

Hemp can replace valuable resources

Hemp is increasingly replacing more valuable and less abundant resources in the production of everyday items

By Nicole Wadgell
Freelance Reporter

Hemp products are everywhere. Everything from clothing to lip balm to paper can be made out of hemp.

The marijuana plant has the image of being used only as a drug. Today, legal products made from different parts of the plant are becoming more popular in mainstream culture.

Hemp is a non-smokable form of the marijuana plant. Vendors of hemp products say that they are eco-friendly and durable.

Most of the products are made from the pulp-filled stalk of the plant.

A 1914 USDA study showed that over a 20 year period, an acre of marijuana plants produced four times as much usable pulp and fiber for paper as an acre of trees.

According to Carolyn Moran, editor of *Talking Leaves*, a global ecology magazine, "Hemp paper is a viable alternative to the normal wood paper."

Moran traveled around the world to find an alternative to conventional paper. The magazine is the first international publication to use tree-free paper. The paper, which is 10 percent hemp, is produced by The Living Tree Paper Company of Eugene.

Sow Much Hemp, located at 13th and Lincoln, is a store that sells only hemp products. Shoppers can find anything from carpeting to blue jeans to business cards.

There is even hemp lingerie.

"Anything that can be made out of any cotton or wood fiber can be made out of hemp," owner Bruce Mullican said.

Groups that support the legalization of Marijuana point to America's founding fathers to illustrate hemp use and production. According to these groups, George Washington grew hemp on Mount Vernon, and today a few acres of marijuana plants are still grown on what is now a national monument.

Historically, hemp fiber has been used a great deal for many familiar products. Levi's blue jeans were originally made with hemp fibers.

More than 150 years ago, great sailing ships required as much as 40 tons of hemp to construct a new ship. Everything on board, from the sails to the ropes,



Sow Much Hemp carries various items made of the plant. Hemp can be substituted for cotton.

were made with hemp fiber.

The Banyan Tree, another store located on 13th Street, sells various hemp products. The clothing is durable and looks like thick linen, which makes it popular with many different kinds of customers.

Employee Lisa McCormick has seen a recent rise in the popularity of hemp products.

"I think the word is getting out, and people are starting to get more educated," she said. "Before they thought it was just for hippies, but now they see it has other uses."

The Eugene Saturday Market has dozens of booths offering a wide range of hemp products for sale. One booth even offers to tailor-fit their customers' hemp clothing.

Hemp-seed food is also a popular item there. Its advertisers claim, "[It contains] all the essential amino acids and essential fatty acids necessary to maintain healthy human life."

Here on campus, the EMU Campus Convenience Store — where hemp cookies are always available — has joined the list of hemp vendors.



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