

PROTECT YOUR FIBRE. PROTECT YOUR FUTURE

Cotton operates in a fiercely competitive global market - one where synthetic fibres are produced with zero impurities. In this environment, Australia's low contamination levels are one of our greatest strengths. This advantage underpins the confidence of international spinning mills and reinforces Australia's reputation as a consistent, reliable supplier of premium cotton.

This hard-won status is under threat.

Inferior quality module wraps are failing in the field. These wraps can degrade under UV exposure, tear during handling and break down during storage and unwrapping. This creates a significant risk of plastic being carried through to baled fibre, directly jeopardising the reputation of Australian cotton.

Plastic contamination has far-reaching consequences. For spinning mills, plastic is extremely difficult and costly to remove. For exporters and producers, increased contamination results in claims, shipment rejections, reduced mill confidence and ultimately, a decline in the value of Australian cotton.

Australia cannot afford to lose its competitive advantage. Maintaining our reputation for delivering clean, low-contaminant fibre must remain a shared priority across the supply chain - from growers and contractors to ginneries, classers, warehouses and merchants.

How you can help

Every grower and harvest contractor plays a critical role in preventing plastic contamination. The choices made at harvest have a direct impact on the quality, marketability and reputation of Australian cotton. Before choosing your wrap, ask your supplier these questions – and understand why they count.

1. Choose good quality module wrap

Not all wraps are manufactured equally. Understanding specifications – and what defines a quality wrap - will give you confidence the wrap will perform in the field and through to the gin.

Ask your supplier:

- Has the wrap been tested for tensile strength, UV resistance, puncture and tear resistance and thickness?
- Has it been designed for Australian conditions - high temperatures, UV load, outdoor storage and transport stress?
- Is the wrap compatible with Australian harvester and ginning systems?

2. Check traceability and RFID tag performance

Unreliable RFID tags can result in inaccurate harvest data in the JD Operations Centre, undermining the agronomic decisions you make for the following season. It will also create significant problems for the gin, making it difficult to accurately match Operations Centre information with the data captured across the weighbridge. Malfunctioning RFID tags compromise the ability to trace cotton through myBMP marketing systems, putting compliance and verification evidence at risk.

Ask your supplier:

- Does the wrap meet traceability and RFID requirements?
- Are there at least 4 RFID tags and do they function in both the machine and at the gin?

3. Confirm manufacturing consistency

Changes to the manufacturing process and/or materials could mean that the performance of the wrap in the picker or in staging/transport could be different to what it was last season.

Ask your supplier:

- Have there been any manufacturing changes in the past 12 months?
- If so, has the new or updated products been trialled and tested locally?

4. Know what works in your growing region

Wrap performance can differ under varying climatic pressures - including prolonged heat, UV load, storm events and extended field storage. Local experience matters. Seek feedback from growers and gins in your region to ensure the wrap you select is proven to withstand your specific environmental conditions.

Ask your supplier:

- Does the supplier have a documented performance history in Australia's cotton sector and in your region?
- Have they sold to growers in your region before?
- If so, who?

Know your rights if things go wrong. Understanding your position if there is a failure ensures you understand if you have any protection if something does go wrong.

Ask your supplier

- Does the supplier have a written warranty or replacement policy?
- Is there local representative or dealer support?
- Have they supplied to other growers in your region this season?

What else can you do?

Before purchasing, check in with other growers in your region, your harvesting contractor, local industry representatives and your gin's grower services team. They can provide valuable insights into how different round module wrap brands have performed historically and under local conditions. Confirm that your contract picker sources and uses reputable, high-performance module wrap and they understand the issues and risks if they use inferior quality wrap.

The stakes are high. Plastic contamination affects the entire industry. Protecting the integrity of Australian cotton is everyone's responsibility. By choosing the right products, monitoring module integrity and taking timely action, growers and contractors can help ensure Australian cotton remains the global benchmark for quality and purity.

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