will remove the clone from the nursery.

I compare these keepers vs keepers, I only want the very best for my clients.

### **Clones are not perfect they have their risks.**

Pathogens like viruses, bugs or fungus need to be managed when taking in ANY clone stock from me or otherwise. I have an aggressive eradication program but nobody is perfect, in fact. The typical handling procedure for clones in a typical dispensary is you touch it you buy it.

I have taken measures to protect the nursery, I no longer use soil in the garden for clones. The only soil I use is for germination, and its microwave sterilized. And in very small amounts, there is no more than a few cups of soil in the entire nursery.

I use professional strength products or systemics approved for fruit and vegetable production.

I will not take clones or make clones propagated in soil.

I use professional grade greenhouse disinfectants.

**No matter who you get your clones from, quarantine and a pest management plan should be used prior to introduction of clones to a greenhouse. Pathogens could be anywhere, and could be picked up just by transferring it to the greenhouse.**

Hope this helps

-Fred