

# The WSDA Hemp Program

#### What is the hemp program?



- 2014 Farm Bill authorized research, not commerce.
- In 2018, the Farm Bill removed Industrial Hemp from the Controlled Substances Act
- In 2019, the USDA established an "interim final rule," followed by a "Final Rule," that was published in 2021, and sets the stage for the commercial hemp program that we have today
- In 2021, we had approximately 115 growers producing hemp for a variety of commercial purposes throughout the state of Washington.



# How is hemp regulated by WSDA?

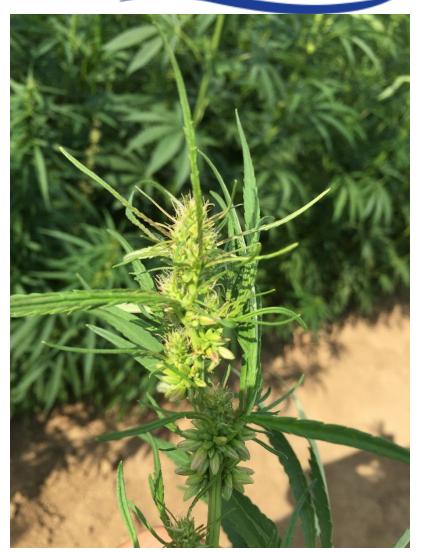


- All hemp producers must be licensed by the WSDA.
- Any crop that is harvested for commerce must be tested by a WSDA employee within 30 days prior to it's harvest.
- Crops must test below 0.3% THC to receive THC Certification, otherwise the crop must be remediated or disposed of using department approved methods.
- Once the hemp is harvested with a THC Certification or disposed, WSDA exits the regulatory process. Currently there is no regulatory framework for hemp products.
- Note: The inclusion of hemp extracts in food or ingestible products is illegal under Washington State law unless allowable under federal law. Chapter 15.140.040(5)
   RCW. CBD, for instance, is currently only allowed as a pharmaceutical and not as a food ingredient in WA. That has not stopped it from begin sold.

## Why are people growing hemp?

WSDA

- People grow hemp for a variety of reasons, however the hemp market in Washington State is highly "cannabinoid centric."
- Of about 70 or so growers
  - 45 are producing for CBD or other cannabinoids and cannabinoid oils
  - 33 are producing for smokable hemp
  - 24 are producing for fiber
  - 24 are producing for replication of seeds
  - 18 are producing for transplants and clones
  - 10 are producing for grain
  - 13 are producing for "Other" this may include microgreen lettuces or other experimental uses.



### 2022 Hemp in Food Task Force



- Proviso from legislative session to create a task force focused on hemp derivatives as ingredients in food (currently illegal under federal law).
- Currently being set up by WSDA with scientists, regulatory agencies, interested producers.
- Deadline of December 1, 2022 for a report to the Legislature from WSDA.
- Ideal goal for stakeholders: an identified pathway to increase market access and legally sell hemp-containing foods and beverages outside the I-502 market space.





Kelly McLain
Legislative Liaison/Policy Advisor
kmclain@agr.wa.gov

360.359.8091

#### **Hemp Program**

https://agr.wa.gov/departments/agricultural-products/hemp hemp@agr.wa.gov