



positive and negative environmental impacts associated with

flax, ramie and hemp

Flax, ramie and hemp are natural fibres derived from the plant stems.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rapidly-renewable resource• can grow with virtually no fertilisers or water• fibre is used in its least-processed state• if the plant is cut by hand and left to ret in the ditch, then the environmental load on the planet is minimal• reusable and biodegradable
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mechanical methods of harvesting have adverse effects on the environment• water retting process produces highly polluting wastewater• use of enzymes and water increases biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and eutrophication of waterways