



# Alternative Medicine

## Nature Med: The benefits of medical marijuana

Randy Metcalf

*The Explorer*

Marana's Ray Leckliter spent a little more than 10 years in the Army, during which he was injured while serving in Iraq. After being medicated with prescription pills for years, Leckliter found marijuana to be a better alternative for him and his health.

His life was forever changed when a large box fell on him. He blew three discs in his spine, tore the patellofemoral ligaments above and below each knee, and he has lost all of the cartilage in both his knees and ankles.

He was medically treated with ibuprofen and with a "ridiculous amount" of vicodin.

When he was discharged, the Army continued to prescribe pills for him.

When Leckliter hit 311 pounds, his doctor told him he was then suffering from pharmaceutical obesity along with having liver and stomach problems from the amount of pills he was taking each day.

"I stopped taking all of the medications about two years ago and switched to medical marijuana," Leckliter said. "I'm now down to 180 pounds. My head and my legs are generally better.

"The marijuana also replaced all of the psychiatric medication I was on for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)."

Currently, the state of Arizona does not recognize PTSD to be a condition that can be treated with medical marijuana.



Randy Metcalf/The Explorer

Nature Med Inc. general manager Jacob Schmidt takes out a sample of some of the marijuana sold at the dispensary, which opened in Marana in July.

### Nature Med Dispensary

5390 W. Ina Road

(520) 620-9123

[www.naturemedinc.com](http://www.naturemedinc.com)

Open daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Two years ago, prior to switching to medical marijuana, Leckliter confined himself to a cabin, which was in the middle of a 100-acre property. That was the only place he felt he could handle living.

"I was so depressed, I was so just.... I was in a horrible place," he recalled.

Within six weeks of being off prescription pills and taking medical marijuana, Leckliter started losing weight, feeling better and went from "being a hermit" to now being married and having a child.

"My whole life turned around.

I'm not going to say that medical marijuana is the entire reason for it, but it's what jumpstarted it, for sure, no doubt about it."

Now living in Marana, Leckliter has found Nature Med to be his go-to medical marijuana dispensary because he feels it is the nicest facility around and the people employed are very knowledgeable. Though he was a little apprehensive to take medical marijuana advice from someone else at first because he researched it so much before trying it, Leckliter realized he had more to learn, and the staff at Nature Med was there to teach him.

"Every time I go in there, they have a recommendation for me," he said. "I stopped being hard-headed and started listening to them."

The dispensary is being touted by its owners as a one-stop-shop for those in need of a medical marijuana.



## What does medical marijuana treat?

### Asthma

More than 15 million Americans are affected by asthma. Using cannabis would be beneficial for 80 percent of them.

### Glaucoma

Fourteen percent of all blindness in America is from glaucoma, a progressive loss of vision. Cannabis smoking would benefit 90 percent of the 2.5 million glaucoma victims.

### Tumors

A tumor is a mass of swollen tissue. Researchers at the Medical College of Virginia discovered that cannabis is a successful herb for reducing many types of tumors, both benign and malignant (cancerous). I

### Nausea relief (e.g. AIDS, cancer therapy, sea sickness)

Though it is known to be damaging to the immune system, chemotherapy is claimed by practitioners to benefit cancer and AIDS patients. But chemo has some other serious side effects too, including nausea. Cannabis has become a common drug to ease those side effects.

### Epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, back pain, muscle spasms

Cannabis is beneficial for 60 percent of all epileptics.

- [www.medicalmarijuana.org](http://www.medicalmarijuana.org)

 NatureMed inc.

**Nature's Medicine**

Open 7 Days

10am-5pm

(520) 620-9123

[www.NatureMedinc.com](http://www.NatureMedinc.com)

5390 W. Ina Rd.  
Marana, AZ.

(3/4 mile west of I-10)