

Industrial Hemp - finding suitable, approved varieties

The Kansas Industrial Hemp Research Program requires that Certified seed of KDA-approved varieties only can be planted. Industrial hemp is defined as having 0.3 or less THC content.

So what is a KDA-Approved variety? KDA has this list posted on their website: [Approved Varieties of Industrial Hemp](#) these are varieties that individuals have presented to KDA as suitable for Industrial Hemp (oil, seed, fiber) based on experience in other states that have had industrial hemp production since 2014 when the 2014 Farm Bill made it possible to grow limited industrial hemp.

It is important to remember that since there has been no legal production of industrial hemp in Kansas, being added to the Kansas list is not a guarantee that a variety will perform well, or that under certain environmental conditions it won't go "Hot" and develop a THC content of greater than 0.3% resulting in mandatory destruction of the crop. Some sister agencies that have seen some seed certification are Colorado, Kentucky and Tennessee.

The KDA list is not static and persons desiring to utilize a variety other than those listed can get varieties approved by contacting KDA and providing documentation that certified seed exists of the variety and that there is data available showing a consistent THC content less than or equal to, but no greater than the magical 0.3%. Being on the KDA list does not automatically mean that a particular seed lot of that variety is certified seed.

So, what is Certified Seed? Very simply, Certified Seed is that seed that was produced according to the standards for varietal purity, field inspection and seed quality standards of an agency like Kansas Crop Improvement Association (KCIA). KCIA is the designated authority for seed certification in the State of Kansas. When sold, Certified Seed is accompanied by an official label generated or authorized by KCIA. Most states have a designated authority for seed certification. For example, Colorado Seed Growers Association, Nebraska Crop Improvement Association and Oklahoma Crop Improvement Association are examples of other state agencies with authority for seed certification in their respective states.

Domestic seed certification agencies and Canada, as well as a few other countries belong to AOSCA (Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies) and together, we set the minimum standards for the certification of numerous different crop types. An individual member agency may set stricter standards, but none can set standards below the minimum set by AOSCA. AOSCA agencies, through the USDA, also participate in the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Seed Schemes which are rules used by 58 participating countries to certify seed for international movement. So, Certified seed is seed

certified by an AOSCA agency or by an OECD agency. We all recognize each other's certification. So, appropriate certified seed may come from the next state over, Canada or any of the 58 OECD countries.

So, how do I find Certified Seed of an approved variety? Unfortunately, for the immediate future, it may not be as easy as you'd like, but, a few steps and knowing what to look for will help you considerably.

First off, **just because someone tells you they have certified seed, doesn't mean they do.**

Remember, you can have certified auto mechanics, certified appliance repair technicians, and certified organic seed. Remember also, that Certified seed has been through a state seed certification program and comes with an official label. So, organic seed produced under the NOP rules might be certified organic but it's not certified seed unless it has been produced under a seed certification program. Therefore, certified organic seed is not certified seed as the Federal Seed Act defines it, but certified organic certified seed is. **It is illegal to present seed as Certified if it isn't.**

With no legal production of industrial hemp in Kansas, obviously there is no Kansas certified seed available. Perhaps in the future, should someone decide to produce certified seed in Kansas there will be a supply. In the meantime, **do a Google search and when you find a seed source, be sure to clarify if the seed is certified.** There are plenty of people with seed that don't even know what certified seed is, which is a little disconcerting. Ask for proof of certification, which will be an official label or certificate with the name of the certifying agency and the seed lot number. If the seller doesn't know what you are talking about, it's a pretty good sign the seed might not be certified. As an added check, you can call the certification agency and ask them to confirm that the seed is legitimate.

Here are some [examples of what KCIA labels and documents](#) look like, other agencies will have similar characteristics. KCIA will also be happy to assist you in confirming the status of seed you locate. If you request proof of certification and get sent a copy of the seed analysis, better be wary.

Remember, under the current Kansas Industrial Hemp Research Program, all participants are required to submit a research proposal along with fingerprint card, and meet all requirements of the program, before KCIA can accept field applications for certified seed production.

You can find the Kansas Regs [here](#).