



Facts About Industrial Hemp

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What is hemp?

- Hemp is a variety of the plant *Cannabis sativa* that is grown for many industrial uses.
- It is one of the fastest growing plants.
- It was one of the first plants to be spun into usable fiber 10,000 years ago.
- It can be harvested, refined and utilized for a wide range of products including clothing, cosmetics, construction materials, animal feed, biofuels, medicinal products, and many more.

What is the difference between marijuana and hemp?

- Although marijuana (cannabis as a drug) and industrial hemp are both members of the same species, they are distinct strains with unique biochemical compositions and uses.
- Hemp has lower concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive component, and has higher concentrations of cannabidiol (CBD), which decreases or eliminates its psychoactive effects. Officially, hemp contains < 0.3% THC and marijuana contains ≥10% THC.



Why conduct research on hemp in Virginia?

- Industrial hemp could become a major cash crop for farmers and help enhance social, economic, and solidarity efforts in Virginia.
- Renewed interest in hemp comes from its broad array of uses and it has often been called the 25,000 uses crop.
- However, there are a number of research questions regarding crop production, pest management, and marketing that must be addressed before industrial hemp becomes a profitable crop in our state.