Welcome to the 2016 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 2014-15 Australian cotton crop. Sources and references are identified at the back of the booklet.

For more information, statistics and facts please visit: www.cottonaustralia.com.au

Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australia’s almost 1,200 cotton farmers.
Crop size 2015-16
SEASON FORECAST

2.4 million bales (estimated)

270,000 hectares

37% compared to the 2014-15 planted area

Number of cotton farms

1094

60% in NSW and 40% in Qld

796

Up from 796 in 2014-15
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 people
In a non-drought year, the Australian cotton industry employs up to 10,000 people

Towns list, Cotton Australia database

Australian Grown Cotton Sustainability Report 2014
Communities where cotton is grown

152

regions

Cotton is grown in 152 regional communities across NSW and Queensland

Previous crop size harvested (2014-15)

2.2

million bales

196,689

hectares

Towns list, Cotton Australia database

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)
State split (BASED ON 2014-15 HECTARES)

66% of the crop was grown in NSW

34% of the crop was grown in Queensland

Dryland/irrigated (% OF AREA)

95% was irrigated

5% of the crop was rain grown (dryland)

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources), ABARES Crop Report, December 2014
Yields this season (average)

Irrigated cotton yield

11.5 bales/hectare

Farm gate value (seed and lint)

The 2014/15 Australian cotton crop was worth $1.3 Billion

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

Dryland cotton yield

4 bales/hectare

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

^ based on CA estimates
Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)
More than 91% of Australia’s cotton crop met the base grade or higher, with less than 9% being below base grade of Middling.

More than 43% of the crop was graded as Strict Middling three leaf and higher.

Average offered bale price ($AUD)

Price

$511

Average offered price of a bale of cotton

Price for Central Valleys between 01/02/2015 and 31/07/2015, Farmarco

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

World cotton production: approximately

101.7 million bales

World cotton consumption: approximately

107.2 million bales

Australia’s place in the world cotton market

99% of Australia’s raw cotton is exported

Destination of Australian raw cotton exports in 2014-15

ICAC (data in metric tonnes converted to Australian bales by multiplying the tonne number by 2.2046227kg bales in a metric tonne)

ABARES, Australian Cotton Shippers Association (percentages listed by marketing year from March 2014 to February 28, 2015)
Comparing five year averages for the periods 2010-15 and 1998-2003, the Australian cotton industry has achieved an 92 percent reduction in insecticide use.
The average length of the riparian (native vegetation) corridor was 7.5km, with some as long as 42km.

Cotton crops occupy less than 5% of the catchment areas in which they operate.
In Australia, 33% less land is now required to produce one tonne of cotton lint compared to 1995-96.

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

This compares to rice (12 ML/ha), fruit and nut trees, plantation or berry fruits (7 ML/ha), sugar cane (5 ML/ha) and nurseries, cut flowers and cultivated turf (5 ML/ha).

Cotton’s average irrigation requirement is: 8 megalitres per hectare.

Rice is: 12 ML/ha.

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)

ABS 2013-14
In 2013-14, the largest area of irrigated land in Australia was pasture and cereal crops used for grazing (or fed off), which accounted for 701,619 ha, or 29.7% of the total area irrigated.

Cotton’s total water use

The largest volume of irrigation water was applied to cotton, which used 2773 gigalitres, or 24% of the national irrigation total for the period (11,562 gigalitres).

Water use efficiency improvements

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.

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.