



Frequently Asked Questions: Hemp Production in Georgia Agriculture

- 1. What is Hemp?** Hemp is defined as the *Cannabis sativa* L. plant and any part of the plant, including the 55 seeds and all derivatives, extracts, cannabinoids, isomers, acids, salts, and salts of 56 isomers, whether growing or not, with a THC concentration of no more than 0.3 percent on a dry-weight basis.
- 2. Where is Georgia with Hemp Production?** The licensing of hemp cultivation in Georgia is underway. To start, the Georgia Department of Agriculture is moving forward with licensing Georgia's Hemp Processors. Grower licensing will become available at a later date.
- 3. Who can legally grow hemp in Georgia?** Growers licensed by the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA) are authorized to grow and handle hemp in the state of Georgia. A **grower** licensing program is pending approval of the Georgia hemp production plan by USDA.
- 4. Are hemp processors required to be permitted in Georgia?** Yes, Georgia will begin accepting applications for Hemp **Processor** Permits starting **March 1**.
- 5. What's the difference between a Grower License vs. a Processor Permit?**
 - a. Grower License:** "Hemp Grower License" or "Grower License" means a license issued by the Department under the authority of the Georgia Hemp Farming Act authorizing a person to handle and cultivate hemp in the State of Georgia.
 - b. Processor Permit:** "Hemp Processor Permit" or "Processor Permit" means a permit issued by the Department under the authority of the Georgia Hemp Farming Act authorizing a person to handle and process hemp in the State of Georgia.
- 6. How do I become a hemp processor?** Any person processing or intending to process hemp must have a valid Hemp Processor Permit before receiving, processing, handling, or storing hemp at any location in Georgia. A valid permit means the permit has been issued and is unexpired, unsuspended, and unrevoked. As part of the Hemp Processor Permit Application, each applicant must submit to the Georgia Department of Agriculture several supporting documents. Processor applications will be available online at agr.georgia.gov.
- 7. How much does a hemp processor permit cost?** The initial fee for a Hemp Processor Permit is **\$25,000.00**, and the annual renewal fee is currently **\$10,000.00** per year.
- 8. Can a processor in Georgia process and handle hemp not grown in the state?** Yes, a Georgia permitted process can process and handle hemp produced by an out-of-state grower as long as the grower is authorized to produce hemp under a State or Tribal hemp plan approved by the USDA, under a hemp license issued by USDA, or under 7 U.S.C. 5940.



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9. **What happens if hemp tests higher than the 0.3% permitted for THC content?** For Georgia licensed hemp growers, the licensee's entire crop with the same global positioning coordinates must be disposed of in accordance with the federal Controlled Substances Act and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulations by a DEA-registered reverse distributor and in compliance with regulations promulgated by GDA. For Georgia permitted hemp processors, all related hemp products must also be disposed of in accordance with the federal Controlled Substances Act and DEA regulations by a DEA-registered reverse distributor and in the presence of local law enforcement.

10. **Can hemp be sold/commercially distributed as animal feed?** Not at this time. Before an ingredient can be sold or distributed as part of animal feed, the ingredient must be recognized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or listed as a "recognized feed ingredient" by the American Association of Feed Control Officials (AAFCO).

11. **Can I add CBD oil to food?** Though the sale of hemp and hemp products are legal, GDA policy still prohibits the use of cannabidiol oil (CBD) in food, pet food and dietary supplements. Until the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) changes its restrictions on the inclusion of CBD oil in foods and dietary supplements, it remains unlawful in Georgia to sell any such products that contain CBD oil.

Important Resources

- To learn more see HB 213, Georgia Hemp Farming Act here, <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/20192020/187562.pdf>
- See Georgia's Hemp Plan, <http://agr.georgia.gov/hemp/Georgia-Hemp-Plan.pdf>