

# Radical new approach with clothes from plants

WUR researcher Paulien Harmsen is calling on the clothing industry to radically change its approach and adopt circular textiles. She studies alternative solutions such as the use of different raw materials ranging from flax, hemp and bamboo for natural textiles to viscose or cupro for synthetic fabrics. She collated the options in her booklet *Textiles for Circular Fashion Part 2*, which also gives an overview of the textile properties and production methods.

Most clothing is made from polyester or cotton. Polyester uses fossil resources and produces microplastics when worn or washed. The production of cotton is also often very bad for the environment. Harmsen therefore recommends seeing which plant fibres are most suitable for each individual item of clothing. 'We really need to look for new materials that can be produced on a large scale. Wageningen can help in this search.'  
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