Welcome to the fifth annual Cotton Australia Cotton Annual

Cotton Australia annually collates data for key areas affecting cotton production in Australia: crop size, area, forecasts, yield, quality, price, water, biotechnology, environmental indicators and the world market.

Unless stated otherwise, the numbers quoted in this booklet relate to the 2015-16 Australian cotton crop. Sources and references are identified at the back of the booklet.

For more information, statistics and fact sheets please visit www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Cotton Australia is the key representative body for the Australian cotton growing industry.

1 Australian Cotton Bale = 227kg
1 Hectare = Approx 2 rugby football fields
Crop size 2016-17 season forecast
(estimated hectares and bales as at February 2017)

4.2 million bales
472,000 hectares
33% compared to the 2015-16 planted area

Bales: Cotton Australia (compilation of industry sources) Hectares: Monsanto audited numbers, February 2017

Number of cotton farms

1473
60.5% in NSW, 39% in Queensland and 0.5% in Victoria

1094
Up from 1094 in 2015-16

Monsanto audited numbers, February 2017
Average area of cotton on a farm

495 hectares

(five year average, 2009-14)

On average, cotton makes up 14% of land on a farm

Contribution to the regional Australian workforce

6.6 people

The average cotton farm provides jobs for 6.6 people

10K

In a non-drought year, the Australian cotton industry employs up to 10,000 people
Communities where cotton is grown

152 regions

Cotton is grown in 152 regional communities across Queensland, NSW and Victoria.

Previous crop size harvested

2.7 million bales

263,339 hectares

Towns list, Cotton Australia database

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)
State split (based on 2015-16 hectares)

63% of the crop was grown in NSW

37% of the crop was grown in Queensland

Irrigated/dryland (% of area)

77% was irrigated

23% was dryland

of the crop was rain grown (also known as dryland)
Australian cotton yields

Irrigated cotton yield

11.07 bales/hectare

Dryland cotton yield

3.87

Australian yields are high by international standards, more than three times the world average.

Farm gate value (seed and lint)

The 2015/16 Australian cotton crop was worth $1.3 Billion

- Cotton lint value: $1.1 billion
- Cottonseed value: $200 million

Based on Cotton Australia estimates

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)
91.5% of Australia’s cotton crop met the base grade, with approximately 8.5% of the crop attracting a discount on the world market.

67.5% was graded as premium or high quality (above base grade), attracting a higher price on the world market.

Average offered price of a bale of cotton

Price

$492

Quality

91.5%

67.5%

Average offered bale price ($AUD)

Price for Central Valleys between 1/2/2016 and 31/7/2016, Farmarco

Australian Cotton Shippers Association
World market for cotton
In 2015-2016:

World cotton production: approximately

92.7 million bales

World cotton consumption: approximately

106.2 million bales

ICAC (data in metric tonnes converted to Australian bales by multiplying the tonne number by 4.4 = (x4
227kg bales in a metric tonne)

Australia’s place in the world cotton market

Australia is the fifth largest exporter in the world (behind the USA, India, Brazil, Uzbekistan)

99% of Australia’s raw cotton is exported

Australian Raw Cotton Exports (kg)
In the 2014-15 year, China represented approximately 55% of Australia’s raw cotton exports, and India represented approximately 3%

ABARES, Australian Cotton Shippers Association (percentages listed by marketing year from 2016 Season - to December 31, 2016, ICAC
Comparing five year averages for the periods 2010-15 and 1998-2003, the Australian cotton industry has achieved a 92 percent reduction in insecticide use.
The average length of the riparian (native vegetation) corridor was 7.5km, with some as long as 42km.

**Percentage of catchment used to grow cotton**

Cotton crops occupy less than 5% of the catchment areas in which they operate.

**Average cotton farm riparian length**

- 7.5km
- 42km

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Australian Cotton Water Story 2012

(Cotton Research and Development Corporation and Roth Rural, 2015)
Land use efficiency

33%<

In Australia, 33% less land is now required to produce one tonne of cotton lint compared to 1995-96

25%

It takes 25% of the land to produce one metric tonne of cotton fibre in Australia, compared to the global average

Cotton crop water requirements

Cotton’s average irrigation requirement is: 7.5 megalitres per hectare

This compares to rice (12.6 ML/ha), fruit and nut trees, plantation or berry fruits (5.7 ML/ha), sugar cane (5.3 ML/ha) and nurseries, cut flowers and cultivated turf (4.8 ML/ha)

Rice is: 12.6 ML/ha

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)

ABS 2014-15 (released April 2016)
The largest volume of irrigation water was applied to pastures (including lucerne) and cereal crops used for grazing or fed off, which accounted for 2,301 gigalitres, or 25.7% of the total water applied nationally in 2014-15.

13.5%

Cotton accounted for 13.5% of water use on Australian farms.

25.7%

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The Australian cotton industry has achieved a 40% increase in water productivity since 2003. In other words, 40% less water is now needed to grow one tonne of cotton lint, compared to 2003.

40%

Australian cotton growers have almost doubled their irrigation water use index from 1.1 bales/megalitre in 2000-01 to 1.9 bales/megalitre in 2009-10.

40%

X2
ADVANCING AUSTRALIAN COTTON