

Missouri Industrial Hemp 2020 Overview

by Alex O'Neill

2020 is an historic year for many reasons far from the obvious. Missouri business owners will be sowing their first commercial hemp crop throughout the next month as the state's Industrial Hemp Program is finally gearing up towards planting season. What will this year look like? Missouri farmers and cultivators will be facing a lot of challenges thrown their way, but what is to be expected?

Securing Quality Genetics or Cultivators



Fiber Hemp



Flower Hemp

Farmers will first be securing genetics based on desired production. Hemp can be grown for floral biomass that is rich in the almighty CBD, or a new favorite in the market, CBG. Other varieties will produce a crop that's high in biomass fibers and seeds that can be used for textiles, oils, and thousands of other bi-products. The first hurdle for cultivators is finding a clean, reliable source for genetics, clones, or varieties that are desired to produce.

Germination and Propagation



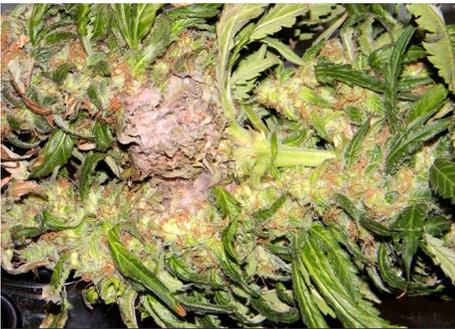
Once they've sourced a genetic, they've selected to produce, they will have to propagate clones or germinate from seed to get these plants ready to be put out in the field. Once the roots are established and the propagate has grown to some degree, the plants are typically taken to a high tunnel or hoop house in order to harden them off or prepare them for the next stage.

Transplanting in the Field



Farmers will either be sowing acres in rows spaced anywhere for 6' to 1' apart. Without the use of heavy or light equipment, the labor intensity of sowing large amounts of plants becomes more and more of a battle to overcome. Farmers will need to put plants in the ground no later than early to mid-June to avoid missing the season or producing a less fruitful crop.

Pests and Humidity



Botrytis on Hemp Flower



Thrip Damage On Leaf



Thrip



Tobacco Worm

Once farmers have sown their crop into the ground, they will have to battle mother nature with everything they've got. From botrytis and powdery mildew that arise from unhealthy plants and dips in humidity and temperatures at night, to thrips, tobacco "bud" worms, and aphids. Missouri has a strong presence of humidity and pests throughout the summer time, and we hope that the state is prepared.

Harvest



When the farmers finally reach late September, early October, it will be time to harvest. Similar to transplanting, if there are not strategies or equipment in place of manual labor, harvesting can be a very intensive situation. Farmers and cultivators will need to consider their supply chain at this point as well. Producers are still sitting on biomass from last year with issues of processing and manufacturing the biomass into crude or bi-products.

There are going to be a lot of success stories, and a lot of failures this year. Whether this is your first year, or fifth year growing hemp, we want to let you know that we're here to help you every step of the way. We understand the time, thought, and energy to produce a crop that not only is sellable, but something you're proud of. Best of luck to our Missouri farmer and cultivators!