

Industrial Hemp vs Marijuana

WHAT MAKES HEMP DIFFERENT FROM MARIJUANA?

Are Hemp and Marijuana the Same? Deconstructing the biggest controversy of hemp that caused it to be banned for 80 years

Short Answer: No, they are just both part of the Cannabis family

Hemp is completely different from marijuana in its function, cultivation and application. But these differences didn't stop our political leaders from getting confused and accidentally grouping all Cannabis species as a Schedule I Drug and banning it in 1970 under the Controlled Substances Act. In its application, hemp and marijuana serve completely different purposes. Marijuana, as it is widely known, is used for medicinal or recreational purposes. Hemp is used in variety of other applications that marijuana couldn't possibly be used in. These include healthy dietary supplements, skin products, clothing, and accessories. Overall, hemp is known to have over 25,000 possible applications.

Type	Is it Cannabis?	Chemical Makeup	Psycho active?	Cultivation	Applications
Hemp	Yes	Low THC (< 0.3%)	No	Requires minimal care. Adaptable to grow in most climates.	Automobiles, body care, clothing, construction, food, plastic, etc.
Marijuana	Yes	High THC (5%-35%)	Yes	Grown in carefully controlled atmosphere	Medical and recreational use

Can You Get “High” Off Hemp?

“Your lungs will fail before your brain attains any high from smoking industrial hemp”

Hemp vs Marijuana

So How Can You Actually Tell The Difference?

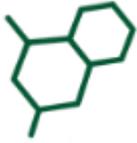
Hemp and marijuana can be differentiated by looking at its appearance, makeup, and natural adaptability. Marijuana and hemp have noticeable and contrasting differences.



APPEARANCE

Marijuana looks contrastingly different from hemp. When you observe their leaves, marijuana’s shape tends to either be broad leafed, a tight bud, or look like a nugget with organic hairs. Hemp, on the other hand, has skinnier leaves that’s concentrated at the top. Few branches or leaves exist below the top part of the plant. When you observe the plants from afar, marijuana looks like a short fat bush. Hemp is typically skinnier and taller (up to 20 ft). At times, it almost looks like long ditchweed – hemp was actually

found to grow among weeds in Nebraska. In general, when you compare a marijuana farm with those of industrial hemp, you'll notice that they are clearly very different from one another.



CHEMICAL MAKEUP

The main difference between the two is in its chemical composition, specifically in tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). THC is the chemical responsible for marijuana's psychological effects. An average batch of marijuana contains anywhere from 5-20% THC content. Some premium marijuana can have up to 25-30% THC. Hemp, on the other hand, has a max THC level of 0.3%, essentially making it impossible to feel any psychoactive effect or get a "high". This threshold is heavily regulated in other countries that have legalized hemp. Hemp also has high cannabidiol (CBD) content that acts as THC's antagonist, essentially making the minimal amount of THC useless.



CULTIVATION

The environment in which hemp and marijuana are grown is strikingly different. Hemp is grown closely together (as close as 4 inches apart) and are typically grown in large multi-acre plots. It can also grow in a variety of climates and its growth cycle is 108-120 days. Unlike hemp, marijuana requires a carefully controlled, warm, and humid atmosphere for proper growth. Its growth cycle is only 60-90 days. Medical cannabis also cannot be grown too close to each other. They are typically grown 6 feet apart. If, somehow, marijuana grows among (or close to) a hemp field, the hemp's pollen would immediately ruin the marijuana crop, diluting marijuana's psychoactivity.