

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



For Immediate Release: September 30, 2010
Contact: Lt. Gary Lewis or Sgt. Doug DeBord (614) 752-2792

Patrol seizes 40 pounds of hydroponic marijuana, valued at more than \$200,000 in Williams County traffic stop

MONTPELIER – Two men are facing felony drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 40 pounds of hydroponic marijuana, valued at more than \$200,000 during a traffic stop Tuesday in Williams County.

Troopers stopped a 2007 Toyota Solara and a rented 2010 Chevy Malibu, both with Illinois registration, for following too closely violations on the Ohio Turnpike near milepost 16 at approximately 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday. It was discovered the two vehicles were traveling together, due to the driver of the Toyota being the renter of the Chevy. Troopers observed criminal indicators and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the Chevy. A probable cause search revealed 40 pounds of hydroponic marijuana.

The driver of the Toyota, Joseph Ascencion Michel, 27, of Texas, was charged with complicity, a third-degree felony. The driver of the Chevy, Juan Zamarron, 28, also of Texas, was charged with trafficking in marijuana and possession of marijuana, both third-degree felonies.

Both suspects were incarcerated in the Corrections Center for Northwest Ohio. If convicted, Michel could face up to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine and Zamarron could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$20,000 fine.

A photo of the seized marijuana is available for download on the Patrol's web site at www.statepatrol.ohio.gov.

#

#

#

10-131