

INDUSTRIAL HEMP

Hemp Seed Production

Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Phone: 800-292-3939 Online: www.Michigan.gov/HempGrowing

Are you interested in growing hemp to produce agricultural seed for sale?

This document will introduce you to state requirements regarding agricultural seed production and sales. This document does not address hemp seed as a food or feed ingredient.

Legal Status of Hemp Cultivation

The 2018 United States Farm Bill legalized the cultivation of hemp in the U.S. by licensed producers, offered states and tribes the ability to regulate hemp under a U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved plan and established the definition of hemp. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) manages the state's hemp cultivation plan.

What is Certified Seed?

Certified seed is seed of a known variety produced under strict certification standards to maintain varietal purity. The Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies (AOSCA) assists clients in the production, identification, and distribution of certified classes of seed and other crop propagation materials. AOSCA does not certify any seed variety. A state or tribe designated AOSCA member agency certifies seed after the variety passes a Variety Review Board (VRB) approval process. At the time of publication, AOSCA does not include THC as a factor evaluated by the VRB. AOSCA has published a list of over 100 varieties of hemp eligible for seed certification. Visit www.aosca.org/hemp to view "Hemp Varieties Eligible for Seed Certification."

In Michigan, the Michigan Crop Improvement Association (MCIA) is the AOSCA member agency that certifies field crop and turfgrass seed. While hemp is currently not certified by MCIA, you can obtain seed certified from out-of-state sources. Michigan does not require you to plant or sell certified seed, but you find more genetic consistencies if you use certified seed.

Licensing Requirements

Sellers of hemp seed are currently required to obtain a Hemp Processor-Handler License or a medical marijuana processor license from the Cannabis Regulatory Agency (CRA). Visit www.Michigan.gov/HempProcessing for more information. Monitor for legislative updates impacting hemp by [signing up for MDARD email alerts](#) or [Michigan Legislature email notifications](#).

Labeling Requirements

Hemp seed being sold for planting is regulated by federal and state seed laws and requires a seed label. The seed label informs purchasers about the content, quality, and the genetic information of the labeled seed's lot. The seed label allows for the consumer to make more informed choices and in doing so, demand higher quality

seed. All seed sold in Michigan must follow [Public Act 329 of 1965](#). PA 329 mirrors labeling requirements in the [Federal Seed Act](#), which also addresses requirements for seed crossing state lines.

Each container of agricultural seed offered for sale for planting purposes must have attached to the container in a visible place a label or tag with the following information. *Note:* If seed is distributed in bulk, the required information must accompany delivery, and must be provided to the purchaser at the time of delivery.

1. The commonly accepted name of the kind or kind and variety of each agricultural seed component in excess of 5% by weight of the whole, including the percentage by weight of each seed component in the order of its predominance.
 - If any seed component is a hybrid, the label must have the name of the hybrid and the word "hybrid" in connection with the kind of agricultural seed component.
 - If the seed is a blend, the word "blend" must appear on the label in connection with name of the kind of agricultural seed.
 - If the seed is a mixture, the word "mixture" or "mix" must be stated clearly on the label.
2. The percentage by weight of all weed seed present.
 - The name and the number per pound, if present, of each kind of restricted noxious weed seed, except buckhorn and yellow rocket, which must be shown on the label only when in excess of 90 seeds per pound.
 - The percentage of germination exclusive of dormant or hard seed, the percentage of dormant or hard seed if present, and the calendar month and year in which the percentages were determined by test.
 - Percentage by weight of crop seed other than those required to be named on the label. This figure must be shown under the heading "crop" or "other crop".
3. The percentage by weight of inert matter. Any coating material must be included as inert matter, and a percentage of the coating material may be shown immediately following inert matter. *Note:* The percentage by weight of agricultural seed, weed seed, other crop and inert matter must total 100.
4. A lot number or identifying mark.
5. The name and address of the person who labels the seed or sells the seed within the state of Michigan.

For more information, visit [MDARD - Agricultural Seed - Labeling Requirements](#).

Importing Hemp Seed from Canada or Other Countries

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) regulates the import and export of all seeds for planting, including industrial hemp seed.

Please see the following USDA information regarding the importation of hemp seed:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDAAMS/bulletins/23f8ef9>.

If you have further questions, reach out to the USDA at their contact information in www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/import-information/hemp.

Importers must carry a Hemp Grower Registration, a Hemp Processor-Handler License, or a medical marijuana processor license to possess viable hemp seed. Monitor for legislative changes to licensing.

Exporting Hemp Seed

Ensure you have appropriate licensing to legally sell hemp seed. If exporting to other states, ensure your hemp lot has had preharvest sampling conducted by MDARD to verify compliance with THC requirements. Once a compliant test result is received, harvesting of seed must be completed within 30 days of sample collection. Contact the receiving state's Department of Agriculture to determine their requirements. The receiving state may require that you register as a seed dealer in their state. If exporting seed to other countries, you must meet the entry requirements of the receiving country, which can be found at www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/SA_Export. Contact the Export Certification Specialist in your state or the state you are exporting to, listed on the website above with any questions.