

Important dates in Hemp History

10,000-year History of Marijuana use in the World

- 8,000+ BCE Use of hemp cord in pottery identified at ancient village site dating back over 10,000 years, located in the area of modern day Taiwan.
- 6,000 BCE Cannabis seeds and oil used for food in China.
- 4,000 BCE Textiles made of hemp are used in China and Turkestan.
- 2,737 BCE First recorded use of cannabis as medicine by Emperor Shen Neng of China.
- 1,500 BCE Cannabis cultivated in China for food and fiber. Scythians cultivate cannabis and use it to weave fine hemp cloth.
- 100 BCE First evidence of hemp paper, invented in China.
- 100 Imported hemp rope appears in England.
- 105 Legend suggests that Ts'ai Lun invents hemp paper in China, 200 years after its actual appearance (see 100 BCE above).
- 300 A young woman in Jerusalem receives medical marijuana during childbirth.
- 570 The French queen Arnegunde is buried with hemp cloth.
- 500-600 The Jewish *Talmud* mentions the euphoriant properties of Cannabis.
- 850 Vikings take hemp rope and seeds to Iceland.
- 900 Arabs learn techniques for making hemp paper.
- 1271-1295 Marco Polo brings cannabis to Europe.
- 1300 Ethiopian pipes containing marijuana suggest the herb has spread from Egypt to the rest of Africa.
- 1533 King Henry VIII fines farmers if they *do not* raise hemp for industrial use.
- 1549 Angolan slaves brought cannabis with them to the sugar plantations of northeastern Brazil. They were permitted to plant their cannabis between rows of cane, and to smoke it between harvests.
- 1600 England begins to import hemp from Russia.
- 1606-1632 French and British cultivate Cannabis for hemp at their colonies in Port Royal (1606), Virginia (1611), and Plymouth (1632).
- 1616 Jamestown settlers began growing the hemp plant for its unusually strong fiber and used it to make rope, sails, and clothing
- Virginia and other American colonies are required to grow hemp
- 1753 Linnaeus classifies *Cannabis sativa*.
- 1764 Medical marijuana appears in *The New England Dispensatory*.
- 1776 Kentucky begins growing hemp and the American Constitution was drafted on Hemp paper
- 1794 Medical marijuana appears in *The Edinburgh New Dispensary*.
- 1798 Napoleon discovers that much of the Egyptian lower class habitually uses hashish. Soldiers returning to France bring the tradition with them, and he declares a total prohibition. (first prohibition noted on Cannabis)

- 1800- Marijuana plantations flourished in Mississippi, Georgia, California, South Carolina, Nebraska, New York, and Kentucky. Also during this period, smoking hashish was popular throughout France and to a lesser degree in the US. Hashish production expands from Russian Turkestan into Yarkand in Chinese Turkestan
- 1840 In America, medicinal preparations with a Cannabis base are available. Hashish is available in Persian pharmacies.
- 1840 Abraham Lincoln uses hemp oil to power his household lamps
- 1856 British tax "ganja" and "charas" trade in India. 1914 The *Harrison Act* in the U.S. defined use of Marijuana (among other drugs) as a crime.
- 1916 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) chief scientists Jason L. Merrill and Lyster H. Dewey created paper made from hemp pulp, which they concluded was "*favorable in comparison with those used with pulp wood... If the new (1916) hemp pulp paper process were legal today, it would soon replace about 70% of all wood pulp paper, including computer printout paper, corrugated boxes and paper bags.* However, mass production of cheap news print from hemp had not developed in any country, and hemp was a relatively easy target because factories already had made large investments in equipment to handle cotton, wool, and linen, but there were relatively small investments in hemp production.
- 1916 USDA Bulletin 404 announces that hemp creates 4x more pulp per acre than trees
- 1915-1927 In the U.S. cannabis begins to be prohibited for nonmedical use. Prohibition first begins in California (1915), followed by Texas (1919), Louisiana (1924), and New York (1927).
-
- 1924 Russian botanists classify another major strain of the plant, *Cannabis ruderalis*.
- 1926 Lebanese hashish production is prohibited.
- 1928 Recreational use of Cannabis is banned in Britain.
- 1936 The American propaganda film *Reefer Madness* was made to scare American youth away from using Cannabis.
- 1941 Cannabis is removed from the *U.S. Pharmacopoeia* and it's medicinal use is no longer recognized in America. The same year the Indian government considers cultivation in Kashmir to fill void of hashish from Chinese Turkestan. Hand-rubbed charas from Nepal is choicest hashish in India during World War II.
- 1942 Henry Ford builds a car body out of hemp fiber which is 10x stronger than steel
- 1942-1946 Americans harvest over 150,000 acres of industrial hemp through the USDA program "Hemp for Victory"
- 1957 was the last time hemp was grown until 2013 when our current prohibition got taken down
- 1971 First evidence suggesting marijuana may help glaucoma patients.
- 1972 The Nixon-appointed Shafer Commission urged use of cannabis be re-legalized, but their recommendation was ignored. U.S. Medical research picks up pace. Proposition 19 in California to legalize marijuana use is rejected by a voter margin of 66-33%.

- 1988 U.S. DEA administrative law Judge Francis Young finds, after thorough hearings, that marijuana has a clearly established medical use and should be reclassified as a prescriptive drug. His recommendation is ignored.
- 1996 California (the first U.S. state to ban marijuana use, see 1915) became the first U.S. State to then re-legalize medical marijuana use for people suffering from AIDS, cancer, and other serious illnesses. A similar bill was passed in Arizona the same year. This was followed by the passage of similar initiatives in Alaska, Colorado, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Washington D.C., Hawaii, Maryland, New Mexico, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- 1998 US begins to import food grade hemp seed oil
- 1999 Hawaii and North Dakota unsuccessfully attempt to legalize hemp farming. The U.S. DEA reclassifies dronabinol as a schedule III drug, making the medication easier to prescribe while marijuana itself continues to be listed Schedule I as having "no accepted medical use."
- 2009- Medical Marijuana had legal store fronts in Colorado
- Nov 2012 The States of Colorado and Washington legalize marijuana / cannabis for recreational use; promises are made to the people that these new initiatives will have no impact on medical marijuana in those states. The country of Uruguay legalizes marijuana / cannabis for recreational use. The US District of Columbia decriminalizes personal use and possession of marijuana / cannabis.
- 2013 Ryan Loflin made headlines as he planted the first seeds since the prohibition in 1957
- 2014 4 successful hemp harvests came out of the state of Colorado !!!