PLANT FACT SHEET

Gossypium arboreum L.

GENUS *Gossypium* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Tree Cotton, Cotton tree

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Oil

Oil from the seeds is edible.
The leaves are also eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It keeps growing from year to year. It grows to 3 m high. The leaf stalk is 2-4 cm long. The leaves have 5 or 7 lobes and spread out like fingers on a hand. They are shiny above. They are parted for half the length of the leaf. The leaf blade is 4-8 cm across. The flowers occur singly in the axils of leaves. The flowers are yellow or purple. The centre is red. The fruit is a capsule. It is oblong and hangs down. It is 3 cm across. The fruit capsule has 3 valves. There are 5-8 seeds in each cell. They are 5-8 mm across.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is native to tropical and subtropical Asia. In Nepal it grows up to 1500 m altitude. It is widely cultivated in river basins in China. It is damaged by drought and frost. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Yunnan.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

NOTES

There are 40 Gossypium species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics. A diploid plant.
In Slovenia possibly in a hot house.

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