Growing & Shipping the Hemp

Hemp is one of the fastest growing plants and easily reaches 15 feet in fertile soil. The stripped stalks are bundled into shocks. In Autumn, the shocks were spread out to be exposed to rain, snow or soaked in water.

After the hemp cane is soaked by retting, the bark [shives] and core [hurds] are removed by breaking the hemp stalk. The bast fibers are removed and baled.

To remove the pieces of bark [shives] of the hemp and to break up the inner core [hurds], a field worker smashed the canes in the hemp brake.

In earliest times, the broken hemp was stripped with a wooden scutching knife to remove pieces of shives and hurds. The hemp was then baled and sent to the ropewalks, where it was stored in the hemphouse.