

# Cotton Annual 2014

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**AUSTRALIAN COTTON  
INDUSTRY STATISTICS**

# *Welcome* *to the second 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.

In the 2012-13 cotton season, the Australian industry boasted world record yields across the board: for irrigated and dryland production, as well as average cotton yields well beyond those ever achieved before in history. Australia also became the first cotton producing country to achieve yields above 10 bales/hectare for irrigated cotton and 5 bales/hectare for dryland cotton.

Unless stated otherwise, the numbers quoted in this booklet relate to the **2012-13 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](http://www.cottonaustralia.com.au)

Cotton Australia is the peak representative body for Australia's almost 1,250 cotton farmers.



# Crop Size 2013-14 season forecast

(hectares and bales as at 20 December 2013)

**4.1**  
million bales

**421,610**  
hectares

**↓ 1%**  
compared to the 2012-13  
planted area

Note: dry conditions across many cotton regions since December 2013 will most likely see this forecast revised down.

# Number of Cotton Farms

**1,181**

56% in NSW and  
44% in QLD

# *Average area of cotton on a farm*

# 496

**hectares**

(five year average,  
2009-10 to 2013-14)

On average, cotton makes up

# 17%

of land area on a farm

# *Contribution to the regional Australian workforce*

The average  
cotton farm  
provides  
jobs for

# 6.8

**people**

In 2012 cotton  
provided  
employment for

# 8,000

**people**

across northern NSW  
and southern QLD alone

*Communities  
where cotton  
is grown*

Cotton is  
grown in

152

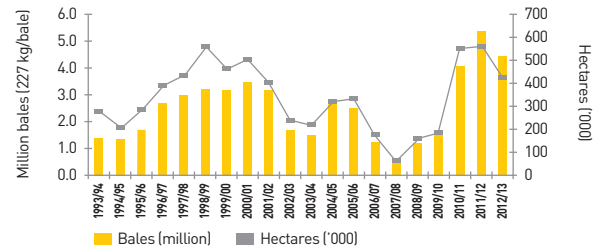
regional communities across  
NSW and Queensland

*Previous  
Crop Size –  
Harvested*

425,786  
hectares

4.4  
million bales

20 YEAR HISTORY OF CROP PRODUCTION



# State Split

[hectares]

63%

of the crop was  
grown in NSW

37%

of the crop was grown  
in Queensland

# Dryland / irrigated

(% of area)

5%

of the crop was rain  
grown (dryland)

95%

was irrigated

Many dryland farmers chose to grow crops other than cotton this season, largely due to price as explained here... "favourable grains prices and falling cotton prices have made grain sorghum a more attractive option to producers than dryland cotton."

ABARES Crop Report, December 2012

# World Record Yields this Season

Overall average yield

**10.37**  
bales/hectare

The first time in  
history that average  
yields have exceeded  
10 bales/hectare

Irrigated cotton yield

**10.41**  
bales/hectare

A world record for  
irrigated cotton

Dryland cotton yield

**5.13**  
bales/hectare

A world record for  
rain grown cotton

- 🕒 Australia's cotton growers produce yields almost three times the world average

# Farm Gate Value

(seed and lint)

The Australian cotton crop was worth almost

**\$2.3**  
billion

Value of cotton lint

**\$2,031,362,000**

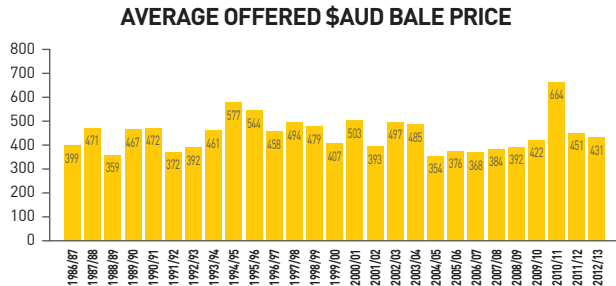
Value of cottonseed

**\$264,077,000**

# Price

Average offered price of a bale of cotton

# \$431



# Quality

# 95%

of Australia's cotton crop met the base grade, with less than 5% of the crop attracting a discount on the world market

# 75% ✓

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



# World Market for Cotton

In 2013-2014, world cotton production was approximately

**112.6**  
million bales

In 2013-2014, world cotton consumption was approximately

**104.3**  
million bales

# Australia's place in the world cotton market

- Australia is the third largest exporter in the world (behind USA and India)

Over

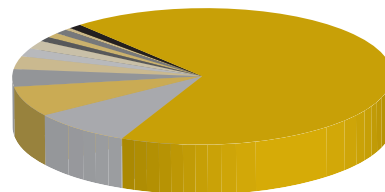
**99%**

of Australia's raw cotton is exported, with

**68%** sold to China

## AUSTRALIAN RAW COTTON EXPORTS IN 2012 (KG)

(source: ABARES)



|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ■ China              | 842,607,597          |
| ■ Indonesia          | 105,450,922          |
| ■ Thailand           | 89,477,900           |
| ■ Korea, Republic of | 53,896,687           |
| ■ Bangladesh         | 37,957,558           |
| ■ Pakistan           | 23,178,785           |
| ■ Vietnam            | 22,979,148           |
| ■ India              | 15,153,448           |
| ■ Japan              | 13,713,278           |
| ■ Malaysia           | 12,989,368           |
| ■ Hong Kong          |                      |
| ■ [SAR of China]     | 6,368,871            |
| ■ Other              | 12,614,027           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>1,236,387,589</b> |

# *Area planted using biotechnology*

Over

# 99%

of Australia's  
cotton crop  
is grown  
with varieties  
containing  
biotech traits

# *Insect Pest Control*

Australian cotton growers have  
reduced their insecticide use by

# 95%

over the past 15 years

Less than one teaspoon

# (0.2) grams

of total insecticides was applied for  
every kilogram of Australian cotton  
lint produced.

*% of catchment  
used to  
grow cotton*

Cotton crops occupy less than

**<5%**

of the catchment  
areas in which  
they operate

*% of native  
vegetation on  
cotton farms*

Around

**40%**

of cotton farm  
area is  
dedicated  
to native  
vegetation

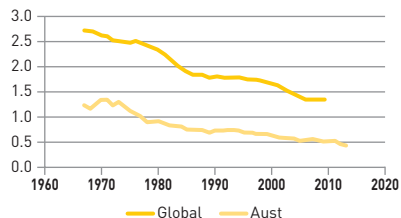
# Land Use Efficiency

In Australia

# 30%

less land is now required to produce one tonne of cotton lint compared to 1999

HECTARES TO PRODUCE A METRIC TONNE OF COTTON FIBRE



- Compared to the rest of the world, it takes a third of the land to produce one metric tonne of cotton fibre in Australia

# Cotton crop water requirements

Cotton's average irrigation requirement is

# 5.2

megalitres per hectare

*This compares to*

Rice

**(10.1 ML/ha)**

Cut Flowers and Turf

**(4.2 ML/ha)**

Fruit and Nut Trees

**(5 ML/ha)**

# Water use efficiency – improvements

The Australian cotton industry has achieved a

 **40%**

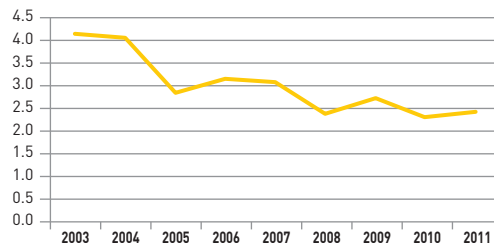
increase in water productivity over the last decade. In other words, 40% less water is now needed to grow one tonne of cotton lint, compared to 2003

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

WATER USE (ML) PER TONNE OF COTTON



# Cotton's total water use

In 2011-12, the largest area of irrigated land in Australia was pasture and cereal crops used for grazing or fed off, which accounted for

**614,000**  
hectares or **29%**  
of the total area irrigated

The largest volume of irrigation water was applied to cotton, which used

**2,069**  
gigalitres or **25%**  
of the national irrigation total (8,175 gigalitres)

## SOURCES

### PAGE 4

Bales: Cotton Australia (compilation of industry sources)  
Hectares: Monsanto audited numbers, 20.12.13

### PAGE 5

Monsanto audited numbers, 20.12.13

### PAGE 6

Monsanto audited numbers, 20.12.13, 2013 Cotton Practices Grower Survey, CRDC

### PAGE 7

Judith Stubbs & Associates Report 2011

### PAGE 8

Towns list, Cotton Australia database

### PAGE 9

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)

### PAGE 10

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)

### PAGE 11

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources) ABARES Crop Report, December 2012

### PAGE 12

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources). Dryland yield calculated by dividing bales by paddock hectares (not green hectares), ABARES

### PAGE 13

Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources) Cotton Compass

### PAGE 14

Cotton Compass

### PAGE 15

Australian Cotton Shippers Association

### PAGE 16

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

### PAGE 17

ABARES

### PAGE 18

Monsanto audited numbers, 20.12.13

### PAGE 19

Crop Consultants Association Audit (CRDC data) 1997/98 gms/ha number divided by 2012/13 gms/number

### PAGE 20

Australian Cotton Water Story 2012

### PAGE 21

2011 Cotton Grower Survey (CRDC and Cotton CRC)

### PAGE 22

ABARES

### PAGE 23

ABS Water Use on Australian Farms 2011-12

### PAGE 24

The Australian Cotton Water Story 2011

### PAGE 25

The Australian Cotton Water Story 2011

### PAGE 26

Water Use on Australian Farms 2011-12, ABS