2019 Industrial Hemp Update

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End use will determine production techniques.

- Fiber
- Seed
- **CBD** – most growers in SC
CBD Production

- Planting dates: mid May - June
- Grown mostly on tobacco model (48” rows) or vegetable model (5-6’ rows on plastic).
- Plant density: 1500-2000 plants/acre
- Fertility: 120 bu corn or prescribed by processor.
- Very labor intensive
  - Planted by hand or transplanter
  - Harvested mostly by hand
- Female plants only. Presence of male plants causes females to produce seed.
- Harvest and dry to 9% in the fall.
Economics

• Plant material Costs:
  • Seed - around $1 each
  • Transplants - $4-6 each

• Production Costs: $10,000-$15,000 per acre

• Yield: ~1lb of floral material per plant

• Price of floral material: $20-40 per lb

• Many growers still waiting to get paid for 2018 crop.
2018 Pest Issues

• Weeds!!!!
• Insects
  • Aphids – Mostly in greenhouses
  • Spidermites – mostly in greenhouses
  • **Hemp russet mites**
  • Stink bugs
  • **Corn Earworms**
• Diseases
  • Southern blight
  • Leaf spots
  • Possibly bacterial wilt
• Theft
Aphids
Hemp Russet Mite

Dorsal view of Hemp Russet Mite nymph and larva (Petanovic, 2007).
Southern Blight
A man wearing a Spider Man mask was spotted absconding with hemp plants from a South Carolina farm last week.

Allison Justice – vice president of cultivation for OutCo Labs – posted images of the alleged heist on her Facebook page. She also reminded would-be thieves that the plants allegedly stolen did not contain tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), only medical grade cannabidiol (CBD).