

Archeologists have determined that the earliest known hemp fabric found in ancient Mesopotamia dates back to 8000 BC.

2800 BC HEMP CULTIVATION FOR FIBER

Cannabis is documented as a spiritual aid in the Atharvaveda, one of four ancient Hindu scriptures comprising the oldest Hindu text, where it's praised for bringing joy and relieving anxiety.

1533 HEMP FARMING IN ENGLAND

Hemp farming began in the Quillota Valley, near the city of Santiago in Chile. Spanish conquistadors brought hemp from Spain to be cultivated in South America to make the ropes and sails needed to outfit their ships.

1606 HEMP ARRIVES IN NORTH AMERICA

Records show that hemp was brought to the Jamestown, Virginia settlement for fiber cultivation, by order of King James I.

1774 THOMAS JEFFERSON GROWS CANNABIS

The cotton gin was invented by Eli Whitney, making it easier to process cotton. Traditionally, hemp was processed by hand, making it difficult to compete with cotton's modern commercial production.

1850 KENTUCKY GROWS 40,000 TONS OF HEMP

Around the time of the 1910 Mexican Revolution, as Mexican immigration to the United States increased, racist beliefs circulated, resulting in 29 states outlawing cannabis from 1916 to 1931.

1930 ANSLINGER LEADS THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF NARCOTICS

The propaganda film Reefer Madness was released, depicting marijuana as a drug that could lead to violence, rape, suicide, and psychosis.

1937 THE MARIHUANA TAX ACT OF 1937

The U.S. Army and the Dept of Agriculture jointly produced a 1942 film, "Hemp for Victory," encouraging farmers to grow hemp for the country's effort in World War II — particularly for textiles and rope, imports of which had been cut off by war. All related permits were canceled following the end of the war.

1970 THE "WAR ON DRUGS" BEGINS

Former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter campaigned for president on a platform that included decriminalizing marijuana and ending federal criminal penalties for possession of up to one ounce of the drug. Congress ultimately ignored Carter's support for decriminalization.

1996 MEDICAL MARIJUANA IS LEGALIZED IN CALIFORNIA

Colorado and Washington voters passed referendums legalizing marijuana for recreational use, although cannabis is still banned under federal law.

2018 2018 FARM BILL SIGNED

8000 BC EARLIEST KNOWN HEMP USE

According to The Lushi, an unofficial history of China documenting the Sung dynasty (500 AD), hemp cultivation for fiber was recorded in China as early as the 28th Century B.C., when Emperor Shen Nung taught his people to cultivate hemp as material for clothes.

1200 BC CANNABIS AS A SPIRITUAL AID

King Henry VIII passed an act requiring all farmers to plant hemp or flax on every 1/4 of an acre for every 60 acres, or face a fine. During this period, hemp was a major crop used to make rope, sails, nets, and other naval equipment.

1545 HEMP FARMING BEGINS IN CHILE

The first hemp crop was planted in North America by French botanist Louis Hebert in present day Nova Scotia.

1611 HEMP CULTIVATION IN JAMESTOWN, VA

Records show that Thomas Jefferson grew acres of hemp on his Monticello plantation to be used to make rope, sails and other textiles.

1793 THE COTTON GIN IS INVENTED

Kentucky, a major producer of industrial hemp, grew its largest crop at 40,000 tons of hemp. Hemp remained the state's largest cash crop until 1915.

1916 STATES BEGIN TO OUTLAW CANNABIS

Harry J. Anslinger's racist rhetoric single-handedly changed the public's perception of cannabis in the United States, describing "marihuana" as "the most violence-causing drug in the history of mankind."

1936 REEFER MADNESS IS RELEASED

The United States government passed the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 (drafted by Harry Anslinger). While it was originally intended to stop the use of the plant as a recreational drug, industrial hemp was caught up in anti-dope legislation, making importation and commercial production less economical.

1942 HEMP FOR VICTORY

The Nixon Administration officially began its "War on Drugs" with the passing of The Controlled Substances Act, regulating the manufacture, possession, use and distribution of certain narcotics. Among the most dangerous? Marijuana, LSD, heroin, and MDMA (ecstasy).

1976 CARTER CAMPAIGNS TO DECRIMINALIZE CANNABIS

Medical marijuana was legalized in California, making it the first state in the country to legalize cannabis for medicinal use.

2012 RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA IS LEGALIZED IN COLORADO AND WASHINGTON

The 2018 Farm Bill was signed into law, removing hemp, defined as cannabis (*Cannabis sativa* L.) and derivatives of cannabis with extremely low concentrations of delta-9-THC from the definition of marijuana in the Controlled Substances Act (CSA).