

Medical Cannabis in Kentucky

Medical cannabis became available to Kentuckians with a valid medical cannabis card on January 1, 2025, under KRS 218B. All cultivators, processors and dispensaries must be licensed by the KY Office of Medical Cannabis, a division in the KY Cabinet for Health and Family Services. All inquiries from Extension clientele regarding growing, processing, selling or consuming medical cannabis should be referred directly to the Kentucky Office of Medical Cannabis.

Medical cannabis cultivators are classified into four tiers based on the total square footage under cultivation. The licensing fee increases with each tier as shown in the cultivator summary page linked to the right. During the initial lottery draw ten tier-1, four tier-2, and two tier-3 cultivators were selected to receive licenses. The list of currently approved cultivators and their general location can be found at the business license link. It is not known when the next round of licensing will take place.

Do not attempt to make management recommendations for medical cannabis production. Any questions regarding pesticide use on medical cannabis should be referred directly to the pesticide document linked to the right as found on the Office of Medical Cannabis website. Do not make specific pesticide recommendations for medical cannabis. Do not accept, store, or ship any cannabis sativa seeds, plants, or floral materials for any purposes. This includes hemp and medical cannabis as both require proper licensing for anyone possessing or shipping these materials.

Licensing for hemp growers, processors, and handlers is a separate program from medical cannabis and remains under the KY Department of Agriculture. Information on the hemp program can be found at the links to the right.

NOTE: Cannabis with THC greater than 0.3% – including medical cannabis – remains an illegal controlled substance under the federal Controlled Substances Act and is currently listed as a Schedule I drug. 21 USC §§ 801 et seq. (1970).

Kentucky Office of Medical Cannabis General Information:

<https://kymedcan.ky.gov/About/Pages/default.aspx>

Contact Page:

<https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/CHFS/KYMEDCAN/>

Cultivator Summary Page:

<https://kymedcan.ky.gov/businesses/Documents/2024-06-07%20Cultivator%20Licensee%20Summary%20v.2.pdf>

Business License list:

<https://kymedcan.ky.gov/businesses/Pages/licensees.aspx>

Medical Cannabis Pesticide Information Sheet:

<https://kymedcan.ky.gov/businesses/Documents/2024-4-18%20Notice%20re%20Pesticides,%20et%20al.pdf>

KDA Hemp Program Link:

<https://www.kyagr.com/marketing/hemp.html>

UK Hemp Page:

<https://hemp.ca.uky.edu/>

