



600 E Boulevard Ave., Dept. 602
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Equal Opportunity in Employment and Services

Industrial Hemp: Frequently asked questions (Revised 11-08)

What is industrial hemp?

Industrial hemp includes a number of varieties of *Cannabis sativa* L. that are intended for agricultural and industrial purposes. These varieties are grown for their seed and fiber content, as well as byproducts such as oil, seed cake, etc. Industrial hemp is low (0.3 percent or less) in the hallucinogenic compound delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) and high in cannabidiol (CBD).

Is industrial hemp the same as marijuana?

No. Both are varieties of *Cannabis sativa* L., but marijuana is high in THC (6 percent or more) and low in CBD.

What is industrial hemp used for?

Industrial hemp is primarily grown as a source of fiber that is principally used for textiles, rope, paper and building materials. Increasingly, hemp seed is used for food, feed and oil. Hemp oil is low in saturated fats. It is also the basis for pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, inks, lubrication, household detergents, stain removers, varnishes, resins and paints. As the biofuels industry matures, industrial hemp may prove to be a significant input for cellulosic ethanol production.

Where is it cultivated?

Industrial hemp is commercially grown in virtually every industrialized country in the world – except the United States. The Canadian government reports that it “has proven to be a hardy, fast growing, resilient and high yield crop. Industrial hemp has shown good potential as an alternative to be included in rotation with other, more traditional crops. Its short growth period of 85-120 days makes it well suited for cultivation in many parts of Canada. If planted at the proper time, it reportedly suppresses most weeds. Insect and disease problems must be managed like any other crop.”

What do you need before you plant industrial hemp?

Before growing industrial hemp, you will need a North Dakota license issued by the agriculture commissioner.

North Dakota Department of Agriculture contact information

North Dakota Department of Agriculture
Industrial Hemp Program
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