



BMP

VERSUS ORGANIC

versus organic

Chemicals

"While pests may be satisfactorily managed in organic crops in years of low pest incidence, during moderate to severe pest outbreak years there is a high risk of low or even no yield. Unfortunately, we are unable to predict the likelihood of years with high pest incidence," Dave Murray Entomologist,
Queensland Department of Primary Industries & Fisheries (QDPI&F) Toowoomba

Certified BMP cotton does use synthetic chemicals for weed and pest control as part of Integrated Pest Management.

Certified Organic cotton can only use "naturally" occurring chemicals such as Bt sprays, rotenone and naturally occurring pyrethroids.

Water

"In terms of water use efficiency, the cotton we are growing on our farm today is about 4 times more productive than the organic cotton we grew in the early 1990's. To break it down into numbers, we can grow about 2 bales per megalitre today using modern varieties and farming techniques. When we grew organic cotton, we were achieving about 0.5 bales/ML." Ben Coulton,
Getta Getta Pastoral Company, Goondiwindi.

Certified Australian BMP cotton is three times more water efficient than the global average conventionally grown cotton.

Labour Standards: Part of the BMP certification process involves compliance with Farm Safety and Employer/Employee standards.

Product Availability

Organic: "Certified organic cotton growing accounts for about 0.2 per cent of world cotton production"

Source – Wordwide Fund for Nature – Cleaner Greener Cotton, Impacts and Better Management Practices

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According to the Organic Exchange, organic cotton production totaled 267,517 bales in 2006/07 – with the bulk of production from countries in the Middle East and South East Asia.

BMP: Since the year 2000, Australian BMP accredited and audited cotton production has averaged approximately 1 million bales per annum.

Cost of Production

“Costs of production per bale were on average 37 per cent higher for organic than for conventional cotton. This cost differential was primarily due to greater hand-weeding costs and significantly lower yields in organic cotton, compared with either IPM or conventional cotton.”

Source – Six year comparison between organic, IPM and conventional cotton production systems in the Northern San Joaquin Valley, California – Centre for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA.

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