

SPAIN

Favourable growing conditions throughout most of the season, coupled with the absence of significant insect pressures, have engendered optimism with regard to the outlook for yields. The appearance of fields has boosted expectations that as much as 1,000 kilos per hectare or more can be obtained, which would imply a lint outturn of at least 60,000 tonnes (including perhaps 5,000 of long staples), against earlier forecasts around 55,000.

Ideal finishing weather is reported from the main producing region. Clear skies prevail and daytime temperatures remain in the mid to high 30s Celsius. Cotton is thus fast approaching maturity in many areas, and ginning is expected to begin in about two weeks' time.

Forward sales commitments from first hands amount to perhaps 60 percent of the prospective crop.