

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

Andrew F. Smith

Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures



133 Aviation Blvd., Suite 110
Santa Rosa, CA 95403-8279

(707) 565-2371 Fax (707) 565-3850

sonomacounty.ca.gov/AWM

INDUSTRIAL HEMP RECOMMENDED BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

These methods or techniques are determined to be the most effective and practical means of establishing general good farming practices for industrial hemp cultivation in Sonoma County.

General

- All outdoor cultivation should maintain a setback of 200 feet from vineyard and orchard crops on adjacent parcels.
- All outdoor cultivation in LIA, LEA, and DA zoning designations should maintain a setback of 200 feet from any occupied residential or business structure on adjacent parcels.
- On parcels zoned AR, all outdoor cultivation should maintain a setback of 600 feet from developed park areas and trails as identified in the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures Site Suitability mapping application located at <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/AWM-map>.
- On parcels zoned RRD, AS, or K, all outdoor cultivation should maintain a setback of 600 feet from any residence or business on adjacent parcels, as well as 600 feet from developed park areas and trails as identified in the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures Site Suitability mapping application located at <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/AWM-map>.
- Source and plant clean propagative material and nursery stock.
- Inspect planting stock for pests and disease before planting and avoid planting material with pests and disease.
- Where appropriate, hedgerows, windbreaks, and/or buffers should be established between the cultivation site and adjacent land uses.

Pesticides

- Comply with all pesticide laws and regulations as enforced by the California Department of Pesticide Regulations.
- Prior to the use of any pesticide, obtain an Operator Identification Number from the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures.

Water Use

- Irrigation should be conducted in manner that does not result in runoff from cultivated areas.
- Inspect irrigation system regularly for leaks and repair leaks before and during each cropping season.
- Irrigation systems should be equipped with a backflow prevention device to protect water sources.
- Where practicable employ water saving practices such as rainwater catchment systems, mulches, drip-irrigation, and water recycling and filtration systems.

Erosion and Sediment Control

- Manage all crop residues in a manner that does not result in discharge of pollutants into a watercourse. Plant residues may be managed through composting, chipping or shredding, cultivating or otherwise incorporating plant residues into the soil.
- Composting of any material shall be conducted outside of riparian corridor setbacks for agriculture.
- Maintain a vegetative barrier around cultivated areas and interior watercourses to mitigate the movement of sediment and nutrients off site.
- Avoid any soil disturbance between November 1st and April 1st.
- Prior to qualifying rain events (*weather patterns forecasted by National Weather Service with a 50 percent or greater chance of 0.5 inches or more of precipitation*) industrial hemp cultivation sites should implement erosion prevention or control measures at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to that qualifying rain event, unless the site has been winterized pursuant to Section 36.16.150 of Sonoma County Code.

Pollen Management

- After initiation of flowering, walk crop on a daily basis to identify and remove all male plants.
- All indoor and greenhouse cultivation should be equipped with pollen filtration on air intake as well as exhaust systems to prevent introduction or dispersal of pollen.