

## Check Out Your Vegetation

Some teens are now taking a hallucinogenic drug more potent than LSD—and it is legal in most states. Salvia divinorum, a member of the sage family, is a green, leafy plant with blue flowers. It is frequently used in landscaping. Teens can also buy it off the Internet. The Drug Enforcement Agency is currently investigating salvia, but has not set a timetable for a decision on whether the drug should remain legal at the federal level. Some drug counselors believe hallucinogens are more likely to lead to suicide. Long-term effects are at this time unknown.

Several ugly scenarios immediately come to mind with this drug:

- A facility has the plant growing outside and the kids or staff harvest it for recreational purposes. Someone gets caught or hurt. When asked where they got the drug, “your facility” is not an answer that makes for good public relations.
- Staff member smokes some and then drives a vehicle for the facility.
- Staff member gives some to a youth.

Now might be a good time to look at the vegetation on your site and to review your drug policies. Perhaps we need to look at prohibiting drugs that are not currently illegal but could reflect poorly on your facility.