PLANT FACT SHEET

Gossypium barbadense L.

GENUS *Gossypium* **FAMILY** Malvaceae

COMMON NAMES Sea Island Cotton, Brazilian cotton, Egyptian cotton

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Seeds, Leaves, Oil

The oil from the seeds is used in salads, canned foods or manufactured into margarine.
The seeds are ground into flour and used in bakery products.
The leaves are eaten.

DESCRIPTION

A shrub which keeps growing from year to year. Often it is grown as an annual. It is 1-3 m high. The stems are purplish. The leaves have 3-5 lobes. The flowers are at the ends of branches. They are yellow but change to reddish purple. They are surrounded by a bract which has 3 toothed lobes. The seeds are small and oval. The seeds have large amounts of lint.

HABITAT

A tropical and subtropical plant. In China it is grown in frost free areas below 800 m altitude. It suits seasonally moist and dry climates. It suits hardiness zones 10-12. In Yunnan.

NOTES

A tetraploid plant. There are 40 Gossypium species. They grow in the tropics and subtropics. It is a major cotton producing plant.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)



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