

## Cotton Glossary

**Bale** - a large package of raw cotton tightly bound and often wrapped in burlap.

**Boll** - the seedpod of the cotton plant.

**Boll Weevil** - a beetle that feeds on cotton buds and flowers - it has been known to ruin entire crops of cotton.

**Cotton Classing** - the grading of cotton by its physical attributes. Cotton is classed based on the strength, length and fineness of fibers, color and percentage amount of trash. While today it is all done by machine, cotton was originally graded by hand.

**Cotton Broker** - samples of cotton are sent to be graded. The cotton broker would often buy the cotton directly from the farmer and turn around and sell it all over the world.

**Cotton Gin** - a machine that quickly and easily separates cotton fibers from their seeds, allowing for much greater productivity than manual cotton separation.

**Good Ordinary** - one of the grades given to cotton. This one is classified as the worst quality of cotton.

**Harvest** - the process or period of gathering crops.

**Lint** - part of the cotton plant that is used in making cotton cloth.

**Linters** - the short fuzz on the seed that is used to help make plastics, explosives and paper products.

**Sharecropper** - a farmer who works on land owned by someone else in return for a share of the crops produced. Also uses tools that belong to the landowner.