

INDUSTRIAL HEMP (GRAIN, FIBER AND CBD) RESEARCH IN WISCONSIN: LESSONS FROM YEAR 1

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In the early 1900s, Wisconsin emerged as a leading producer of industrial hemp (*Cannabis sativa* L.) as a fiber crop (Wright 1918). There were several pushes to regulate hemp production and Wisconsin harvested its last hemp crop in 1957 (LeCloux 2019). Cannabis was banned under the Controlled Substances Act in the 1970s (LeCloux 2019). Under the Controlled Substances Act cannabis was listed as a Schedule I drug, the most restrictive category. The 2014 Farm Bill identified industrial hemp as *Cannabis sativa* L. with < 0.3% tetrahydrocannabinols (THC), separating it out from *Cannabis sativa* L. with > 0.3 % THC (otherwise known as marijuana) (Agricultural Act of 2014). The 2018 Farm Bill further identified hemp as an agricultural commodity and de-scheduled it as a Schedule 1 drug (Agricultural Act of 2018).

Farmers can again legally cultivate industrial hemp, which has led to many questions including best management practices, especially surrounding variety selection as well as weed and nutrient management. Most research surrounding these questions is outdated or geographically irrelevant (Sandler et al. 2019). Researchers within the UW system have been investigating various aspects of hemp cultivation ranging from agronomic practices to economics and markets. This talk will provide an update on projects in the following areas:

- Grain Variety Response to Seeding and Nitrogen Rate
- Grain Variety Selection
- Herbicide Tolerance
- Double Cropping
- CBD Production

References

- Agricultural Act of 2014, H.R. 2642, 113th Cong. (2014).
Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018, H.R.2, 115th Cong. (2018).
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