

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

## **-Who can grow industrial hemp, where can it be grown and is there a size or zone requirement?**

Anybody can grow industrial hemp except one who has been convicted of a felony for controlled substance in the past 10 years. Anyone who has been issued a hemp license can grow on the approved growing areas indicated on their application. Industrial hemp can be grown anywhere, indoor or outdoor. The research pilot program allows for any size growing area, from large acre lots to small garden sizes. There are no zoning requirements for a hemp license.

## **-How do I get an industrial hemp growers and/or processor license?**

Applications and registration for an industrial hemp grower license **and** processor registration must be submitted during the open application period. The next application period will open on November 15<sup>th</sup> and will close February 15<sup>th</sup>. Your application must be complete, you must submit an aerial photograph of the growing area and payment. License fees for an industrial hemp growers license is \$250-\$350 depending on the size of the growing area. There is no fee for processor registration.

## **-Do I need to register as a processor?**

Maybe, processor registration is required for processing industrial hemp. Processing means to treat or transform harvested industrial hemp from its natural state for distribution in commerce. You do not need to register for personal use only.

## **-How long until I know if my application has been approved?**

Please give the TDA two weeks to review all license or registration. You will be notified via email of the status of the application after two weeks.

## **-When are licenses mailed out?**

Licenses for industrial hemp growers are mailed on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Growers are not licensed until they have received a growers license.

## **-What does viable and non-viable mean?**

Viable hemp is material capable of reproduction including; seeds, seedlings & clones. Non-viable material is not capable of reproduction, which includes stalks, leaves, and flowers.

## **-Do you know anyone who can consult me on how to grow?**

The TNHIA is a resource for assistance as well as UT extension offices in your county.

## **-Where do I find seeds or seedlings?**

Individuals are responsible for sourcing their own propagative material. TNHIA is a great resource. All seed or plant material being brought into the state must have prior approval by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture (TDA). Please use our seed and propagule acquisition forms to request approval. If importing from another state use this link: [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/agriculture/documents/planthealth/Domestic\\_Seed\\_Import\\_Requirements.pdf](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/agriculture/documents/planthealth/Domestic_Seed_Import_Requirements.pdf) With your seed or plant acquisition request, you must submit a copy of your industrial hemp growers license, the industrial hemp license for the firm providing the seed and third party test results showing the variety is below the .3%THC threshold. If you want to grow and sell clones, you must provide documentation of permission from the source that allows for replication of those genetics. All seed and clones being brought into the state or leaving the state must be shipped or brought DIRECTLY to the Tennessee Department of agriculture for inventory. Movement permits are required to track the purchase or movement of industrial hemp seed, seedling and clones (viable material).

## **-How will I know when my plants need to be inspected?**

Your plants are ready to be inspected 30 days prior to harvest. What that looks depends on what you are trying to produce. If you are aiming to produce mature CBD, your crop will be flowering and look something like this:



like  
flower for

**-What is the inspection process like?**

Every crop grown and every variety may be inspected and sampled by a TDA plant inspector prior to harvest. The grower should contact TDA 30 days prior to harvest for inspection. The license holder is responsible for paying all fees associated with the sample. Each sample is \$150. Please keep in mind that the way you set up your production method, may influence the number of samples required to represent the amount of material being produced. Growing multiple varieties will also increase the sampling cost.

**-What's the deal with the agronomic reports?**

Every grower is required to submit an agronomic report to TDA. These reports are supplied by TDA. This is the department's way of analyzing the data from each growing area. **EVERY** licensed grower is required to submit an agronomic report! If you did not grow anything, please fill out all the relevant portions and explain why you did not grow. If you need additional copies of this report, they can be found on the TDA industrial hemp webpage, under the section for licensed grower information.

**-How many agro reports do I need with multiple strains and growing areas?**

Each growing area and each variety need their own agronomic report. Multiple varieties on one report can not be used to collect data about which varieties perform the best. For example: if you have 2 varieties both growing in 2 fields, you will have 4 agronomic reports. If you have one variety growing in one field and another variety growing in another field, you will need 2 agronomic reports. Keeping your field simple is the best way to collect good data and may decrease costs of sampling.

**-How big do the flowers need to be to get an accurate sample?**

The time of the sample is dependent on the time of harvest, we aim to inspect and sample 30 days before harvest regardless of the flower size.

**-When will I be charged for the samples taken; pay at time of sampling?**

Invoices are mailed to the mailing address provided on your application approximately two weeks after sampling.

**-Can I send you pictures of my plants?**

Yes! Send pictures to your inspector or [industrial.hemp@tn.gov](mailto:industrial.hemp@tn.gov)

We love it when you share your progress with by sending great hemp pictures to our email!

**-Can I use pesticides on my crop?**

You can NOT use registered pesticide on industrial hemp in Tennessee. There are no pesticides (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, etc.) currently registered for use on Cannabis spp. (industrial hemp and marijuana) due to the predominant federal nature of pesticide regulation. There are many organic options for industrial hemp. Your local county extension agent is a knowledgeable source.

**-If I'm growing 1 strain but they were planted at different times/some from seed some from clones, do I need to be sampled twice?**

Maybe, each situation can be different. By keeping in contact with your inspector, you can develop a plan that will fit each unique situation. The purpose of sampling is to take a representative sample of the material you are producing, to ensure that the THC is under .3%.

**-Can I send off samples to get tested on my own?**

Yes and TDA encourages self-monitoring of industrial hemp crops. A google search will give you multiple options. Contact a lawyer for legal advice about sending samples across state lines. Also, please note that 3<sup>rd</sup> party test results are not in place of sampling conducted by TDA.

**-What will you do if my plants run hot?**

If sample results come back above .3% THC, the hemp represented with that sample will be destroyed.

**-Can I harvest some plants that are done before you have a chance to sample?**

Yes, but it is not permitted to leave the property. If the test results come back above .3% THC and the harvested material has been comingled with other harvested material, it may all have to be destroyed.

**-What are the best strains to grow in TN?**

That is one of the research questions we are hoping to answer with the pilot program.

**-Do I need a permit to sell cut flowers, oil and other non-viable forms of hemp?**

Nope, handling harvested non-viable industrial hemp does not require any permit from TDA. If you will be processing for a food product, a food manufacturing license may be required.

**-Do I need to be at the property when you come to inspect?**

It is a good idea, but not required. You may just have your agent present.

**-My plants aren't growing; do I destroy my crop before or after you come to inspect?**

If you want to destroy your crop, please notify your inspector before doing so. Your inspector will follow up with a visit to verify your crop has been destroyed.

**-What can I do with my harvested crop?**

Viable industrial hemp must only be transferred to a licensed pilot program participant. Non-viable (not able to develop, grow, or survive) industrial hemp is not regulated by the TDA.

**-Are there federal grants available and can I get crop improvement?**

Currently, there are not federal grants available for industrial hemp. Federal farm programs such as crop insurance, farm loans and conservation reserve may be jeopardized if industrial hemp is planted; these programs are managed by USDA. Contact a lawyer for legal advice.

**-Could my bank close my account?**

Although the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of the Treasury recently issued guidance on bank involvement with cannabis operations, banks including state-chartered banks may be reluctant to provide services to cannabis growers for fear of being prosecuted for federal laws and regulations violations.