

Russian Narcotics Officer Caught Growing Marijuana to Meet Drug Arrest Quota

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Agents found two marijuana plantations run by the drug enforcement officer, investigators said. **Dmitry Rogulin / TASS**

A senior Russian narcotics officer is suspected of growing marijuana with the intent of planting the drugs on innocent people, investigators have [said](#).

Authorities opened the investigation after the suspect, the deputy head of a local drug enforcement agency, staged a drug bust in the western Russian town of Velikiye Luki last week.

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Investigators and Federal Security Service (FSB) agents found two marijuana plantations run by the drug enforcement officer, the Pskov region's Investigative Committee branch said

Saturday.

“The suspect organized the collection of cannabis by a local resident in order to artificially improve personal indicators of uncovering and curbing drug crimes,” the investigators [said](#) in an earlier statement.

The Investigative Committee did not say whether it detained the officer or released him pending the investigation.

The unnamed officer faces up to 10 years in prison on charges of exceeding his authority and up to 10 years on drug trafficking charges.

Russian police work on a quota system in which senior officers are known to [order](#) their subordinates to “lie, invent crimes or provoke people into committing them” to fulfill quotas.

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