



Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Plant Industry

**Environmental Containment Guidance
and Sample Plan**

Each year, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry (DPI) detects, intercepts and controls plant and honey bee pests that threaten Florida's native and commercially grown plants and agricultural resources. Partnering with our agricultural producers to implement simple, cost-effective, and environmentally conscious measures during cultivation, harvest, transportation, and post-harvest is crucial to protect Florida's natural areas, waterways, and agricultural resources.

This guidance document and sample plan outlines the simple steps every producer can implement. However, we understand each operation is different and encourage producers to develop a unique or even more robust plan.

OUTDOOR CULTIVATION. Wildlife, livestock, and weather events all present opportunities for hemp to encroach into the environment. Some control methods to implement in a field setting or for in ground cultivation are:

- Bare earth buffers or cover crop buffers around the planted area.
- Drainage ditches, canals, berms, or silt fencing adjacent to planted hemp.
- Fencing that separates planted hemp from livestock.
- Auditory and visual wildlife deterrence.
- Routine inspection for volunteer plants outside the cultivation area.

INDOOR CULTIVATION. Greenhouse production protects crops from extreme heat, cold, rain and many other environmental factors. They're a wonderful home for plants, but they also provide an excellent home for pests so certain steps should be taken when starting your greenhouse production.¹ For the environmental containment plan, producers will only need to consider control methods to prevent the unintentional spread of hemp. It is good practice to:

- Install drains traps and filters.
- Use boot brushes and floormats when entering and exiting.
- Routine inspection for volunteer plants outside the cultivation area.

NURSERY CULTIVATION. Because nursery stock travel across the state, implementing effective control measures at the nursery is critical. Along with suggestions above, nurseries should take care to:

- Maintain records of production and distribution.
- Maintain records of seed purchases.
- Maintain records of plant purchases and sales.
- Routine inspection for volunteer plants outside the cultivation area.

TRANSPORTATION AND MOVEMENT PLAN. Along with certain paperwork requirements, the Department requires hemp to be transported in a fully enclosed vehicles or container. Cultivators may want to consider transporting hemp in:

- Garbage bags with taut draw-strings.
- Totes with lids.
- Enclosed in vehicles with solid walls (e.g. Panel vans or semi-truck trailers).
- Covered truck beds or trailers with a covering that prevents material loss (e.g. tarping or plastic liners).

EQUIPMENT CLEANING PLAN. Moving equipment with hemp debris between production areas can not only result in volunteer plants but is one way that plant pests and disease are spread. For this reason, the Department requires you to have a plan to clean equipment of debris before moving off the property. Producers may want to consider:

- Powerwashing large farm equipment before moving equipment between non-contiguous locations.
- Routinely cleaning or disinfecting smaller tools and equipment.²

¹ You can read more about managing greenhouse pests at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/cv248>.

² You can read more about different techniques at <https://gardeningolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/care/tools-and-equipment/disinfecting-tools.html>.