

## **SOME BASIC THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT FINOLA FOR 2016**

FINOLA is an oilseed hemp variety that began in Finland, 1995, under the breeder's code FIN-314. The variety name is correctly spelled with all capital letters. The EU Plant Variety Rights were eventually granted for the FINOLA hemp variety in 1999. FINOLA was already accepted onto the Canadian list of hemp cultivars in 1998, where it has remained to this day. FINOLA was eventually admitted to the EU list of hemp cultivars, after the category of oilseed hemp was eventually created in November of 2003. FINOLA was the first industrial oilseed hemp variety to be cultivated in Canada and the EU. FINOLA has been cultivated in the United States since 2013.

### **Crop Description**

FINOLA is short, dioecious, auto-flowering and early maturing hempseed crop. In terms of grain yield, it is the most productive variety for hempseed (over 2,000 kg/Ha under good conditions) at a seeding rate of 25 kg/Ha. The grain is harvested by a conventional combine. Organic farmers should not swath on fields that have been fertilized with un-composted manure! Up to 5-7 tons/Ha of straw may be produced. FINOLA grows best in continental and temperate regions, particularly between latitudes 40° - 60°. It will benefit from irrigation in areas that are prone to drought. FINOLA's high grain production, relative ease of harvest, sweet nutty taste and unique oil profile make it the oilseed crop of choice for both human foods and animal feed.

### **Uses for the grain**

Hempseed oil is a rich source of polyunsaturated *omega*-3, -6 & -9 fatty acids, and the oil typically accounts for 30-35% of the seed weight. Hempseed also contains a high quality vegetable protein (25%) that is easily digested, carbohydrates (30%), moisture, vitamins, minerals, phytosterols and polyphenols. In a botanical sense, hempseed is a very small nut with a delicious nutty taste.

Unlike other industrial oil seeds and seed meals, raw hempseed lacks the anti-nutritional factors that are found in soya (protease inhibitors), rapeseed (glycosinolates), and linseed flax (cyanogenic glucosides). As animal feed, hempseed and hempseed meal can be safely fed to ruminants, pigs, fish and birds. Horses benefit from 2-3 dl/day of hempseed meal. Dogs benefit from 2-3 tbs/week. Cats do not enjoy vegetable oils. Most birds, all squirrels and any other rodent will aggressively eat whole hempseed. Hens fed whole hempseed, hempseed meal or hempseed oil mixed with their normal feed rations will produce fine tasting *omega*-3 eggs, because of the high amounts of the *alpha*-linolenic and stearidonic acids in hempseed oil.

Hempseed oil is highly unsaturated, which serves as a functional food and a balanced dietary oil. This high unsaturation is also useful in certain industrial products- for example, as a drying oil in the production of specialty inks, paints and other technical coatings. A few percent of hempseed oil can be added to some fuels for the purpose of lowering the diesel solidification point in very cold environments.

### **Uses for the fiber**

Hemp fiber is about 50-70% cellulose and 5-7% lignin. This bast fiber is still used in a variety of commercial applications that range from rough non-woven insulations,

bio-mats, geotextiles, nets, composites for construction and automotive industries, tea bags, cigarette papers and other specialty papers. The whole, unprocessed stalk is about 35-40% cellulose and 15-20% lignan. As a simple non-woven material, the fiber and biomass make excellent animal bedding, geotextiles and other geo-remediation products, compost substrates and hempcrete- a light construction material made of hemp hurds (shives), water and lime or cement. Because FINOLA is dioecious, with both male and female plants, the fiber quality is not even, and may not be suitable for woven applications. However, the male fiber is exceptionally fine, and may be selectively gathered by hand for the production of handcrafted products.

**Finola Ltd. is a limited liability corporation** that maintains the FINOLA oilseed hemp variety and Plant Variety Rights. Our main product is OECD certified FINOLA planting seed. We continue to provide stewardship in the EU for this unique oilseed crop. For more info, please visit <http://www.finola.fi>

**Finola® is a registered trademark** for food products made from FINOLA hempseed, such as Finola® Hempseed Oil. It is perfectly within your rights to purchase and grow certified FINOLA planting seed, and then produce your own oil and other hempseed food products, but please do not sell or promote your products as Finola® without prior agreement.

**Can FINOLA be used for drug purposes?** No. After 21 years, many determined individuals and numerous government agencies have consistently confirmed that the THC levels in FINOLA are far too low for illegal drug purposes. Instead, mature FINOLA female flowers produce respectable amounts of CBD (cannabidiol), a non-psychoactive polyphenol with potent antioxidant properties. FINOLA is the industrial variety of choice for CBD production.

Cultivated hemp still suffers the same legal restrictions as drug-*Cannabis* in some parts of the world. In contrast, hemp continues to be a growing business in many countries. Be sure that you are fully informed about your local laws and customs before importing viable hempseed into your country, and be aware of potential subsidies or penalties for the cultivation of hemp in your local area. Also, please understand that **we have very limited resources to advise on matters of legislation or general agriculture** to people who are not already customers. Consulting is generally limited to those who have already purchased certified FINOLA planting seed. Free and useful information on various aspects of hemp and hempseed are posted on the Finola web pages- please have a look: <http://www.finola.fi>

Farmers in Canada and the USA should contact Mr. Shaun Crew of Hemp Oil Canada, Inc. for FINOLA planting seed. For US growers, please be sure to have some sort of written documentation from your local State Agricultural Department before contacting us, to demonstrate that your grow operation complies with your State and Federal laws.

**Thank you for your interest in Finola!**

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