

Hemp

Regardless where you get your news it seems not a day passes without seeing something about Hemp. While most home gardeners will not be growing hemp any time soon a number of us have found ourselves in various side conversations regarding hemp and whether we should be expecting questions regarding the planting and growing of this crop. With this in mind the fact sheet highlights some key facts and CT resources to expand your own knowledge.

What is Hemp? Is it different from Marijuana?

Hemp and Marijuana are plants that belongs to the family Cannabaceae. Both are varieties of cannabis that through selective breeding have been developed for two very different purposes. Hemp is used mainly for fiber and seed oil. Marijuana is best known for its narcotic components. While it's true both varieties contain levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the substances that produces the "high" sensation, federal and state law require hemp to have no more than 0.3% delta-9 THC on a dry weight basis. As such Hemp does not produce the high sensation.

What are the Laws?

While Hemp is no longer considered to be a controlled substance the growth, production and manufacturing of Hemp are governed by Federal and Connecticut laws. The federal law that addresses Hemp is known as the 2018 Agricultural Improvement Act (Farm Bill). The Farm Bill requires that every site where hemp is grown will be registered with the state or federal government under a program with requirements for inspection and testing. In 2019, Governor Lamont signed Public Act 19-3: "An Act Concerning A Pilot Program for Hemp Production" which requires hemp growers, processors, and manufacturers to obtain a license and adhere to certain requirements. These requirements are highly specific and can be found on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture website under the Featured links - Hemp Research Pilot Program website or by following this link <https://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=1367&Q=608496&PM=1>

A powerpoint summarizing the regulations was presented by the Department of Agriculture on June 2, 2019 and is posted on the Connecticut Department of Agriculture website or by clicking on this link https://www.ct.gov/doag/lib/doag/inspection_regulation/Hemp_Outreach_6.2.19.pdf

Can the home gardener grow Hemp?

The simple answer is yes as long as they follow all of the federal and Connecticut state regulations.

Additional Resources

University of Connecticut Hemp Research project

<http://cahnr.uconn.edu/research/rsrch/rsrchfacultyhomepage.php>

Purdue University Hemp Project

<https://purduehemp.org/>

Penn State University Extension Services

<https://extension.psu.edu/industrial-hemp-production>