

THE AMERICAN

HISTORY OF HEMP FARMING

The versatile hemp plant is thought to be one of the earliest crops cultivated by humans, showing up in Asia as early as 8,000 BCE.



Hemp also played a large role in the early days of the United States, growing in prominence until misunderstandings led to it being outlawed in the U.S. for decades. Now, with hemp newly legalized and "growing" more popular by the day, here is the fascinating history of hemp in the United States.

Early History

Hemp was cultivated by the Native Americans before European settlers arrived. They used it to make thread, rope, clothing, paper, and food.



1616

Hemp is planted at Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in the "New World," and is used to make rope, sails, and clothing.



Early 1700s

The governments of several English colonies require farmers to grow hemp. Some of this hemp was exported to England, where it was used for a variety of purposes, including to make shoes, books, and sails.



1776

Early drafts of the Declaration of Independence were written on hemp paper. To be fair, though, almost all paper at the time was written on hemp.



Special Highlight: The Founding Fathers and Hemp

Both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp, and Benjamin Franklin used hemp in one of America's first paper mills.

Make the most of the Indian hemp seed... and sow it everywhere!

- George Washington

Early 1900s

The production of hemp reached its peak in the first quarter of the 20th century, but cheap, synthetic fiber imports from abroad, as well as new legal restrictions from the government, stymied hemp production in the U.S.



1937

The government passes the Marijuana Tax Act, which places a burdensome tax on all hemp and leads to a fast decline in hemp production.

When Japan cut off supplies of hemp during WWII, the U.S. launched the "Hemp for Victory" campaign, extolling U.S. farmers to grow hemp, ultimately distributing 400,000 pounds of hemp seed.



1970

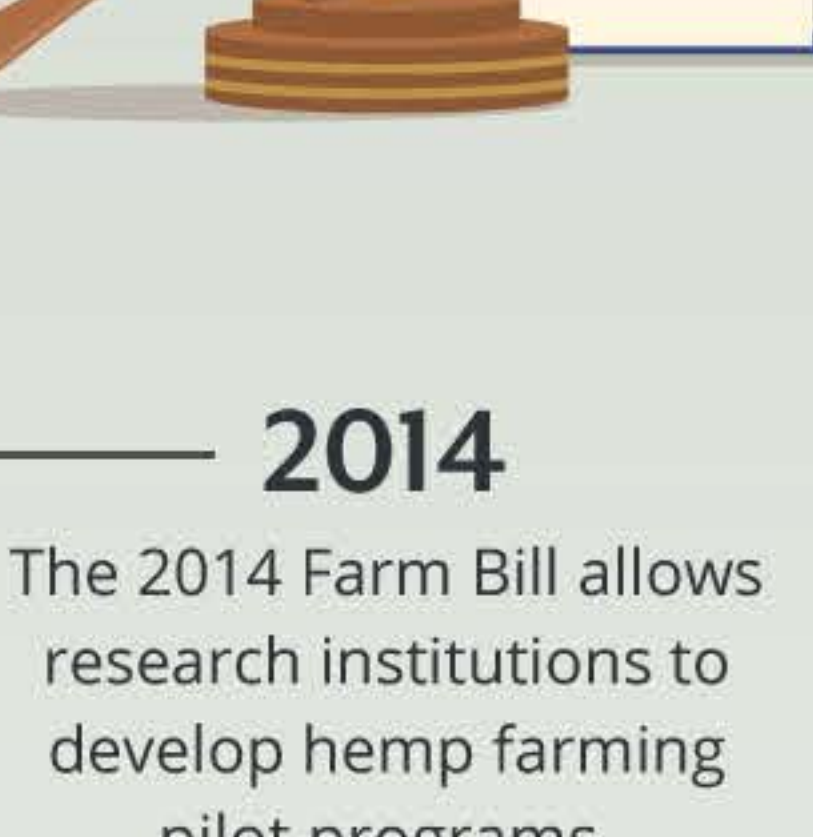
The passage of the Controlled Substances Act classifies hemp in all its forms as an illegal Schedule I drug.

In the case *Hemp Industries Association v. Drug Enforcement Administration*, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals rules that the DEA does not have the authority to regulate all parts of the hemp plant. This opens the door for the importation and sale of hemp products, including hemp seed, fiber, and oil.



2004

After numerous failed attempts to legalize industrial hemp, the 2018 Farm Bill includes an amendment that removes the hemp plant from the Controlled Substances Act, in effect legalizing the farming of hemp across the United States.



2014

The 2014 Farm Bill allows research institutions to develop hemp farming pilot programs.

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2018

Present Day

Over 40 states now allow hemp cultivation in some form. A market research report released in 2019 estimates that the industrial hemp market will be worth \$26.6 billion by the year 2025.



HIGH GRADE
HEMP SEED