

# WANTED

## Feral Hemp aka "Ditch Weed"



**Collecting seeds from feral hemp populations will be key to the success of the hemp industry in the United States.**

There are no publicly available seed collections of hemp (*Cannabis*

*Sativa*) in the United States after previous collections were destroyed when the government never expected hemp would return as a crop. However, this prohibition has now effectively ended.

The Hemp Farming Act, part of the 2018 Farm Bill, removed hemp, previously labeled a Schedule 1 narcotic, from the Controlled Substances Act of 1970. Now that hemp is once again federally legal to grow there is a great need develop a new seed bank so researchers and breeders can produce high quality and high yielding cultivars that are regionally adaptive.

Despite active efforts to kill feral hemp populations throughout the Midwest, there are still large standing populations. Collecting seeds from these populations will be key to the success of the hemp industry in the United States.

If you are aware of any feral hemp populations, please contact Dr. Shelby Ellison of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Ellison will send along collection instructions or make arrangements to collect seeds.

Please Contact: Shelby Ellison, PhD

Department of Horticulture | University of Wisconsin, Madison

1575 Linden Dr. | Madison, WI 53703 | 715-570-0217 | slrepinski@wisc.edu