



TOBACCO INDUSTRY

HISTORY OF TOBACCO

Tobacco products became popular in the US during the Revolutionary War. In 1776, the revolutionaries used tobacco as collateral for the loans they were receiving from France.

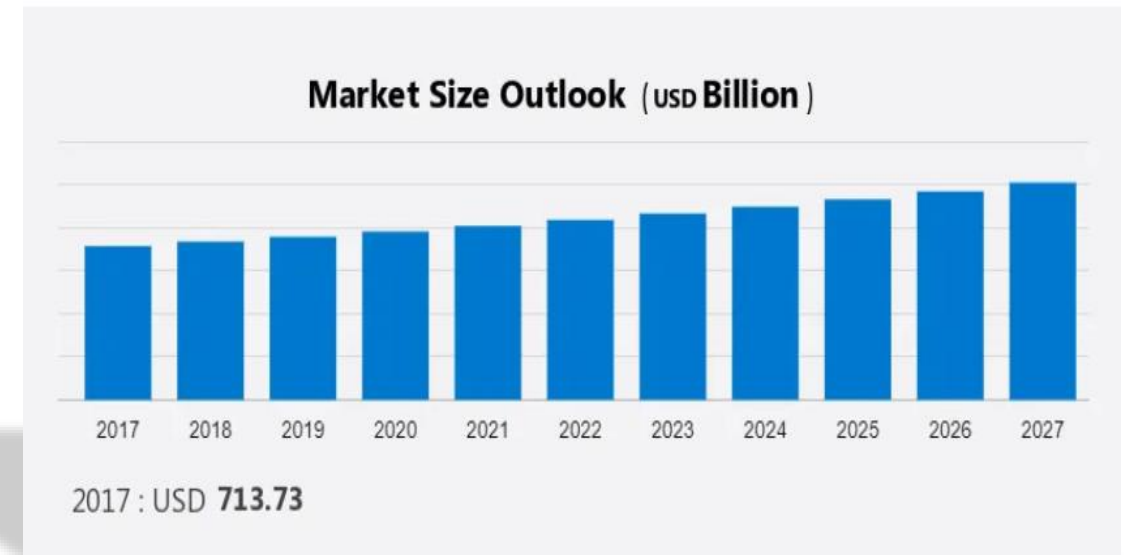
Cigarettes gained widespread popularity after James Bonsack invented the cigarette-making machine in 1881. Bonsack went into business with James 'Buck' Duke, and together they established the American Tobacco Company.

<https://tobaccofreelife.org/tobacco/tobacco-history/#:~:text=1730%20%E2%80%93%20First%20American%20tobacco%20companies,1794%20%E2%80%93%20First%20American%20tobacco%20tax>



TOBACCO MARKET OVERVIEW

The tobacco market size is estimated to grow at a CAGR of 3.84% between 2022 and 2027. The market size is forecast to increase by USD 173.03 billion. The growth of the market depends on several factors, including the increasing number of new product launches, rising demand for cigars and smoking tobacco products, and increasing number of organized retail outlets selling tobacco products.



TOBACCO PRODUCER

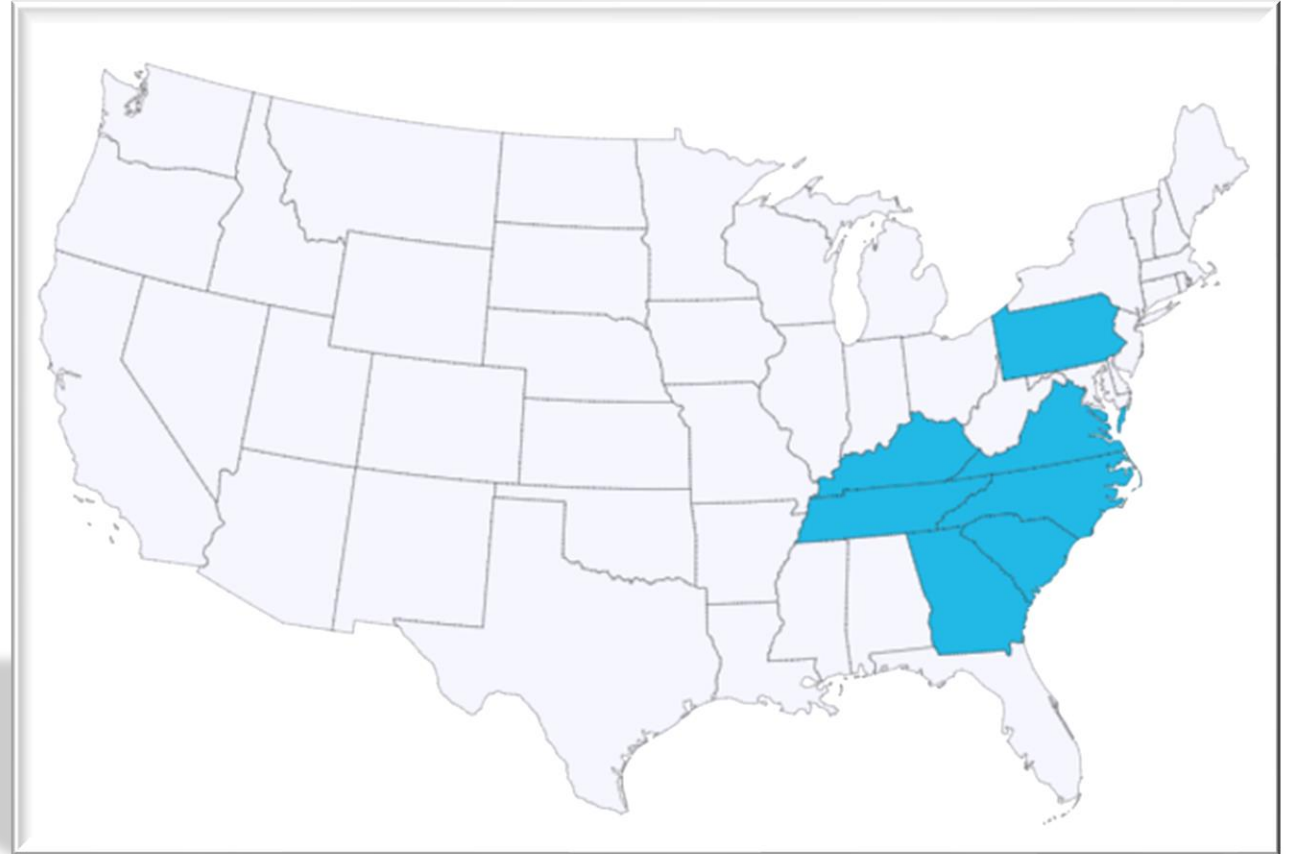
The U.S. is the fourth largest producer of tobacco in the world. The number of tobacco farms in the country has significantly decreased from 18,000 farms in the 1980s to the current 10,000 tobacco farms. Despite the decrease in the amount of agricultural land devoted to tobacco, the United States still produces 345,837 MT of tobacco each year.

<https://torchcigarbar.com/the-worlds-most-prolific-tobacco-producers/#:~:text=China%20%E2%80%93%20China%20is%20the%20world's,major%20boost%20to%20local%20economies.>



TOP TOBACCO PRODUCING STATES

As of 2023, the top tobacco-producing states are North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, and Pennsylvania.



PLANTING TOBACCO

Tobacco seeds are tiny, so they need to be started indoors. Germination can only occur at a temperature of at least 65 degrees Fahrenheit. The best time to start them is six weeks before the last frost, using seed compost. The seeds should be placed on top of the compost, requiring light to germinate.



GROWING TOBACCO

Seedlings can be transplanted once they reach 8 inches in height. The tobacco transplants are planted 2 feet apart from each other in rows set 3 feet apart. The transplant is done in the evening to prevent the plants from drying out. The tobacco plant will need to be watered daily until it becomes established. Once flowers and suckers appear on the plant, they are removed to encourage more growth in the tobacco leaves.

<https://www.ufseeds.com/tobacco-seed-to-harvest.html>



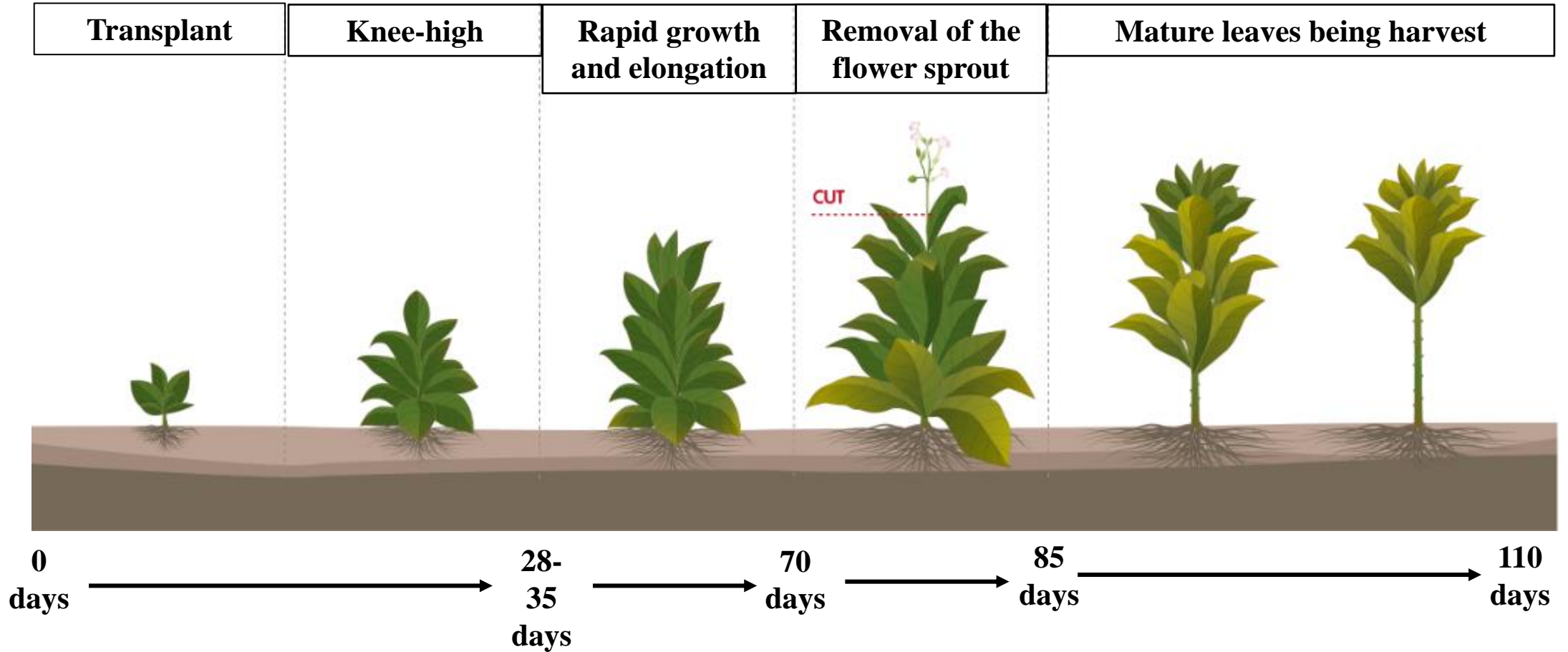
TOBACCO HARVEST

Tobacco plants are harvested 2-3 months after planting. Farmers pick the lower leaves first, then harvest the higher layers as they ripen. For Burley tobacco, the whole plant is cut, while Oriental tobacco leaves are harvested manually.

<https://www.pmi.com/tobacco-economics/tobacco-farming-and-curing#:~:text=The%20odyssey%20of%20a%20tobacco,to%20maximize%20yield%20and%20quality>



TOBACCO



TOBACCO CURING

The curing of tobacco plays a major role in the final leaf quality, and it must be carefully controlled to bring out the characteristic taste of each tobacco type. Different types of curing are used for different types of tobacco.

<https://www.pmi.com/tobacco-economics/tobacco-farming-and-curing#:~:text=The%20odyssey%20of%20a%20tobacco,to%20maximize%20yield%20and%20quality.>



VIRGINIA TOBACCO CURING

Virginia tobacco is 'flue-cured.' The tobacco leaves are hung in curing barns, where heated air is generated to dry the leaves. The process takes up to a week, during which time the heated air temperature must be constantly monitored and gradually increased.

<https://www.pmi.com/tobacco-economics/tobacco-farming-and-curing#:~:text=The%20odyssey%20of%20a%20tobacco,to%20maximize%20yield%20and%20quality>



BURLEY TOBACCO CURING

Burley is 'air-cured' in barns where the heat and humidity come from natural ventilation. The curing process takes up to two months.

<https://www.pmi.com/tobacco-economics/tobacco-farming-and-curing#:~:text=The%20odyssey%20of%20a%20tobacco,to%20maximize%20yield%20and%20quality>



ORIENTAL TOBACCO CURING

Oriental tobacco undergoes a sun-curing process where the leaves are hung outside for about two weeks.

<https://www.pmi.com/tobacco-economics/tobacco-farming-and-curing#:~:text=The%20odyssey%20of%20a%20tobacco,to%20maximize%20yield%20and%20quality>



GRADING TOBACCO LEAVES

Tobacco is sorted, packed into bales, dried, and evaluated in the US. Aromatic tobaccos are sorted into hands, re-dried, aged, and packed for shipping.

<https://pioneertobacco.com/methods-of-processing-tobacco-leaves/>



QUALIFYING ACTIVITIES

Planting

Plugging

Chopping

Irrigating

Spraying

Harvesting

Bulking

Pulling leaves

Setting

Hoeing

Topping

Pollinating

Cleaning

Striping



TOBACCO ORGANIZATIONS

Virginia Farm Bureau Federation

<http://www.vafb.com/>

North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation

<http://www.ncfb.com/>

South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation

<https://www.scfb.org/>

Georgia Farm Bureau Federation

<https://www.gfb.org/>

Florida Farm Bureau Federation

<http://www.floridafarmbureau.org/>

North Carolina State Grange

<http://www.ncgrange.com/>



ASSOCIATIONS

**Tobacco Growers Association of
North Carolina**

www.tganc.net

Tobacco Associates, Inc

tobaccoassociatesinc.org

