

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Patrol seizes 45 pounds of hydroponic marijuana, valued at nearly \$500,000 in Preble County traffic stop

BELFAST – A Connecticut man is facing felony drug charges after Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 45 pounds of hydroponic marijuana, valued at nearly \$500,000 during a traffic stop yesterday in Preble County.

Troopers stopped a 2010 GMC Yukon, with Idaho registration, for following too closely violation on Interstate 70 near milepost 8 at approximately 1:33 p.m. on Thursday. Troopers observed criminal indicators and a Patrol drug-sniffing canine alerted to the vehicle. A probable cause search revealed 45 pounds of hydroponic marijuana.

The driver, Ryan Ross-Francom, 28, of Norwich, Conn., was charged with possession of marijuana, a third-degree felony, and possession of criminal tools, a fifth-degree felony.

The suspect was incarcerated in Preble County Jail. If convicted, he could face up to six years in prison and a \$12,500 fine.

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

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