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*Eriophorum angustifolium*

[Synonyms : *Eriophorum polystachion*]

**COMMON COTTONGRASS** is a sedge. Native to temperate northern regions it has yellowish flower spikelets.

It is also known as *Ängsull* (Swedish), Cottongrass, Cotton-sedge, Downy ling, *Linaigrette a ferilles étroites* (French), Narrowleaf cottonsedge, *Páperník úzkolistý* (Slovak), *Plu'r Gweunydd* (Welsh), *Pušica uzkolistnaja* (Russian), *Schmalblättriges Wollgras* (German), *Smalbladet Kæruld* (Danish), *Suchopýr úzkolistý* (Czech), Tall cottongrass, Tassel cottongrass, and *Welnianka waskolistna* (Polish).

*Angustifolium* is derived from Latin *angusti-* (narrow) and *-folia* (leaved) components.

Some of the Alaskan Inuits harvested the roots for food. They were not only eaten raw, or cooked but also preserved in seal oil for later use.

The leaves and stems were dried by Alaskan Inuits before they were woven into material for matting or for covering their coarse grass mattresses.

The hairy fruiting heads have been used as wicks for oil lamps.

In some areas such as the Shetland Islands it was believed to be unlucky to gather common cottongrass and take it inside.