

# What is Hemp and What is it's History

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# This is a Hemp Plant

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# This is a Marijuana Plant

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# *Cannabis sativa* L.

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“Cannabis” is the genus. “sativa” is the species, and it means cultivated in Latin. The “L” refers to the great Swedish biologist Karl Linnaeus who named the plant in 1753.

It is a herbaceous plant originally indigenous to eastern Asia and widely planted around the world.

Marijuana	Industrial Hemp
Contains over 500 compounds. Selected to be concentrated with the psychoactive compound tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)	Contains over 500 compounds. Low in the psychoactive compound tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). Some plants selected to be concentrated in cannabidiol (CBD)
Grown for recreational drug or medicinal use.	Grown for fiber, food, or Cannabinoids.

# Some Hemp History

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- Grown in the US since colonial times
- Minor crop valued for fiber used to make rope and ships' sails.
- Regulated by the *Marihuana Tax Act of 1937*
  - Seen as a competitor to the paper industry for newspaper pulp
  - Impediment to the growth of synthetic fibers such as nylon for rope
  - Concerns over recreational and medical uses





# Some Hemp History

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- World War II breaks out. The US loses its hemp imports from the Philippines.
- Hemp production is encouraged and about 300,000 acres were harvested between 1942 - 1945



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- Marijuana was classified as a Schedule I drug (high potential for abuse and unsafe for use) by the *Controlled Substances Act of 1970*.



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Hemp was  
now Illegal





# Some Hemp History: 2014 Farm Bill

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- The 2014 Farm Bill (section 7606) authorized Department's of Agriculture in states that legalized hemp cultivation to create industrial hemp **research pilot programs**.
- Industrial Hemp is defined as the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of the plant, whether growing or not, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) of not more than 0.3% dried weight basis.



# Where We Are Today: 2018 Farm Bill

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- Distinguished hemp from marijuana (hemp is 0.3% THC or less)
  - The term *hemp* means the plant *Cannabis sativa* L. and any part of that plant, **including the seeds thereof and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of isomers, whether growing or not**, with a delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol concentration of not more than 0.3 percent on a dry weight basis.
- Removed hemp from Schedule 1 status under the *Controlled Substances Act*.
- Removed interstate travel restrictions for plant material.
- Opens hemp production up to banking and **crop insurance** (it still may be some time before these are fully available, but things are moving quickly).



# Where We Are Today: Texas

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- On June 10, 2019, House Bill 1325 was signed into law by Governor Abbott.
  - The bill authorizes the production, manufacture, and retail sale, and inspection of industrial hemp crops and products in Texas. (TDA Website)
- The first legal hemp (in many year) was grown in Texas in 2020.



# Thanks!!!

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