

# Cotton Annual 2015

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COTTON  
AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN COTTON  
INDUSTRY STATISTICS

# *Welcome*

## *to the third 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 2013-14 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 2014-15 season forecast

(hectares and bales as at February 2015)

**1.9**  
million bales (estimated)

**196,698**  
hectares

**↓ 53%**  
compared to the 2013-14  
planted area

# Number of Cotton Farms

**796**

64% in NSW and  
36% in Queensland

**↓ 32%**  
down from last  
season (1181) due  
to reduced water  
availability

*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*

The average  
cotton farm  
provides  
jobs for

**6.6**  
**people**

In a non-  
drought year,  
the Australian  
cotton industry  
employs up to

**10,000**  
**people**

*Communities  
where cotton  
is grown*

Cotton is  
grown in

152

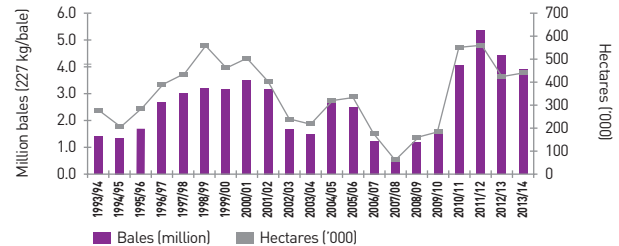
regional communities across  
NSW and Queensland

*Previous  
Crop Size –  
Harvested*

414,000  
hectares

3.9  
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)

7%

of the crop was rain  
grown (dryland)

93%

was irrigated

# *Yields this Season*

Overall average yield

**9.95**  
bales/hectare

Dryland cotton yield

**4.2**  
bales/hectare

- ⦿ Australian yields are high by international standards, almost three times the world average

# *Farm Gate Value*

(seed and lint)

The 2013/14 Australian cotton crop was worth

**\$2.2**  
billion

Value of cotton lint

**\$1.9 billion**

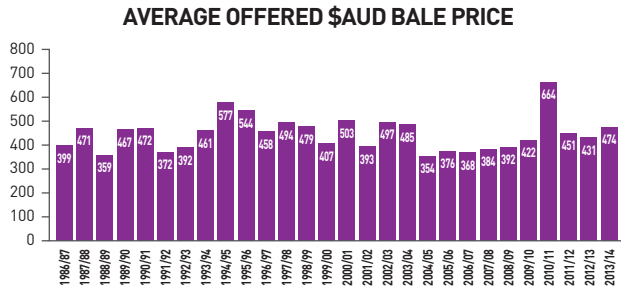
Value of cottonseed

**\$300,000**

# Price

Average offered price of a bale of cotton

# \$474



# Quality

# 65%

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

# 21%✓

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



# World Market for Cotton

In 2014-2015, world cotton production was approximately

**115.5**  
million bales

In 2014-2015, world cotton consumption was approximately

**107.4**  
million bales

# Australia's place in the world cotton market

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

Over

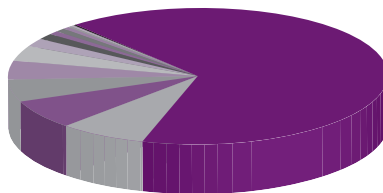
**99%**

of Australia's raw cotton is exported, with

**66%** sold to China

## AUSTRALIAN RAW COTTON EXPORTS IN 2013 (KG)

(source: ABARES)



■ China - 734,062,840  
■ Indonesia - 82,931,089  
■ Thailand - 77,921,589  
■ Korea, Republic of - 58,991,867  
■ Bangladesh - 49,603,991  
■ Vietnam - 38,151,484  
■ Pakistan - 21,976,974  
■ Japan - 15,414,054  
■ Malaysia - 10,142,504  
■ India - 9,644,860  
■ Hong Kong - 6,997,322  
■ Taiwan - 3,579,036  
■ Philippines - 2,006,923  
■ Italy - 695,000  
■ Other - 401,801  
**TOTAL - 1,112,521,33**

# *Area planted using biotechnology*

99%

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

# *Insect Pest Control*

Comparing five year  
averages for the  
periods 2008-13  
and 1998-2003,  
the Australian  
cotton industry  
has achieved an



89%

reduction in insecticide use

*% 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*

**42%**

of an average  
cotton farm's  
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

- 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

# 7.8

megalitres per hectare

*This compares to*

Rice

**(12.6ML/ha)**

Fruit and Nut Trees

**(5.6 ML/ha)**

Cut Flowers and Turf

**(4.9 ML/ha)**

# Water use efficiency – improvements

The Australian cotton industry has achieved a

**↑ 40%**

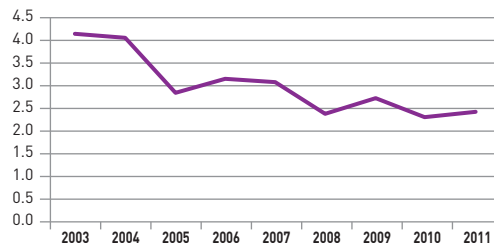
increase in water productivity since 2003. In other words, 40% less water is now needed to grow one tonne of cotton lint, compared to 2003

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

WATER USE (ML) PER TONNE OF COTTON



# Cotton's total water use

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

**714,503.2**  
hectares or **30%**  
of the total area irrigated

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

**2,851**  
gigalitres or **26%**  
of the national irrigation total for the year (11,060 gigalitres)

## SOURCES

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Bales: Cotton Australia (compilation of industry sources)  
Hectares: Monsanto audited numbers, 23.12.14

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Monsanto audited numbers, 23.12.14

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Australian Grown Cotton Sustainability Report 2014

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Australian Grown Cotton Sustainability Report

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Towns list, Cotton Australia database

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Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)

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Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources)

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Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources), ABARES Crop Report, December 2013

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

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Cotton Australia tables (compilation of industry sources), ABARES

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Cotton Compass

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Australian Cotton Shippers Association

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

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ABARES, Australian Cotton Shippers Association

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Monsanto audited numbers, 23.12.14

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Australian Grown Cotton Sustainability Report 2014

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Australian Cotton Water Story 2012

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Australian Grown Cotton Sustainability Report 2014

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2011 Cotton Grower Survey (CRDC and Cotton CRC)

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ABS 2012-13

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Australian Cotton Water Story 2012

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ABS 2014

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ABS 2014