

Cotton in the NT



Australia's cotton industry is one of the most water efficient industries in the world.



More than 95% of the total area under cotton production in the NT is rain-fed.



Rain-fed farming, sometimes referred to as dryland farming, uses natural rainfall to grow crops.



It's expected that more than 80% of future cotton farming in the NT will continue to use rain-fed cropping systems. The remainder may be supplemented by irrigation where adequate water resources are already allocated.



In 2023-24 there were nine cotton growers in the Big Rivers region growing about 10,000 hectares. This represents 0.007% of the NT landmass.



Cotton, like all other crops grown in the Territory, is required to meet all land and water development regulations.



Water allocation plans protect our rivers and aquifers.



Anyone who breaches licence conditions or extracts water illegally face huge penalties.



Learn more at nt.gov.au/cotton