

# *Gossypium herbaceum* Linn.

**Synonyms** : *G. wightianum*

**Family** : Malvaceae

**Group** : Anti hypertensive

**Parts Used** : Whole plant

## **Vernacular Names**

English : Common cotton, Indian cotton

Malayalam : Kurupparutti, Parutti, Nulpparuti, Panjipparutti

Hindi : Kapas, Ruyi

Sanskrit : Karpasah

Kannada : Janivara-hatti-mara

Tamil : Karpasam, Panju

Telugu : Pratti



**Distribution and Habitat:** Throughout India

**Botany:** A small shrub, 60cm – 2.5 m in height with rigid sparsely pilose stems and branches.

• **Leaves:** Simple, alternate, cleft up to half in to 3-7 lobes, lobes broad, ovate, rotund, suddenly acute or apiculate, leathery, gland dotted.

• **Flowers:** Yellow with purple centre, rarely white, bracteoles with 6-8 serrated teeth on the margin, broadly triangular.

• **Fruits:** Rounded beaked capsules, 3-4 locular, seeds usually with two coats of hairs, white grey or reddish brown in colour.

**Properties:** Anti-inflammatory properties

**Chemical constituents:** Betaine, caproic acids, carotenoids, dihydroxybenzoic acids, formic acids, furfural acids, gossypol, gossypetin, gossyfulvin, gossycaerulin, gossypin, gossypitrin, gossypurpurin, herbacetin, herbacitrin, isoquercetin, leucodelphinidin, pentosans, peptones, phospholipids, phytosterols, phytosteroline, quercetin, quercimeritrin, raffinose.

**Uses:** It is used in strangury, skin diseases, amenorrhea, dysmenorrhoea, burning sensation of stomach, rheumatoid arthritis, otalgia, hyperdipsia, hallucinations, hypochondria, scabies, gout, cephalalgia, dizziness, agalactia, intermittent fevers

**Formulations:** Kushthanashakalepa, Madhukadiyogadwayam, Karpasamootradiyoga

## **Agro technology:**

**Soil and climate:** Climate is tropical with rainfall 500-750 mm. It can be grown in a wide variety of soils.

**Propagation:** Cotton is mostly propagated by seeds. It can be propagated vegetatively by cuttings.

**Manure:** Apply Farm yard manure compost 12.5 t/ha for rainfed crop. Apply N: P2O5: K2O each 35 kg/ha as basal dressing.

**Irrigation:** Irrigate the plants once in two weeks. Copious irrigation during flowering will ensure good pod setting and good fibre quality.

**Plant protection:** Sucking pests like jassids, aphids, and thrips are attacking the plant. Main diseases are bacterial blight diseases, and *Alternaria* leaf spots.

**Harvesting:** The bolls start bursting 100-120 days after sowing and will be ready for harvest at this stage. This crop is usually harvested in 3 or 4 pickings, taken at suitable intervals. Harvesting from half – open or immature bolls yields cotton containing large percentage of immature fibres and trash.

