

Industrial Hemp: Frequently asked questions

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.

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.” In 2005, Canadian farmers planted 24,000 acres of industrial hemp, three times the 2004 total. The anticipated Canadian acreage for 2006 is 40,000 acres.

What will these rules do?

If ratified, the rules will implement laws passed by the North Dakota Legislature, providing a legal framework for the cultivation and sale of industrial hemp in North Dakota.

What else is needed?

If adopted, these rules must be approved by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency. It is also likely that Congress must act on the matter, changing federal law to allow hemp production.