[GROWING AUTOFLOWER HEMP SEEDS](https://highgradehempseed.com/blog/how-to-grow-autoflower-hemp-seeds/" \o "Permanent Link: How to Grow Autoflower Hemp Seeds)

In the past, there has been skepticism about auto-flowering hemp; however, today’s newest strains of auto-flowering hemp seeds have come along ways through breeding and offer high yields and excellent terpene variety. If you’re interested in multiple hemp harvests in a single year growing auto-flowering seeds on your hemp farm is the answer. The ability to control your crops from a time stand-point plus the fact that you can achieve multiple yields makes the auto-flower a great choice! Not only do the best auto-flowering hemp strains help you turn around harvest quickly and effectively, but they flower with age instead of by changing life cycles. Autoflowering hemp seeds can complete their life cycles in as little as nine weeks from germination or 60 to 90 days approximately, based on the strain used, you can get multiple harvests each year – even when you’re growing outside.

Understanding AUTOFLOWER HEMP SEEDS

What is autoflower hemp, and how is it different from regular, photoperiod, [hemp strains](https://highgradehempseed.com/hemp-strains/)?

Most hemp strains are known as “photoperiod” plants, meaning they need a shift in the light cycle to trigger the flowering stage that produces most of the plant’s CBD and CBG oil. As its name implies, an autoflower plant flowers automatically. It doesn’t require a change in the light or the season. Autoflower hemp seeds are the descendants of cannabis plants grown in Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Russia. In these cold countries, cannabis plants had to learn to proliferate to make the most of the short growing seasons. They shed their reliance on the light cycle, allowing them to grow and flower in record time. The great ancestors of today’s autoflower hemp seeds had to survive in some of the world’s most challenging climates, which makes autoflowers some of the most resilient hemp strains around.

RESISTANCE TO PESTS

Pests and insect infestations are a threat to any crop, but autoflowers grow so quickly, insects often don’t have enough time to do the plants much harm. The quick growth cycle makes autoflowers more pest-resistant than most other hemp strains.

IMPROVED YIELDS AND BETTER TERPENE PROFILES

In the past, autoflower plants have been criticized for producing lower-than-average amounts of resin, low yields, and a poor selection of terpene profiles. Due to the great interest in the benefits of growing autoflower strains, hemp seed breeders have developed stable autoflower strains with higher CBD/CBG yields with high terpene profiles that extraction companies are looking to purchase.

GERMINATE YOUR PLANTS IN A GREENHOUSE

Germination techniques for autoflower seeds are highly debated, and most breeders recommend direct sowing only as any plant stress during the germination/seedling stage of the plant will directly affect the ultimate yield. If doing small acreage, we recommend germinating your seeds in a greenhouse infrastructure to give your seeds the best chance for survival. It is critical to quickly move the seedlings once growth has been observed to avoid plants becoming root-bound and to avoid transplant shock. Autoflower strains have a limited time to recover from replanting in the field, so farmers may want to experiment with germinating their autoflowers in a greenhouse and seeding directly to see which produces the best yield.

GROW AUTOFLOWERING SEEDS IN SOIL

Growing autoflower hemp seeds in soil are different from regular full-season “photoperiod” hemp strains as the plants are smaller and can be planted more densely. Starting with seedlings is tricky, and you cannot take cuttings from the plants. Direct sowing of the seeds in the soil is the best method as the clock starts the day the seeds germinate. Transplant shock will affect your yield as the plant will be stunted for a few days, and if the plants become stressed or root-bound, it will trigger the plant to flower early, and again the yield will be affected. The germination rate will be lower when doing direct seeding, and high temperatures can cause the seeds to go sterile before germination; however, if you plan well and prep your field, you will be rewarded with a more manageable crop that can help you avoid hurricane season.

GROW AUTOFLOWERING SEEDS with plasticulture

Another approach is using raised beds with plastic mulch and drip irrigation. This method will allow you to keepo inputs in the root zone and execute two crops per bed before replacing the plastic by staggering your planting in a zig-zag pattern on each side of the drip tape then placing new holes across from original plants after the first harvest. If using this system, it is best to start/germinate your seeds before planting. We recommend using the Jiffy Performa plug trays as you can easily inspect the root development and remove the plugs for planting as soon as growth is observed (usually 3-5 days) to avoid issues with transplant shock and seedling becoming root-bound. We do not recommend using coco, or loose-fill starter trays as the coco quickly dry out and can pull the moisture from your seed killing it, and loose-fill medium requires root development before you can transplant or inspect the roots that can lead to issues with root-bound and take away from the vegetive growth needed to get a good yield.

GROW AUTOFLOWERING SEEDS in pots

Pots can either be direct-seeded, or seedlings started in a greenhouse and transplant into the pots as soon as growth is observed. If using pots, we recommend a minimum of 5-gallons of soil and found that we got our best yields using 10-gallon pots. If using larger pots multiple plants can be grown in one pot.

PREPARE YOUR SOIL

Your robust autoflower hemp seeds need as much nutrition as other hemp strains, but due to the short vegetive and flowering cycles, the nourishment cost will be less. Test your soil before planting and double-check that your soil doesn’t contain high levels of sulfur, potassium sulfate, or rock phosphate. The soil PH is also significant, as this will affect the plant's ability to uptake inputs. We recommend between 6.5 and 7 PH, and this should also be the same for water used to irrigate.

KEEP YOUR SOIL WELL-DRAINED

Hemp plants, including autoflowers, grow best in loose, well-drained soil. Hemp plants do not like wet feet! Adjust watering to your particular climate. Autoflowers do well with surface drip irrigation, subsurface drip irrigation, and flood irrigation if well managed.

HARVEST YOUR PLANTS SEQUENTIALLY

Your autoflower hemp plants will be ready for harvest between 7 to 10 weeks on average. Consider harvesting the colas on the tops of the plants first in order to give the lower buds a little more time to mature before harvesting them.