

The Growing Market

The Hemp Fibre market was valued at USD 4.46 Billion in 2019 and is projected to reach USD 43.75 Billion by 2027, growing at a compound annual growth rate of 33% from 2020 to 2027.

Higher Yields

Longer northern daylight hours in the summertime means that the Vegreville region could grow up to 30% higher yields of hemp stalks than in southern regions of the province.



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The Northern Advantage

Industrial hemp is adapted to a wide variety of soil and climatic conditions of Alberta. Hemp is a photoperiod (light) sensitive crop. Therefore, in the Vegreville region that enjoys longer days in late spring/early summer the same hemp variety can grow much taller plants and produce 20-30% higher yields of stalks than in southern regions that receive 2-4 hours less of daylight during this period. This "Northern Advantage" predestinates hemp to be a significant fibre crop in the Vegreville region.

Farmers in the Vegreville region have been very innovative in growing and harvesting hemp. They see the potential in placing hemp in their rotation as a profitable crop that also sequesters carbon.

Vegreville Manufacturing & Processing Opportunities

Fibre

While growing hemp is a natural fit for the Vegreville region, so is fibre manufacturing. The textile industry is one of the largest hemp fibre markets as it is used in textiles and its very high-tensile strength is a desired benefit in bio-composites.

Seed

The nutritional enrichment and beneficial properties of hemp seeds are driving the market. Some of the suppliers and manufacturers of hemp seed are: Navitas Naturals, North American Hemp and Grain co., Kenny Delights, Manitoba Harvest Hemp Foods, Green Source Organics, CHH Naturally Pure Hemp, and GFR Ingredients Inc.

CBD

The key to processing hemp for CBD oil is the need to be in close proximity to the feedstock, which is in ample supply in the Vegreville region.

Location in Vegreville is Key

The key to processing hemp straw/fibre is the need to be in close proximity to the feed stock, which is in ample supply close to Vegreville. Hemp transport costs are high because it is bulky. According to Dr. Jan Slaski of InnoTech, "a processing facility should be within 100-150 kilometers of the feedstock source".



The Decortication Opportunity

The InnoTech facility in Vegreville conducts the majority of the province's research on hemp and is equipped with a decorticator (pilot scale). At present, the fibre it produces through decortication is quickly purchased by companies in Alberta. The Vegreville Seed Cleaning plant has the capabilities for cleaning hemp seed for advanced hemp seed processing.