

Industrial Hemp in Kansas

Part 2 – What about seed?

In 2020, Kansas residents who have acquired a license from the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) will be allowed to grow, handle, and/or process Industrial Hemp (IH). Kansas State University (KSU) will again be conducting research to gain information valuable to growers across the state. We encourage you to keep up to speed with our efforts on Facebook (@kstateindustrialhemp).

What is the recommended seeding rate?

- KSU has not done any seeding rate or depth research yet. However, we did have success in 2019 with the following guidelines..
- Fiber: 60 lbs. live seed per acre, drilled ½ inch deep, 9 inch row spacing
- Grain & Dual Purpose: 30 lbs. live seed per acre, drilled ½ inch deep, 9 in row spacing
- Cannabinoids: same as Grain if harvesting large quantity of plant material by combine. Also can be grown similar to high value specialty crops (nursery crops or tomatoes). Transplant plugs into plasticulture system in rows 6 ft apart with 4 ft spacing within the row.

Seed suppliers

- Locating seed may be the most difficult task in this rapidly evolving industry. Please source your seed early and insist on quality control measures such as certified seed for fiber and grain varieties. For feminized CBD hemp seed, ask to see a DNA analysis for plant sex.

Breeding, saving seed & wild collecting

- According to the rules and regulations for growing IH in Kansas, all hemp must come from Certified Seed of approved varieties.
- If you are breeding, saving your own open pollinated seed, or collecting seed from feral (naturalized) populations, those seed are not certified and do not fall within the rules and regulations.
- According to the rules and regulation in place for growing season 2019, you cannot grow hemp from any source other than Certified Seed. Please do not save seed or wild collect.

Challenges

- Seed is expensive (\$10 - \$20/lb or more) and difficult to locate. Prices up to and exceeding \$1/seed have been reported.
- Only one year of data exists in Kansas. KSU reports can be found [here](#). Do your homework and see what varieties have done well in KS and other states.
- Seeding date is important as it directly relates to plant height at maturity. There is no data yet evaluating recommended seeding dates in Kansas.

