

Increasing Cannabis Economic Yield through Lighting

ST-100 Temperature Sensor

MQ-500 Quantum Sensor

PS-300 Spectroradiometer

SN-500-SS Radiometer



Introduction:

Cannabis is a lucrative crop that can be grown for profit under lights, but the cost of electricity is a large part of overall production costs. Progress in light-emitting diode (LED) technology has led to more efficient fixtures, but these fixtures vary in their efficacy. The researchers in this study wanted to investigate how the spectral quality and PPFD of the lights affected *Cannabis* yield and quality and also evaluate the effect of fixture efficacy on revenue in three different trials.

Set Up:

- Rooted cuttings of the medical hemp cultivar “Trump” were grown in a walk-in growth room with five sections; each section had white reflective walls and common atmospheric conditions.
- Temperature was measured with an Apogee shielded, fan-aspirated, precision thermistor (ST-100) mounted at canopy height in each chamber.
- PPFD was measured using an Apogee full-spectrum quantum meter (MQ-500).
- Spectral traces of the light fixtures were measured with an Apogee spectroradiometer (PS-300).
- Radiation measurements were made using an Apogee four-way net radiometer (SN-500-SS).

Results:

Through the three different trials, they found that as the percent of blue photons increased from 4 to 20%, flower yield decreased by 12.3%. This means that flower yield increased by 0.77% per 1% decrease in blue photons. However, it is thought that far-red photons also played a small part in the 12% decrease. Additionally, the blue photon fraction had no effect on final cannabinoid concentration. In regards to the efficacy of the lights, they found that at an energy cost of \$0.10 USD per kWh, it costs 1.6 cents per mol of photons from an HPS light fixture, while it only costs between 1.1 and 1.3 cents per mol for the LED lights.

Conclusion:

Optimized lighting is critical to the economics of indoor *Cannabis* cultivation. This study indicates that efficacy is more important than spectra and that decreasing the blue photon fraction in electric lights for growing *Cannabis* can increase yield. Finally, they also discovered that LEDs are more cost effective than HPS lights for growing *Cannabis*.

Application Summary

Summary:

Four different Apogee Instruments products, ST-100, MQ-500, PS-300, and SN-500-SS, are used in researching how to increase *Cannabis* economic yield with lighting.

Apogee Sensors Used:

- ST-100 Temperature Sensor
- MQ-500 Quantum Sensor
- PS-300 Spectroradiometer
- SN-500-SS Radiometer

Organization:

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Reference Article:

Cannabis lighting: Decreasing blue photon fraction increases yield but efficacy is more important for cost effective production of cannabinoids