

9 facts you should know about organic cotton

1. **Seeds** are untreated and never [genetically engineered](#).
2. **The soil** in which the seeds are harvested is strengthened through [crop rotation](#), compost application and the use of cover cropping and mulch. It also retains water more efficiently because of the increased organic matter.
3. **Weeds** are removed physically instead of with toxic chemicals, and they are further controlled through cultivation and hand hoeing.
4. **Pests** are controlled through the use of beneficial insects that are natural predators. Trap crops also may be planted, to lure some insects away from the [cotton](#).
5. **Harvesting** relies mostly on seasonal freeze for defoliation and, on occasion, defoliation may also be stimulated through water management.
6. **Certified organic cotton is certified** by independent third-party certifying bodies.
7. **Gin, spinning, knitting and weaving** machinery is cleaned out before use to avoid any contamination.
8. **During dyeing and finishing**, only chemicals and materials that meet organic processing standards are used. Dyed products should conform to the Ecological and Toxicological Association of Dyes and Organic Pigment Manufacturers (ETAD) agreement standards.
9. **During cutting and sewing**, organic fabric is clearly identified and tracked.