



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Thurber Wild Cotton or Algodoncillo *Gossypium thurberi*

DESCRIPTION: This open woody shrub grows quickly to 6' tall or more in the landscape. It is deciduous, often delivering beautiful fall color. Flowers are beautiful pale ivory in color and 2 inches across. Blooming season is from May and June, and again in September. This relative of cultivated cotton can be found naturally from the Superstition Mountains of south-central Arizona, into Sonora and Chihuahua, Mexico. Thurber Cotton is a larval food plant for Grey Hairstreak butterflies, and flowers are visited by Sulphur butterflies.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use Thurber Wild Cotton in enhanced desert landscapes or xeriscapes for its summer flowers and fall color.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: Branches are hardy into the lower 20's. It may freeze to the ground from temperatures down to 15°F.



Sun tolerance: Best form and blooming is from plants grown in full sun to very light shade.



Watering and feeding: Low to moderate water user. Should not be completely weened from irrigation. Feeding is not necessary.



Soil requirements: Most soils are fine.



Pruning: In late spring for frost damage, and light pruning any time to shape.