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News Release

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Farmington man sentenced for growing more than 400 marijuana plants

ST. PAUL – Earlier today in federal court, a 40-year-old Farmington man was sentenced for operating a marijuana grow operation and harvesting more than 400 plants in Elk River Township. United States District Court Judge Donovan W. Frank sentenced David Minh Phan to 12 months and one day in prison on one count of conspiracy to manufacture marijuana. Phan was indicted along with Quy Trong Nguyen, age 34, of St. Louis Park, on October 18, 2010. Both men pleaded guilty on January 4, 2011.

On May 3, 2011, Judge Frank sentenced Nguyen to 12 months and one day in prison on one count of conspiracy.

In their plea agreements, the defendants admitted that from the spring of 2010 through October 6, 2010, they conspired to plant, cultivate, and harvest hundreds of marijuana plants on a plot of land in Todd County. Both were arrested on October 6, at which time, authorities seized 443 marijuana plants.

This case was the result of an investigation by the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, the Todd County Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, and the Central Minnesota Drug and Gang Task Force. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas M. Hollenhorst.

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