Glossary

**Alluvium** Refers to sediment that has been deposited by flowing water, such as a flood plain.

**AM** Arbuscular Mycorrhiza: was called VAM. A partnership between soil borne fungi and most crop plants, including cotton (but not brassicas). AM fungi colonise the roots of the plant without causing disease. AM fungi act as an extension of the root system and transfer extra nutrients, especially phosphorus, from the soil to the plant. In return the plant provides the fungi with sugars as a food source.

**Aphid colony** 4 or more aphids within 2 cm on a leaf or terminal.

**Area Wide Management (AWM)** Growers working together in a region to manage pest populations. AWM is a cotton industry vehicle driving adoption of on-farm IPM.

**At-planting insecticide** Insecticides applied in the seed furrow with the seed during planting. The insecticide may be applied as a granule or as a spray into the seed furrow.

**Australian Rainman StreamFlow** A computer program for PC/Windows which analyses rainfall information and can forecast seasonal rainfall.

**BDI** Beneficial Disruption Index – Is a score for each insecticide for the entire cotton season, of the impact of each insecticide on beneficial insect populations. The BDI helps benchmark the ‘softness’ or ‘hardness’ of an individual fields’ insecticide spray regime.

**Beat sheet** A sheet of yellow canvas 1.5 m x 2 m in size, placed in the furrow and extended up and over the adjacent row of cotton. A metre stick is used to beat the plants against the beat sheet. Insects are dislodged from the plants onto the canvas and are quickly counted.

**Beneficial insects** Predators and parasitoids of pests.

**Biological insecticides** Insecticides based on living entomopathogenic (infecting insects) organisms, usually bacteria, fungi or viruses, or containing entomopathogenic products from such organisms i.e. Gemstar, Vivo and Dipel (BT).

**Biomass** Plant biomass is the total dry weight of the crop.

**Boll** Cotton fruit after the flower has opened and fertilisation has occurred (after the flower has turned pink). Bolls typically have four or five segments, known as locks, each containing about 6–10 seeds. The lint, or cotton fibre, is produced by elongated cells that grow from the surface of the seed coat, hence the ‘seed cotton’ in the boll is a mixture of seed and lint.

**Bollgard II® cotton** Genetically modified cotton variety containing the insecticidal proteins Cry1Ac and Cry2Ab which ‘seed cotton’ in the boll is a mixture of seed and lint.

**Cut-out** is when a crop has reached on average 4 nodes above white flower (NAWF).

**Day Degrees (DD)** A unit combining temperature and time, useful for monitoring and comparing crop development. To calculate your DD visit the Australian Cotton CRC website.

**Crazy cotton** Multi-branched cotton caused by excessive and repeated tipping out.

**Cotton bunchy top (CBT)** A relatively new disease spread by the cotton aphid (*Aphis gossypii*, Glover). Symptoms of CBT include reduced plant height, leaf surface area, petiole length and internode length. Pale angular mottling of the leaf margins is the most reliable diagnostic feature.

**Cotyledons** Paired first leaves that emerge from the soil when the seed germinates.

**Crop compensation** The capacity for a cotton plant to ‘catch-up’ after insect damage without affecting yield or maturity.

**Crop Development Tool** A web tool which allows crop managers to monitor both vegetative and reproductive growth of their crops compared to potential rates of development.

**Crop maturity** This usually occurs when 60–65% of bolls are mature and open. Cotton bolls are mature when the fibre is well developed, the seeds are firm and the seed coats are turning brown in colour.

**Cut-out** As the cotton plant continues to develop bolls, the demand for carbohydrates that are produced in the leaves increases. Eventually the demand by the bolls exceeds supply, resulting in the production of new fruiting nodes ceasing and the shedding of excess bolls, less than 14 days old. This point is known as ‘cut-out’. An approximation of the timing of cutout is when a crop has reached on average 4 nodes above white flower (NAWF).

**Damage threshold** The level of damage from which the crop will not recover completely and which will cause some economic loss of yield or delay in maturity. Damage thresholds are usually applied in conjunction with pest thresholds to account for both pest numbers and plant growth. For instance a plant which has very high leaf retention (see below) may be able to tolerate a higher pest threshold (see below) than a crop with poor fruit retention.

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**Day Degrees (DD)** A unit combining temperature and time, useful for monitoring and comparing crop development. To calculate your DD visit the Australian Cotton CRC website.
Deep drainage Water from rainfall or irrigation that has drained below the root zone of the crop. A certain amount of deep drainage helps flush salts form the soil, but excess deep drainage means water and nutrients are being wasted.

Defoliation The removal of leaves from the cotton plant in preparation for harvest. This is done by artificially enhancing the natural process of senescence and abscission with the use of specific chemicals.

Denitrification A biological process encouraged by high soil temperatures. Denitrification occurs when there is waterlogging, such as during and after flood irrigation and/or heavy rainfall. The process converts plant available N (nitrate) back to nitrogen gases which are lost from the system.

Dessicant A chemical used as a harvest aid that damages the leaf membrane causing loss of moisture in the leaf producing a desiccated leaf.

Determinate/Indeterminate Cotton is an indeterminate species which is capable of continuing to grow after a period of stress. Although short season varieties are considered determinate, which terminate reproductively development comparatively abruptly.

Diapausers A period of physiologically controlled dormancy in insects. For Helicoverpa armigera, diapause occurs at the pupal stage in the soil.

Doffer Doffers unwind and remove the cotton from the spindle so that it can be transported to the basket in an airstream.

Double knock Is the sequential application of two weed control options with different modes of action in a short time-frame.

Double skip Row configuration used in dryland/semi irrigated situations to conserve soil moisture.

D-vac A small portable suction sampler or blower/vacuum machine used to suck insects from the cotton plants into a fine mesh bag. D-vac samples are collected by passing the tube of the vacuum sampler across the plants in 20 m of row. When plants are small this may be a single pass, but when plants are bigger a zig zag pattern from the bottom to the top of the crop with each step of the operator may be required to sample the canopy more effectively. Samples from the d-vac bag are transferred into a plastic bag and counted.

Earliness Minimising the number of days between sowing and crop maturity. Within a cotton variety earliness usually involves some sacrifice of yield.

Efficacy The effectiveness of a product against pests or beneficial insects (predators or parasitoids).

Egg parasitoids They are parasitoids that specifically attack insect eggs. E.g. Trichogramma pretiosum attacks the egg stage of Helicoverpa. The wasp lays its eggs in the egg, and the wasp larvae which hatch consume the contents of the host egg. Instead of a small Helicoverpa larva hatching, up to four wasps may emerge from each host egg. Thus the host is killed before causing damage.

Flat fan nozzle A spray nozzle with an outlet that produces spray droplet distribution that spreads out of the nozzle in one direction but which is thin in the other direction, much like the shape of a Chinese or Japanese hand fan.

Flush A high volume irrigation carried out in minimal time.

Food sprays They are natural food products sprayed onto cotton crops to attract and hold beneficial insects, particularly predators, in cotton crops so they can help control pests. Two types of food sprays are available for pest management. They are the yeast based food sprays which attract beneficial insects and the sugar based ones which retain predators which are already in the crop.

F Rank A rank that each cotton variety is given in accordance with its resistance to the cotton disease Fusarium Wilt.

Fruit load Refers to the number of fruit (squares or bolls) on a cotton plant.

Fruit retention Refers to the percentage of fruit (squares or bolls) that the cotton plant or crop has maintained compared with number it produced.

Fruiting branch Grows laterally from the main stem in a series of segments. Each segment finishes at a node at which there is a square and a leaf. At the base of the square the next segment originates, and so on.

Fruiting factor Is a measure of the number of fruit per fruiting branch. A method to check if the total fruit number produced by the crop is on track. Fruiting factors which are too high or too low can indicate problems with agronomy or pest management which may need to be acted on. To calculate the fruiting factor divide the fruit count made in 1 metre of cotton row by the number of fruiting branches in that area.

Gilgai micro relief is formed due to clay horizons shrinking and swelling with alternate drying and wetting cycles. This forces ‘blocks’ of subsoil material gradually upwards to form mounds.

Habitat diversity A mixture of crops, trees and natural vegetation on the farm rather than just limited or single crop type (monoculture).

Hill Refers to the risen bed where the crop is planted in a furrow irrigated field.

Honeydew A sticky sugar rich waste excreted by feeding aphids or whiteflies. It can interfere with photosynthesis, affect fibre quality and cause problems with fibre processing.

HVI High Volume Instrument that is able to quickly and accurately determine the fibre properties of a large volume of cotton.

Irrigation deficit Readily available water capacity.

In-furrow insecticide Insecticides applied in the seed furrow with the seed during planting. The insecticide may be applied as a granule or as a spray into the seed furrow.

Insecticide resistance Where a pest develops resistance to an insecticide, the insecticide will no longer kill those individuals that are resistant. This usually results in poor control and may lead to failure of control with the insecticide in the worst cases. The resistant insects develop a mechanism for dealing with the insecticide, such as production of enzymes which break the insecticide down quickly before it kills the pest.

Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy (IRMS) An industry regulated strategy that sets limits on which insecticides can be used, when they can be used and how many times they can be used. This helps prevent the development of insecticide resistance.

IPM Integrated Pest Management.

Labile P/non-labile P There are a few Phosphorus fractions within the soil including labile (available) P and non-labile (slow release) P.

Lay-by herbicide A residual herbicide used to control weeds in-crop or during the growth of the cotton crop.

Larval parasitoids A wasp that lays their egg on or in a larva and use the lifecycle of the larva in order to reproduce. Parasitoids usually cause the death of their host whereas parasites do not.

Leaf crumpling Leaves that are wrinkled, cupped and smaller than normal. This can be caused by thrips.

Lint Cotton fibres. These are elongated cells growing from the surface of the cotton seed coat. See also ‘Bolls’.
**Listing** Rig A cultivator used to form cotton beds.

**Lodging** Towards the end of the season cotton plants with large and heavy boll loads will often fall into each other which is known as lodging.

**Main stem node** A point on the main stem from which a new leaf grows. At these points there may also be fruiting or vegetative branches produced.

**Management unit** An area on the farm that is managed in the same way i.e. same variety, sowing date, insect management.

**Micronaire** Measurement of specific surface area based on the pressure difference obtained when air is passed through a plug of cotton fibres. This reflects fineness and maturity.

**Mycoorrhiza** Specialised fungi which form beneficial associations with plant roots and can act as an agent for nutrient exchange.

**NACB** The number of main stem Nodes Above the first position. Cracked Boll. This is an indication of the maturity of the plant and can be used in making decisions about the final irrigation or defoliation.

**Natural enemies** Predators and parasitoids of pests.

**Natural mortality** The expected death rate of insects in the field mainly due to climatic and other environmental factors including natural enemies.

**NAWF** The number of main stem Nodes Above the first position. White Flower that is closest to the plant terminal.

**Neutron probe** An instrument used to measure soil moisture.

**Node** A leaf bearing joint of a stem, an important character for plant mapping in cotton where nodes refer to the leaves or absicised leaf scars on the main stem.

**Normalised Difference Vegetation Index** Is an indicator used to analyse remote sensing measurements to assess whether the observed target contains live green vegetation.

**Nursery** A crop or vegetational habitat which attracts and sustains an insect (pest or beneficial) through multiple generations.

**NutriLOGIC** Nitrogen fertiliser management web tool in CottASSIST (www.cottassist.cottonrc.org.au).

**NUTRIpak** An information resource for cotton nutrition, including critical levels for soil tests, and interactions between different nutrients.

**Nymph** The immature stage of insects which looks like the adult but without wings. E.g. nymphs of mirids. Nymphs gradually acquire adult form through a series of moults and do not pass through a pupal stage. In contrast, ‘larvae’ are immature stages of insects, such as the *Helicoverpa* caterpillars, that look quite different to the adults, which in this case is a moth.

**Okra leaf type** Cotton varieties with deeply lobed leaves that look very similar to the leaves on the Okra (*Abelmoschus esculentus*) plant, which is related to cotton and hibiscus.

**OZCOT model** A cotton crop simulation model that will predict cotton growth, yield and maturity given basic weather, agronomic and varietal data.

**Partial root zone drying** The creation of simultaneous wet and dry areas within the root zone. Only part of the root zone is irrigated and kept moist at any one time.

**Pest flaring** An increase in a pest population following a pesticide application intended to control another species. This usually occurs with species that have very fast life cycles such as spider mites, aphids or whitefly. It occurs following the use of broader spectrum insecticides which control the target pest but also reduce the numbers of predators and parasites. This allows these ‘secondary’ or non-target pests to increase unchecked, often reaching damaging levels and requiring control.

**Peak flowering** The period of crop development where the plant has the highest numbers of flowers opening per day.

**Pest damage** Damage to the cotton plant caused by pests. This can be either damage to the growing terminals (known as tipping out), the leaves, or the fruit (including squares or bolls).

**Pest resurgence** An increase in a pest population following a pesticide application intended to reduce it. This usually occurs because the insecticide has reduced the numbers of beneficials, which normally help control the pest, thereby allowing subsequent generations of the pest to increase without this source of control.

**Pest threshold** The level of pest population at which a pesticide or other control measure is needed to prevent eventual economic loss to the crop. See also ‘Damage threshold’.

**Petiole** The stalk that attaches the leaf to the stem.

**Phase 1** The period between planting and the start of flowering (one flower per metre).

**Phase 2** The period between flowering to first open boll.

**Phase 3** The period between first open boll to harvest.

**Pima cotton** Is of the *Gossypium barbadense* species. It has an extra long staple and its growth is limited to regions with long growing seasons. Normal cotton is of the species *Gossypium hirsutum*.

**Pix** Mepiquat chloride, cotton growth regulator.

**Plant Available Water Capacity (PAWC)** The amount of water in the soil that can be extracted by plants, usually full point (when the soil can hold no more water) minus wilting point (point at which the plant can no longer extract sufficient water from the soil and begins to wilt).

**Plant cell density** A term used in precision agriculture which is a ratio of infra-red to red reflectance produced from digital imagery.

**Plant growth regulator** Chemicals which can be applied to the plant to reduce growth rate (see also ‘Rank crop’).

**Plant mapping** A method used to record the fruiting dynamics of a cotton plant. This can be useful for understanding where the plant has held or is holding the most fruit in order to interpret the effects of factors that may affect fruit load such as pest damage, water stress, heat.

**Plant stand** The number of established cotton plants per metre of row.

**Planting window** A period of time in which you need to plant your cotton. Bollgard II® cotton has a planting window which is a strategy used to restrict the number of generations of *Helicoverpa* spp. exposed to Bollgard II® in a region.

**Plastic limit** The water content where soil starts to exhibit plastic behaviour.

**Post-emergent knockdown herbicide** A herbicide used to rapidly control weeds after they emerge.

**Predator to pest ratio** A ratio used to incorporate the activity of the predatory insects into the pest management decisions. It is calculated as total number of predators per metre divided by the total number of *Helicoverpa* spp. eggs plus very small and small larvae per metre.

**Premature cut-out** Premature cut-out is when the production of bolls exceeds the supply of carbohydrates too early in the crops development and therefore the production of new fruiting nodes stops. This results in a less than ideal boll load.

**Pre-plant knockdown herbicide** A herbicide used to rapidly control weeds prior to planting.
Presence/absence The binomial insect sampling technique that records the presence or absence of a pest rather than absolute numbers on plant terminals or leaves, depending on the pest species being sampled.

Prophylactic Refers to regular insecticide sprays applied in anticipation of a potential pest problem. Spraying on a prophylactic basis runs the risk of spraying to prevent pest damage that would not have occurred anyway, thereby increasing costs, selection for insecticide resistance and the risk of causing secondary pest outbreaks due to reductions in predator and parasite numbers.

PSO Petroleum Spray Oil – Is a petroleum derived oil commonly used to control insect pests such as Helicoverpa spp., mirids, mealy bugs, aphids, thrips, scales and mites. PSOs can also be used to deter egg lay of some pests such as Helicoverpa spp.

Pupae Once larvae of Helicoverpa have progressed through the larval (caterpillar) stages they will move to the soil and burrow below the surface. Here they will change into a pupae (similar to a butterfly chrysalis). In this stage they undergo the change from a caterpillar to a moth.

Pupae busting Effective tillage to reduce the survival of the overwintering pupal stage of Helicoverpa. Pupae busting is an important tool in reducing the proportion of the Helicoverpa population carrying insecticide resistance from one season to the next.

Rank crop A rank crop is usually very tall (long internode lengths) with excessive vegetative plant structures. This can be caused by a number of factors including excessive fertiliser use, pest damage and crop responses to ideal growing conditions especially hot weather. Rank crops can be difficult to spray and to harvest and may have delayed maturity or reduced yield. Seed company web sites detail methods to assess plant growth to test if a plant growth regulator might be needed to prevent such rank growth.

Ratoon cotton A cotton crop in which the stalks are cut down after harvest, but the crown and rootstock are left in the ground to regrow the following season. For pest and disease reasons, this form of cropping is not used in Australia.

Refuge This term is used to refer to crops grown specifically as a requirement of the Bollgard II® licence to produce Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) susceptible Helicoverpa spp.

Rotation crops Other crop types grown before or after the cotton is grown.

Scouting Checking crops (e.g. for insects, damage, weeds, growth etc).

Secondary pests Pests such as spider mites, aphids or whiteflies which do not usually become a problem unless their natural enemies (predators or parasites) are reduced in number by insecticides. See also ‘Pest Flaring’.

Seed bed A type of mound on which furrow irrigated cotton is grown.

Seed treatment An insecticide / fungicide used to coat cotton seeds to offer a period of protection during germination and establishment against some ground dwelling pests eg. wireworm and some early looper species being sampled.

Selection pressure The number of times insecticides from a particular chemical group are sprayed onto a cotton crop. Each of these spray events will control susceptible individuals, leaving behind those that are resistant. More selection events means that there is greater ‘pressure’ or chance of selecting a resistant population.

Side-dressing Normally refers to adding an in-crop fertiliser.

Single skip A row configuration used in dryland/semi irrigated situations to conserve soil moisture.

Sodicity A measure of exchangeable sodium in relation to other exchangeable cations. A sodic soil contains sufficient exchangeable sodium to interfere with the growth of plants.

Soft approach Managing insect and mite pests using pesticides and other approaches that have limited effect on beneficial insect populations.

SOILpak Information about cotton soils.

Soil water deficit The difference between a full soil moisture profile and the current soil moisture level.

Solid plant A row configuration generally used in irrigated cropping and is normally 1m row spacing.

Solodic soils Are typical in semi-arid and subhumid climatic zones and tend to be very dense soils with low permeability. The difference between solodic soils and solodized solonetze soils occurs in the structure of the B horizon: solodics have a medium to coarse blocky structure whereas solodized solonetze soils have a coarse columnar structure with clearly defined domes on the tops of the columns.

Spray adjuvant A substance added to the spray tank that will improve the performance of the chemical.

Spring tickle Uses shallow cultivation to promote early germination of weeds prior to sowing. These weeds can then be controlled with a non-selective knockdown herbicide.

Square Cotton flower bud.

Squaring nodes A node at which a fruiting branch is produced, which is defined as a branch with a square which has a subtending leaf that is fully unfurled and on which all central veins are visible.

Standing stubble Stalks from a crop that has been harvested or sprayed out and left to stand in the field.

Subbing up An irrigation term referring to the wetting process of the cotton beds.

Sucking pests Usually from the group of insects known as hemiptera or bugs which have piercing tubular mouthparts which they insert into plant parts to obtain nutrition. Key among these are green mirids, which feed on cotton terminals, and young squares and bolls. Some bugs inject toxins into the plant when they feed, which if bolls are fed on, may cause seed damage and staining of lint.

Sweep net A large cloth net (approximately 60 cm deep) attached to a round aluminium frame which is about 40 cm in diameter with a handle (1 m in length) used to sample insects.

Synthetic insecticides Non-biological insecticides. They may be man made versions of natural insecticides (i.e. pyrethroids are synthetic, light stable versions of naturally occurring pyrethrum) or they may simply be man made molecules with insecticidal or miticidal (controls mites) activity. In this manual we have used the term to encompass most insecticides with the exception of Bt sprays, virus sprays, food sprays and petroleum spray oils (PSOs).

Terminal The growing tip of a cotton stem, particularly the main stem.

Tip damage When the plant terminal has been damaged, also known as tipping out.
Top 5 retention The percentage of first position fruit maintained on the top 5 fruiting branches.

Trap crop – last generation A crop grown to concentrate Helicoverpa moths emerging late in the cotton season from the non-diapausing component of pupae from the last generation in autumn. These pupae are likely to be more abundant under conventional cotton and will have had intense insecticide resistance selection. The aim is to have these moths lay their eggs in the trap crop where the resulting pupae can be controlled by cultivation.

Trap crop – Spring A crop grown to concentrate Helicoverpa armigera moths emerging from diapause, usually between September and October. These moths will establish the first generation of larvae in these crops, where they can be killed using biological insecticides (i.e. virus sprays) or by cultivation to kill the resulting pupae.

Trap crop – Summer A crop grown to draw Helicoverpa armigera away from a susceptible crop like cotton, and which can also produce large numbers of beneficial insects. The aim is to have these moths lay their eggs in the trap crop where the resulting larvae can be controlled using biological insecticides (i.e. virus) or the pupae controlled by cultivation.

True leaves Any leaf produced after the cotyledons.

VAM Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhiza: now called AM. (see above)

Vegetative growth The roots, stems and leaves as distinct from the reproductive growth of flowers and bolls.

Vertisols Clay-rich soils that shrink and swell with changes in moisture content.

Visual sampling Sampling insects in the field with the naked eye without the use of other equipment. See also ‘Beat sheets’, ‘Sweep net’ and ‘D-vac’.

V Rank A rank that each cotton variety is given in accordance with its resistance to the cotton disease Verticillium Wilt.

Water stress When the demand for water to maintain plant function exceeds the amount available to the plant from the soil.

Waterlogging When the plant roots endure a prolonged period under water, the lack of oxygen impedes water and nutrient uptake, both of which will have a direct effect on growth and yield.

WATERpak An information resource for cotton water use and management.

Acronyms used in the cotton industry

AAAA – Aerial Agricultural Association of Australia
ACPA – Australian Cotton Pickers Association
ACRI – Australian Cotton Research Institute Narrabri
ACSA – Australian Cotton Shippers association
AIRAC – Avare Insecticides Resistance Action Committee
APSRU – Agricultural Production Systems Research Unit
APVMA – Agricultural Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority
AWM – Area Wide Management
CCA – Crop Consultants Australia Inc.
CGA – Cotton Growers Association
CA – Cotton Australia
CRDC – Cotton Research & Development Corporation Cotton
CRC – Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre
CSD – Cotton Seed Distributors
CSIRO – Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation
DAFF – Department Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
EC – Electrical Conductivity
EM Survey – Electromagnetic Survey
EPA – Environmental Protection Authority (NSW/QLD)
ESP – Exchangeable Sodium Percentage
GPS – Global Positioning System
GVB – Green Vegetable Bug
ICAC – International Cotton Advisory Committee
ICE – Intercontinental Exchange
IPM – Integrated Pest Management
IRMS – Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy
IWM – Integrated Weed Management
MIS – Multispectral Imaging System
NSW DPI – New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
OGTR – Office of the Gene Technology Regulator
Qld DAFF – Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fishery & Forestry
RCMAC – Raw Cotton Marketing & Advisory Committee
SLW – Silver Leaf Whitely
TIMS – Transgenic & Insect Management Strategy (Committee)
CRC – Cotton CRC Technology Resource Centre
TSP – Technical Service Provider
TSV – Tobacco Streak Virus
TUA – Technology User Agreement
ULV – Ultra Low Volume
VGR – Vegetative Growth Rate
WUE – Water Use Efficiency