

Ohio State Highway Patrol

Media Release

General Headquarters • Columbus, Ohio



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Patrol seizes 104 pounds of high-grade hydroponic marijuana, valued at more than \$4.7 million in Lucas County traffic stop

TOLEDO – Ohio State Highway Patrol troopers seized 104 pounds of high-grade hydroponic marijuana, valued at more than \$4.7 million during a traffic stop Tuesday on the Ohio Turnpike in Lucas County. The suspect will be arraigned today in Maumee Municipal Court on felony charges associated with the case.

The driver, Erjon Ruci, 28, of Naperville, Ill., was charged with drug abuse and trafficking in drugs, both second-degree felonies.

Troopers stopped the Mercury Grand Marquis with Illinois registration, for a marked lane violation westbound near milepost 49 on the Ohio Turnpike in Lucas County at 3:38 p.m. Tuesday. A Patrol drug-detecting canine alerted to the vehicle and a probable cause search revealed 104 pounds of the high-grade marijuana.

Ruci was incarcerated in the Lucas County Jail. If convicted, he could face up to 16 years in prison and up to a \$30,000 fine.

Through May, the Patrol seized more than 302,000 grams of illegal narcotics valued at nearly \$12 million. In 2007, the Patrol seized more than 3.3 million grams of illegal narcotics valued at approximately \$53.8 million.

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