**Cotton**

**Soil Requirements**

In **alluvial soil**or **light soil**you can cultivate**irrigated cotton**crop. Cotton can grow in slightly acidic soil. **Soil pH** range of **5.5 to 6.0** is ideal for cultivating cotton crop.

### Climate & Temperature

Cotton crop can grow in **tropical**to **sub-tropical** climates. Climatic factors play crucial role in growth of cotton crop. At least **500 mm** of **water**is required **annually**for successful farming of cotton. For **germination of seed** soil **temperature**of around **18 degrees Celsius** is ideal.

### Field Preparation

For raising **rainfed crop** in **black soil** you can prepare field by harrowing 3 to 4 times by blade harrow. You can give deep ploughing once in 4 to 5 years. This will help to control perennial weeds.

For raising irrigated crop plough the field once after giving initial irrigation.

### Irrigation

During [**germination phase**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germination) (**1 to 15 days**), give second irrigation 5 days after sowing(DAS) of seeds. This will facilitate the seedlings to emerge out and grow.

**Vegetative phase** continues from **16 to 44 days**. During this phase apply **first irrigation** 20th to 21st day after sowing of seeds in case of both heavy and light soil. You can give second irrigation on **35th DAS**in case of **light soil**.

### Harvesting

You can harvest cotton either with hand or by machines. Harvesting with hand is a slow process but it allows to get better cotton fibre. Start picking balls once they are fully mature.