

# Las Vegas TRIBUNE

*"I may disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."--Voltaire*

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## **Critical water shortages and T-shirts**

***One cotton tee takes 1740 gallons to manufacture;  
Using hemp enzyme could save 1.33 billion gallons a year***

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### **Renewable Planet - Part 2**

(In last week's issue Ms. Bylund examined a Las Vegas-based solar technology provider who is helping to build an environmentally sustainable future. This week she looks at another environmentally responsible company and its use of hemp, an extraordinary substitute for cotton, among other things)

Crucial water shortages are reported with regularity, yet a water-dependent T-shirt industry continues to boom as it manufactures and sells 1.4 billion cotton T-shirts yearly. Figures compiled by Hemptown Clothing, Inc. (OTCBB:HPTWF) confirm that producing one cotton T-shirt purges 1740 gallons from our country's fragile water supply. If America's cotton garments were switched to hemp, Hemptown states that 1.33 billion gallons a year of precious water would be saved.

To spearhead this change, Hemptown is developing 'Pectinase,' a patented industrial hemp enzyme that will revolutionize the industrial hemp manufacturing process. The use of Pectinase will create T-shirts the texture of cotton and the strength of hemp. Pectinase will break down the hemp into a soft pliable fabric in just five hours compared to the current 45-60 day process.

Hemptown also reports that hemp grows like a weed from rainwater, is four times stronger than cotton, and becomes softer as it is washed. Much like the paper products that took market share from Styrofoam cups and food packaging when the damage caused by CFCs in Styrofoam became more widely understood -- hemp T-shirts are the alternative, and can totally replace water-dependent, water-selfish cotton tees saving much of our depleted supply.

According to industry research, hemp could be an important element of global sustainable development. Hemp is a plant that is versatile, ecologically benign, durable, and resilient. Hemp grows chemical-free, unlike cotton production which is now responsible for 25 per cent of the world's fertilizer use. Hemp's long roots which draw on untapped nutrients mean that it flourishes in "difficult" soil and can arrest soil erosion, as well.

Hemp has been used since pre-history for many purposes, most principally Fiber, which can be woven into almost any kind of cloth. It is very durable and, in fact, the first Levi's blue jeans were made out of hemp for just this reason.

In addition to saving water, hemp requires little fertilizer, and grows well almost everywhere. It also resists pests, so it uses little pesticides. Hemp puts down deep roots, which is good for the soil, and when the leaves drop off the hemp plant, minerals and nitrogen are returned to the soil. Hemp has been grown on the same soil for twenty years in a row without any noticeable depletion of the soil.

Using less fertilizer and agricultural chemicals is good for two reasons. First, it costs less and requires less effort. Second, many agricultural chemicals are dangerous and contaminate the environment -- the less we have to use, the better.

The cloth that hemp makes is much stronger and longer lasting than cotton and it does not stretch out. Environmentally, hemp is a better crop to grow than cotton, especially the way cotton is grown nowadays.

Cotton is a soil damaging crop and needs a lot of fertilizer. In the United States, the cotton crop uses half of all pesticides produced for American agriculture use. Yes, you heard right, one half of the pesticides used in the entire U.S. are used on cotton crops.

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