

Industrial Hemp

Frequently Asked Questions



What is industrial hemp?

Industrial hemp is a plant variety derived from the genus *Cannabis sativa* L. and is among the same species as marijuana. It contains a low concentration of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), a chemical compound known for its hallucinogenic effects. Industrial hemp contains less than 0.3 percent THC, which means it cannot be used as a drug. The hemp plant is typically processed into commodities such as textiles, fiber, forage and cosmetics.

Is it legal to produce?

Under the provisions of the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill, the 2015 Nevada Senate Bill (SB) 305 and the 2016 Nevada SB 396, industrial hemp can be produced in Nevada under the supervision of the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) through its research and development program. To grow hemp legally, THC concentrations must stay below the 0.3 percent threshold. Required annual inspections, sampling and analyses will be conducted, and if a crop is found to have a THC concentration above the threshold, the NDA may order destruction of the crop at the producer's expense.

What can producers do with hemp?

Under the provisions of SB 396, industrial hemp products intended for human consumption, like cannabidiol (CBD oil), can be sold in marijuana dispensaries throughout Nevada. Plant material can be processed into fiber for use as textiles, refined into cosmetic products and extracted for oil. Hemp can be processed by a grower or by a licensed handler of industrial hemp. Any sale of hemp-based commodities must be mentioned within a post-production report required of the permitted grower.

How much water does hemp need?

Data will be collected from this research program related to industrial hemp water usage in Nevada.

Does production require pesticide applications?

Ultimately, it is at the discretion of the producer to apply pesticides based on their circumstances. The NDA has developed a list of useable pesticides on industrial hemp, which is available on the NDA website.



Is there restriction on acreage that can be produced?

The NDA has not incorporated an area restriction within its hemp regulations. Industrial hemp is treated similarly to other traditional agricultural crops, with the addition of required inspection and research components.

What are examples of industrial hemp research?

Industrial hemp research can vary depending on producer interest. Research trials in the past have involved:

- The comparison of industrial hemp varieties to determine viability within Nevada's climate.
- Assessment of water uptake to compare industrial hemp with other crops such as alfalfa, wheat or corn.
- Determination of best production approach to industrial hemp farming, involving plant spacing, planting depth and irrigation techniques.

How do I apply for the research and development program?

An interested producer can access the application through the Industrial Hemp program page on the NDA website. Prior to applying, producers should have the following information:

- Location of crop productions (specific GPS coordinates)
- Detailed outline of research intentions
- All relevant contact information
- The program policy found on the NDA website

The NDA will provide a permit to growers, producers and handlers of industrial hemp.

Can I purchase my own seed?

Because hemp is a member of the *Cannabis sativa* L. family, it is considered a schedule 1 narcotic by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The NDA has been issued a permit from the DEA to import certified industrial hemp seed from international suppliers. The NDA must be involved in all industrial hemp seed purchases. Certified seed is required for any acreage size. Noncertified seed can be purchased, but is limited to fewer than five acres of production in the first season. Contact Russell Wilhelm, the Industrial Hemp program manager, for information on sourcing industrial hemp seed.

Contact

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