

Gossypium hirsutum

[Synonyms : *Gossypium asiaticum*, *Gossypium barbadense* var. *hirsutum*, *Gossypium barbadense* var. *marie-galante*, *Gossypium birkinshawii*, *Gossypium caespitosum*, *Gossypium convexum*, *Gossypium divaricatum*, *Gossypium elatum*, *Gossypium harrissii*, *Gossypium herbaceum*, *Gossypium herbaceum* var. *hirsutum*, *Gossypium herbaceum* var. *religiosum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* subsp. *caespitosum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* subsp. *latifolium*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *marie-galante*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *mexicanum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *micranthum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *nervosum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *paniculatum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* subsp. *prostratum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *punctatum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *religiosum*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *schottii*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *taitense*, *Gossypium hirsutum* var. *volubile*, *Gossypium hopi*, *Gossypium jamaicense*, *Gossypium lanceolatum*, *Gossypium latifolium*, *Gossypium latifolium* var. *paniculatum*, *Gossypium latifolium* var. *prostratum*, *Gossypium latifolium* var. *taitense*, *Gossypium marie-galante*, *Gossypium mexicanum*, *Gossypium micranthum*, *Gossypium morrillii*, *Gossypium nervosum*, *Gossypium nicaraguense*, *Gossypium nigrum* var. *punctatum*, *Gossypium oligospermum*, *Gossypium pallens*, *Gossypium palmeri*, *Gossypium paniculatum*, *Gossypium prostratum*, *Gossypium punctatum*, *Gossypium punctatum* var. *jamaicense*, *Gossypium punctatum* var. *prostratum*, *Gossypium purpurascens*, *Gossypium purpurascens* var. *punctatum*, *Gossypium purpurascens* var. *taitense*, *Gossypium religiosum*, *Gossypium schottii*, *Gossypium sericatum*, *Gossypium siamense*, *Gossypium taitense*, *Gossypium tricuspidatum* var. *jamaicense*, *Gossypium tricuspidatum* var. *oligospermum*, *Gossypium tridens*, *Gossypium volubile*, *Hibiscus religiosus*, *Xylon religiosum*]

COTTON is an annual, perennial or shrub. Originating in Middle America it has creamy-yellow flowers with a central purple spot.

It is also known as *Algodão americano* (Portuguese), *Algodoeiro-americano* (Portuguese), *Algodón* (Spanish), *Algodón americano* (Spanish), *Algodón cimarrón* (Mexican, Spanish), *Algodón coyuche* (Spanish), *Algodón de la altura* (Spanish), *Algodón de ratón* (Spanish), *Algodón de riñón* (Spanish), *Algodón del país* (Spanish), *Algodonero americano* (Spanish), *Algodonero de altura* (Spanish), *Algodón morado* (Spanish), *Algodón silvestre* (Mexican, Spanish), *Algodón velloso* (Spanish), American cotton, American upland cotton, *Amerikaniko vamvaki* (Greek), *Amerikanische Baumwolle* (German), *Baumwolle* (German), Bourbon cotton, Bowed cotton, Common cotton, *Cotonnier* (French), *Cotonnier américain* (French), *Cotonnier d'altitude* (French), *Cotonnier hirsute* (French), *Coton-sauvage* (Creole), *Coton velu* (French), *Da lu mian* (Chinese), *Fai khon* (Thai), *Gao di mian* (Chinese), Georgian cotton, *Gossipion to adrotnihon* (Greek), *Gutn americani* (Arabic), Hairy cotton, *Hnoudoto vamvaki* (Greek), *Kaarpaasii* (Hindi), *Kapaas* (Nepalese), *Langhaaret bomuld* (Danish), *Lu di mian* (Chinese), *Mei zhou mian* (Chinese), Mexican cotton, *Mian hua* (Chinese), *Qoton ta' Gallipoli* (Maltese), *Uplandbaumwolle* (German), *Upland bomuldsplante* (Danish), Upland cotton, *Upland-katoen* (Dutch), *Uplandkatoenplant* (Dutch), *Uwe* (Zuni North American Indian), *Vamvaki* (Greek), *Vamvaki hnoudoto* (Greek), and Wild cotton.

The flowers turn red and close on the second day.

Oil is extracted from the seeds.

Warning – no part must be taken internally without a qualified practitioner's advice.

Hirsutum is Latin (shaggy, rough) meaning 'hairy'.

The name Cotton is a corruption of the Arabic word *qutun* and 'muslin' comes from the name of the Arabian town of Mosul in Iraq which was the birthplace for this famous finely woven cloth.

Evidence of this species has been found in South America dating back to about 3000 BC.

In North America it came to be known to some of the Tohono O'odham Indians who harvested the seed for food.

Today the seed oil is used commercially in the manufacture of soap, margarine and salad oil etc.. The residue after oil extraction is used as cattle fodder or manure. Fibre is used for making cloth and paper as well as for cellulose in man-made fibres, explosives, plastic, thickeners and suspending agents.