PLANT FACT SHEET

# *Gossypium herbaceum* L.

**GENUS** *Gossypium* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

**COMMON NAMES** Short-staple cotton

## EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

**Edible parts:** Seeds, Leaves, Oil

The seeds yield a cotton oil used for salads. It is also used in cooking.
The seed is roasted and used as a coffee substitute.
The leaves are eaten.

## DESCRIPTION

A shrub. It grows 2 m high. The leaf stalk is 2.5-8 cm long. The leaf blade is divided into 5 lobes like the fingers on a hand. The leaves are 5-10 cm across. The lobes are broad and oval and half the length of the leaf. The flowers occur singly in the axils of the leaves. The flowers are yellow and red or purple at the centre. The fruit is a capsule with 3-4 valves. It is about 3 cm across. The seeds are about 1 cm across. They are white and woolly.

## HABITAT

A tropical plant. It is cultivated in China. It needs a temperature above 13-18°C. In Sichuan and Yunnan.

## PRODUCTION

### Cultivation

Plants are grown from seed.

## NOTES

A diploid plant. There are 40 Gossypium species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics. It has anticancer properties.

## PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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