

## Cotton speak: cotton turnout

### What is turnout percentage?

Turnout percentage is the measurement of the weight ratio of lint to cottonseed in any particular module. For example, if lint percentage is 42 per cent, then 55 per cent may be seed and 3 per cent may be trash and moisture.

This percentage can be affected by a **number of factors**, including:

- Some **cotton varieties** have a higher turnout than others – depending on seed size and weight.
- Seasonal variations including temperature, sowing time, agronomic management and harvest management will affect the seed yield and lint turnout.
- Defoliation that results in high **trash levels in the modules** will reduce the turnout. During dryer picking conditions, turnout is generally higher due to **low moisture content**. Conversely, if the module moisture is high, turnout will be lower due to moisture loss.
- Irrigated crop turnout is commonly a few percent above dry land conditions of the same variety as **growing conditions** influence the development of seed and fibre.
- **Boll position** may affect turnout as first position bolls have a slightly higher turnout than bolls further out in the branch.
- Increased **micronaire** may slightly increase turn out as well.

### Module weight

Accurate module weights are essential for a **realistic turnout calculation**. The module weight is the 'average' weight of the modules as calculated from the net weight of the truck load/number of modules. If the truck does not tare out or there are huge variations in module weights on the truck, then the accuracy of the turnout figure will be compromised.

### Managing gin sample quality

Growers can have a **positive influence** on gin sample quality by adopting the following practices:

- Developing a strong relationship with an agronomist to assist with decisions on crop management including watering, fertiliser management, and growth regulation
- Ensuring crops are defoliated on time
- Correctly timing picking with optimum moisture of modules less than 10%
- Maintaining picking machinery
- Lining up round modules on head or tail drains, with space between modules
- Checking wrap for holes
- Planning module transportation.