

# 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 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 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 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.



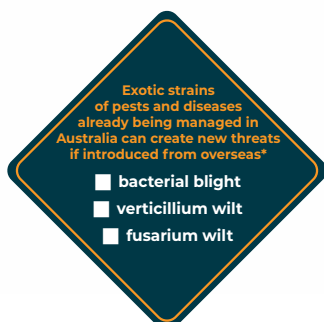
Image: Pest and Diseases Image Library, Bugwood.org

## 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**

