

- 8) Applicants, leasing or renting land or structures to be used for hemp sites, are required to provide a signed lease/agreement between the parties.
- 9) Applicants are required to complete, or have completed, a Property Owner Affirmation form. *This form will be accessible at time of applying. This form is for the actual property owner to complete and sign.*
- 10) Applicants are required to submit GPS coordinates from the center of each site they intend to use.
- 11) Applicants are required to submit detailed aerial (satellite) photo(s) of intended grow sites. *These photos must include notations on any structure in the photo, a GPS marker showing the center of the site, and an outline around the intended outdoor grow site. If the aerial photo is outdated and does not show a structure, the applicant is required to submit ground level photos of all sides of the structure intended to be used.*
- 12) If the applicant is part of an entity (LLC, Inc., Partnership, etc.) all key members of the entity are required to submit a criminal background report. If the company formation documents do not outline the key membership, the Articles of Incorporation are required to be submitted as well.
- 13) Criminal background reports are required:
 - a) The reports are required to be run from fingerprints
 - b) Must be no less than a statewide search. *Cannot be a city wide or county wide search.*
 - c) Cannot be based upon a name or SSN search alone.
 - d) Can be obtained in September before the official application period begins in October.
 - e) Are required to be submitted with the application and before the established deadline in November.
- 14) Applicants will be required to submit a copy of their current driver's license at the time of application.

Minimum requirements to grow:

Outdoor sites: must be no less than one (1) acre to plant *no less than 1,000 plants each time the acre is planted.* ~~no less than 1,000 plants~~

Indoor sites: must be no less than 1,500 square feet to plant *no less than 500 plants each time the site is planted.* ~~no less than 500 plants~~

REQUIRED MINIMUM PLANTING QUANTITIES at any site: planting less than the minimum required without obtaining prior approval from ADAI causes an immediate out-of-compliance issue that will result in enforcement actions.

Minimum requirements for processing/handling site:

Structures/facilities must be no less than 1,500 square feet

Application and License Fees:

Application fee: \$150 plus 4.5% convenience fee – *only one application per individual and/or company entity can be submitted, i.e., one grower application, one processor/handler application, one university application.*

Site fee: \$1,000 per site plus 4.5% convenience fee. *Wherever hemp is, even for a short period, is required to be registered as a site under the license. This includes propagation sheds, greenhouses, indoor growing structures, hoop houses, barns, and all structures used for drying/storing and/or handling.*

Refunds:

Once application fees and site fees are paid, there are no refunds.

Please check our website, <http://agi.alabama.gov/hemp>, in August for information on the upcoming year's application period. The 2023 application period is set for October 11, 2022 through November 30, 2022.

Things to remember:

- 1) All hemp applications are submitted online via the Kelly Registration System (KRS);
- 2) It is critical that you have as much information and documents assembled before you start the application process.
- 3) You can obtain your criminal background report in September. It is important that you follow the instructions on our website for obtaining your background report. The Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries (ADAI) requires background reports run through the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) in Montgomery rather than local sheriff or police agencies. Follow this link for information on the criminal background process: <https://agi.alabama.gov/hemp/formsandapplications/>.

Another source of information is your local AL Cooperative Extension agents. Search the ACES website for contact information in the county you intend to grow in. <https://www.aces.edu/>

Recently, FDA Issues Warning Letters to Delta-8 Sellers: <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-issues-warning-letters-companies-illegally-selling-cbd-and-delta-8-thc-products>

If you have other questions, contact ALhemp@agi.alabama.gov.

Am I Ready To Be A Hemp Grower?

Before you submit an application to grow hemp in the Alabama Hemp Program:

- 1) Read and understand the USDA Hemp Regulations and the ADAI Hemp Rules.
- 2) Register your company with Alabama Secretary of State. A copy of your formation documents is required for a company to be issued a hemp grower license.
- 3) Have all lease/rental agreement documents or owner affirmation documents in order and ready to submit.
- 4) Clear your property and be ready to plant.
- 5) Have your greenhouse or indoor growing structure(s) built and ready for planting.
- 6) Within 60 days of application date, apply for a criminal background check through the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency (ALEA) in Montgomery.

Questions to ask yourself before you apply for a hemp grower license:

- Can I handle the substantial financial outlay required to grow, harvest, and market hemp?
- Am I prepared to pay the license fee for multiple planting or storage sites?
- Do I have a business plan?
- Do I know what documents and reports I must submit to ADAI throughout the growing season?
- Am I prepared to document and report each step of hemp cultivation and harvest, as required by ADAI?
- Do I want to grow indoors or outdoors?
- Do I own or lease land to grow on?
- Do I have a lease agreement?
- Have I had my soil tested for nutrients, heavy metals, and pesticides?
- Do I have a greenhouse, or will I need to build one?
- Will I need to heat and cool my greenhouse?
- Have I identified how much labor I need to hire?
- Am I familiar with the hemp plant and its cultivation?
- Do I know the types of products made from hemp?
- Do I want to grow hemp for fiber, grain, or floral?
- Do I know the best hemp varieties for my chosen end product?
- Will I plant seeds, seedlings, or clones?
- Do I know the how many propagules (seed, seedlings, or clones) I must plant and their cost?
- Do I have a source for my propagules?
- Will I use plasticulture?
- What is my plan for pest control?
- Am I prepared for crop loss due to theft?
- Am I prepared for my crop to be destroyed if the pre-harvest regulatory sample contains THC levels higher than 0.3% by dry weight?
- How will I irrigate my hemp?
- How will I harvest my hemp?
- Do I have a place to dry my harvested hemp?
- Who will process my hemp?
- Do I have a buyer for my hemp?
- Am I prepared to hold my harvested hemp if I cannot find a buyer or processor?

