

KEEP ALERT FOR EXOTIC COTTON PESTS

Many overseas insects and diseases pose a significant threat to Australian cotton production. If new pests find their way to Australia, early detection and reporting is key to their successful eradication.

Tarnished plant bug (a) and western plant bug (b)

Impact: Feeds on squares and bolls, causing the abortion of fruiting structures, shrivelled seeds and discolouration of lint.



Image (a): Scott Bauer Image (b) Whitney Cranshaw

Cotton blue disease

Impact: Virus, spread by cotton aphid, causes severe stunting, reduced yield and lint quality.

Look for: Leathery new leaf growth that is intense green-blue with yellow veins and curled margins. Unlike, endemic cotton bunchy top disease, cotton blue disease has no leaf mottling.



Image: Murray Sharman

Cotton boll weevil

Impact: Adults feed on squares, with larvae developing inside squares and bolls. Feeding can lead to the abortion of fruiting structures and boll rot.



Image: Ronald Smith

Cotton leaf curl virus

Impact: Virus, spread by silverleaf whitefly, causes stunted plant, reduced yield and lint quality, and impacts on maturity.

Look for: Cupped leaves, accompanied by the swelling and darkening of veins. Cup-shaped, leaf-like structures (enations) may form along veins.



Image: Rob Briddon

Indian cotton jassid

Impact: Feeding can damage leaves (hopper burn) and cause stunted plant growth.



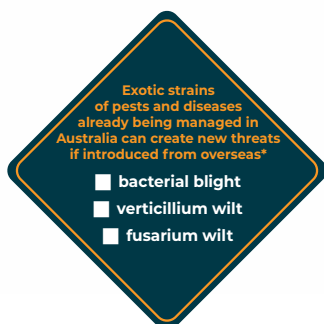
Image: Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org

American cotton bollworm

Impact: Like our endemic species, larvae feed on cotton fruiting structures. Overseas populations have developed resistance to some of the Bt proteins used in commercial cotton varieties.



Image: R L Croissant



IF YOU THINK YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING UNUSUAL
CALL THE EXOTIC PLANT PEST HOTLINE

1800 084 881



*Strains present overseas can be more damaging, have greater resistance or be carrying exotic diseases.