

Gossypium arboreum

[Synonyms : *Gossypium albiflorum*, *Gossypium arboreum* var. *arboreum*, *Gossypium arboreum* var. *cernuum*, *Gossypium arboreum* forma *indicum*, *Gossypium arboreum* var. *nanking*, *Gossypium arboreum* var. *obtusifolium*, *Gossypium arboreum* var. *paradoxum*, *Gossypium arboreum* forma *soudanense*, *Gossypium arboreum* forma *vaupellii*, *Gossypium arboreum* var. *wightianum*, *Gossypium asiaticum*, *Gossypium bani*, *Gossypium cernuum*, *Gossypium comesii*, *Gossypium figarei*, *Gossypium glabratum*, *Gossypium gracile*, *Gossypium herbaceum* var. *obtusifolium*, *Gossypium indicum*, *Gossypium intermedium*, *Gossypium nanking*, *Gossypium nanking* var. *bani*, *Gossypium nanking* var. *soudanense*, *Gossypium neglectum*, *Gossypium obtusifolium*, *Gossypium obtusifolium* var. *wightiana*, *Gossypium perennans*, *Gossypium puniceum*, *Gossypium purpurascens*, *Gossypium roseum*, *Gossypium roxburghii*, *Gossypium royleanum*, *Gossypium rubicundum*, *Gossypium rubrum*, *Gossypium sanguineum*, *Gossypium soudanense*, *Gossypium vaupellii*, *Gossypium wattianum*, *Gossypium wightianum*]

CHINESE COTTON is a shrub. Possibly originating in Asia (particularly India) from African plants introduced 1000s of years ago, it has deep purple-centred, yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Albero del cotone* (Italian), *Algodoeiro* (Portuguese), *Algodoeiro-arbóreo* (Portuguese), *Algodoeiro gigante* (Portuguese), *Algodon asiático* (Spanish), *Algodonero arbóreo* (Spanish), *Arbol del algodón* (Spanish), *Bangaali hathhi* (Kannada), *Baumformige* (German), *Baumwolle* (German), *Bluntleaf cotton*, *Bomuldstræ* (Danish), *Cemparutti* (Malayalam, Tamil), *Ceylon cotton*, *Ceylon tree cotton*, *Chemparutti* (Malayalam), *Cotone a fibra corta* (Italian), *Cotone arborescente* (Italian), *Coton* (French), *Cotonnier arborescent* (French), *Cotonnier de l'Inde* (French), *Cotonnier en arbre* (French), *Cotonnier rouge* (French), *Cotton tree*, *Diyokapaas* (Hindi), *Fai daeng* (Thai), *Gutn baladi* (Arabic), *Indian tree cotton*, *Kaapaas* (Hindi), *Kapaas* (Hindi, Nepalese), *Kaattuparutti* (Malayalam), *Kapaas kaa per* (Hindi), *Kapas* (Punjabi), *Karpasamu* (Sanskrit, Telugu), *Katoenboom* (Dutch), *Nurma* (Hindi), *Pakistani-Indian cotton*, *Pamba* (Swahili), *Paminda pratti* (Telugu), *Parutthi* (Tamil), *Patti* (Telugu), *Raksatika* (Sanskrit), *Red flowered cotton tree*, *Ruuk kapaas* (Nepalese), *Sembarutti* (Tamil), *Semparutti* (Tamil), *Sennar tree cotton*, *Shu mian* (Chinese), *Tree cotton*, and *Vamvaki dendrodes* (Greek).

Arboreum is derived from Latin *arbor* (tree) meaning 'tree-like or tending to be woody'.

In ancient Egypt material made from the fine cotton harvested from the open seed pods was used to make the priests' robes. Authorities debate the arrival of cotton processing in Egypt. Some still believe it only reached there during Roman times and that prior to this Egyptians relied upon linen entirely – made from flax *Linum usitatissimum*.

The dried flowers (which are then dark brown) provide an ingredient for some Thai dishes and the seeds yield an edible oil.

Medicinally, the root has been used to treat fever and the seeds have been included in remedies for tuberculosis, catarrh, cystitis and some venereal diseases.