

BEST FARMER PRACTICES

COTTON



10 COTTON



STEPS FOR GROWING

ECOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

Cotton grows best in deep fertile sandy loam soils and requires adequate rainfall.

1. LAND PREPARATION

It is key to have two tillings when preparing the land for the growing of cotton to enable the loosening of the soils.

The first tillage is aimed at loosening the soils which improves aeration whereas the second can be done at a time of incorporating fertilisers like **DAP** the time of planting

2. PLANTING

It should be done *at the onset of rains*.

Trenches of **3 to 5cm** depth can be used following a spacing of **45 by 25cm**.

DAP fertiliser can be applied during planting to enable the effective growth of roots of the cotton plants.

3. TOP DRESSING

It should be done *after about 2 months* of planting the cotton.

Manure or synthetic fertilizers can be used to help boost the crops.

The planting lines should also be earthen up to make ridges which helps to suppress weeds and reduce moisture loss through evaporation





PEST
APHIDS



MANAGEMENT

Spray with azadirachtin containing pesticides like *nimbecidine*.

PEST
CUT
WORMS



MANAGEMENT

The larvae cut the seedlings from ground level.
They can be found in the soil to a depth of about 5cm near the host plants.

- ▶ Early weeding destroys sites for egg laying.
- ▶ Spray with insecticides like Striker.
- ▶ Ploughing exposes the pests to predators and desiccation
- ▶ Hand removal since they are easily found near the damaged plants.



DISEASE

AMERICAN BOLLWORM



MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Crop rotation, it is key to rotate cotton with crop that are not prone to American bollworm attacks
- ▶ Intercropping with crops like sorghum which are more attractive for the bollworm.
- ▶ Promoting natural enemies of the bollworms like ants and birds by creating an environment that favors them like the planting of trees
- ▶ Spray with azadirachtin containing pesticide like *nimbecidine*, creating an environment that favors them like the planting of trees



- Harvesting

It is ready after **105 to 130 days after planting** cotton.

The cotton bolls should be allowed to **fully ripen and open before** proceeding with harvesting.

Picking Should be done **after the morning dew** has dried up to ensure that the cotton is dry which makes it less prone to fungus when being stored.

Harvesting is done by hand as the bolls are put in clean cotton cloth material which is followed by sorting to remove leaves, capsules and damaged bolls to allow for grading.

- Post harvest handling

This involves grading, storage as well as processing

- ▶ Grading of cotton can easily be done with the help of a second, smaller picking bag for the inferior quality. In order to fetch a better price, only ripe cotton should be picked
- ▶ The storage place must be clean and dry. Damp conditions can lead to moulds with significant loss of cotton quality.
- ▶ Cotton can be sold to processing factories in the country.



- Harvesting

It is ready after **105 to 130 days after planting** cotton.

The cotton bolls should be allowed to **fully ripen and open before** proceeding with harvesting.

Picking Should be done **after the morning dew** has dried up to ensure that the cotton is dry which makes it less prone to fungus when being stored.

Harvesting is done by hand as the bolls are put in clean cotton cloth material which is followed by sorting to remove leaves, capsules and damaged bolls to allow for grading.

- Post harvest handling

This involves grading, storage as well as processing

- Grading of cotton can easily be done with the help of a second, smaller picking bag for the inferior quality. In order to fetch a better price, only ripe cotton should be picked
- The storage place must be clean and dry. Damp conditions can lead to moulds with significant loss of cotton quality.
- Cotton can be sold to processing factories in the country.



REFERENCES

Lugojja, F., 2017. Cotton and its by products in Uganda.
Presented at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

CREDITS

COVER PHOTO

<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcRMNYoXILWjKdxfv-6WiJBk6926d58JL3E0Jg&usqp=CAU>

Cut Worms

https://idtools.org/id/citrus/pests/images/fs_images/eppo2.jpg

Aphids

<https://thomascountyag.files.wordpress.com/2014/06/bobbytaylor-plantbugdamage-011.jpg>

American bollworm

<https://news.utcrops.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Bollworm2012-butt-web.jpg>

FOR FURTHER ADVICE AND INFORMATION **DIAL *284*68#**

