



Master Class Guidebook

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History

Hemp has a long and robust history that could fill its own book. The earliest written references to hemp can be found in Aesop's fables. But its heritage traces back to ancient China, and surely beyond.

Our ancestors traveled to America in boats that made adequate use of hemp for its sails and ropes. Our Constitution is written on hemp paper made from fiber pulp. The first commissioned naval vessel, the USS Constitution, named by President George Washington himself, used more than 120,000 pounds of hemp fiber in its rigging. That ship fought many glorious battles, and is still afloat today.

Speaking of Washington, America's first president was an avid hemp grower, himself. He even liked hemp more than tobacco farming. Tobacco farmers will find familiarity in the techniques and equipment that can be applied in harvesting hemp.

In the past, hemp was commonly harvested by hand using a hook or sickle. Breaking and scutching hemp, a laborious chore, was one of the few ways a slave could earn income to buy his or her freedom. On the opposite side, the chore was also used as punishment. There are many similarities between the devices used for scutching and breaking flax and hemp.

Hemp really saw its hay-day during World War 2, when the federal government, through the Department of War, commissioned hemp mills throughout the midwest. A leading pioneer and visionary during this time was a man named Matthew Rens, known as America's Hemp King. Much can be learned about some of the processes and methods applied by Rens, who led the pack in the first half of the 20th century. His grandson has written an excellent history, which is found online: <http://newheadnews.com/hemp/Rens.hempstory.Wis/>

Matt Rens died in 1950. Over the next eight years, hemp declined due to innovations such as synthetic fiber and gum tape. The industry experienced instability due to the field retting process required to separate the fiber from the woody inner core of the stalk. The last major industrial hemp fiber crop was in 1957. The final nail for hemp was driven with the passage of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, which lumped hemp in with marijuana, making its cultivation illegal.

Further historical study of hemp, with plenty of pictures and reference documents is available online at www.Hempology.org

Hemp got a reprieve in 2014 with the passage of the 2014 Farm Bill, which allowed individual states to start hemp research programs. Driven by medical advancements, particularly in the area of epilepsy, Texas adopted the Texas Compassionate Use Act (TCUA), which was Texas' version of a research program. That Act still exists today, and allows patients suffering from certain neuro-degenerative conditions, such as epilepsy, parkinson's, multiple sclerosis and terminal cancer, among other conditions, to obtain a prescription-only CBD oil. Only three

companies are licensed to produce this prescription-only CBD oil in the state. For info on the TCUA, visit DPS website here >> <https://bit.ly/2nEOWhL>

In 2018, President Donald Trump signed the 2018 Farm Bill, which removed hemp from the DEA's list of Schedule 1 drugs. This bill further allowed states to adopt its own cultivation programs. In June 2019, Texas did just that with the adoption of HB 1325. At the end of October, the USDA released its Interim Hemp Rule, which will guide states that have adopted hemp cultivation programs. We are currently waiting on the USDA to approve Texas' hemp rules, which were submitted in December. Once Texas' hemp bill is approved by USDA, the state can begin issuing licenses. TDA projects licensing could be available by mid-February 2020.

Compliance & Licensing

The information in this section should not be considered legal advice. This information is subject to change as both the Texas Dept. of Agriculture (TDA), Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and USDA have not finalized rules. Everything below is considered "interim" until final adoption and/or approval. Seek help from a cannabis attorney for professional legal counsel.

Federal statutes for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) hemp program are found under Title 7, Chapter 38, Subchapter 7, Hemp Production.

The USDA has also released interim hemp rules, which mostly govern how states should setup their hemp programs. Because Texas is expected to be governed by its own hemp program, most of the rules required by the USDA are reflected in TDA's rules. You can find a copy of the interim hemp rule here: <https://bit.ly/2ZYADdk>.

State statutes for hemp cultivation in Texas are found in Title 5, Subtitle F, Chapters 121 & 122 of the Texas Agriculture Code.

State statutes for manufacture, distribution, and retailing of consumable hemp products in Texas is governed by Subtitle A, Title 6, Chapter 443 of Texas Health and Safety Code.

Furthermore, TDA and DSHS has released draft rules for the state's hemp program.

TDA's rules are found in Title 4, Part 1, Chapter 24, Hemp Program

DSHS's rules are found in Title 25, Part 1, Chapter 300, Manufacture, Distribution, And Retail Sale Of Consumable Hemp Products

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THIS ENDS THE SAMPLE