

Baby Leaf Hemp Variety Trial Report

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1. Field Trial:
 - a. Grew 21 total varieties at two different planting dates.
 - b. Only 14 varieties were planted at both dates
 - c. Planting dates: Late Oct and early Feb
 - d. 7,000 to 11,000 lbs/ac yield
 - e. Flowering and internode lengthening after 3 leaf
 - f. Characteristic 5 lobe leaf occurred on 3rd node and above
 - g. One 'autoflower' *Cannabis ruderalis* species was included in the late planting and significantly delayed flowering (As of today has not flowered). This is highly desired and should be used by growers to remain in compliance.
2. Two successful 'drive thru tastings' were conducted resulting in ~90 completed surveys from the public
 - a. Generally baby leaf hemp liked better than kale, but not liked as much as romaine or baby leaf spinach
 - b. Kale was found to be more bitter than baby leaf hemp
 - c. Chef was able to prepare a well liked dish (pesto)
 - d. Was able to offer the community a sanitary event during peak COVID crisis
3. In-house organoleptic tasting panels (1-5 rating scale)
 - a. Taste:
 - i. Slightly floral and fruty esters
 - ii. minty
 - iii. gaining pungency (spiciness) with leaf maturity to uncomfortable levels
 - iv. Female flowers were eatable, but male flowers were not (grainy pollen)
 - v. Bitterness was higher in fall plantings (heat = bitter)
 1. 1-5 scale
 2. 0.5 points higher in bitterness between planting dates
 - b. Texture:
 - i. Slight leaf pubescence that varied by variety
 - ii. Soft and easily masticated leaf blade when selected at the 3-4 leaf set stage
 - iii. Often made people cough when eaten alone likely due to pubescence (prioritize a spring mix product)
4. No one died or had an allergic reaction at public or in-house test, but more data needs to be collected regarding this before production is considered i.e. stinging nettle allergies.
5. We were approached by the Chief of US Domestic Hemp Production Program (USDA-AMS) and will be presenting the concept of baby leaf hemp to their executive team later this month.
6. We are planting another baby leaf hemp trial next week, shoestring funded by seed companies. This will mature into a 'grain and fiber' trial (grain and fiber row spacings).