



ARIZONA-SONORA
DESERT
MUSEUM

ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Wild Cotton or Algodoncillo *Gossypium harknesii*

DESCRIPTION: Wild cotton has a tropical appearance while being drought and salt tolerant. This open woody shrub grows quickly to 6' tall or more in the landscape. Its bright green, shiny leaves can be deciduous. Flowers are beautiful butter yellow in color; up to 2" across. Blooming season is from May and June, and again in August and September. This relative of cultivated cotton can be found naturally in Baja California, Mexico. Cotton attracts many of the Sulphur and Dogface butterfly species.

RECOMMENDED USE: Use 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 but can resprout if crown is protected.



Sun tolerance: Best form and blooming is from plants grown in full sun.



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



Soil requirements: Needs well-drained soil. Salt tolerant.



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