

COLOMBIA: Opium Poppy Cultivation Spreading

The area under opium poppy cultivation in Colombia has risen

[REDACTED] Because opium poppy plants mature in only about four months, more than one crop can be grown in the same field each year, as is normal in Mexico and Guatemala. Colombian harvestable cultivation, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has reached 28,000 hectares this year. [REDACTED]

Comment: Colombia's harvestable opium cultivation probably will be surpassed only by Burma's 160,000 hectares this year. The aerial eradication program has sprayed about 6,000 hectares since February, but, because of multiple cropping, respraying is necessary and is most effective when the crop is about three months old. Much of the harvest lost to spraying may be made up because Colombian yields will increase as growers become more proficient. [REDACTED]

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