



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM

PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Wild Cotton

Gossypium turneri

DESCRIPTION: Here is a species of wild cotton closely related to our local wild cotton (*Gossypium thurberi*), found in the grasslands of Arizona and Sonora. Comparing the two, *Gossypium turneri* is a much more robust shrub (to 6' tall or more), has thicker glossy leaves, is often evergreen, and the flowers are more yellow than the ivory of *G. thurberi*. This species is rarely ever seen in horticulture and it has been years since we've found it in Arizona nurseries. The growth rate is fast and they will flower at a small size. Blooming begins in May and continues heavily through September. Flowering is even noted through December. Marble-sized fruit follow with slightly hairy seeds that show their relationship to cultivated cotton. As with *G. thurberi*, this wild cotton is a food plant for the caterpillars of Sulphur butterflies. *G. turneri* is native to the coast in central to southern Sonora, Mexico.

RECOMMENDED USE: Accent, specimen, bright green color, small screen or barrier, xeriscape, attracting butterflies.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: We've tested wild cotton to 25°F with no frost problems.



Sun tolerance: It will bloom its best and maintain a good form in full sun to half-day light shade.



Watering and feeding: Although not a high-water user, it will need supplemental irrigation in Tucson, even after establishment. Once a year fertilizing will encourage good health.



Soil requirements: Most soils which drain.



Pruning: Not usually necessary. Do not plant where it will need to be hedged or pruned as this will diminish the flowering.