



Cotton: *Malvaceae Gossypium* (swamp mallow)

Name	Variety	Origin	Notes	Characteristics
<i>G. arboreum</i>	Old World	Hindu Valley (Pakistan), spread to Nubia and Nigeria (cultivars)	Currently there are a dozen varieties, in India, Ceylon, China, Thailand and Sudan	Short staple, coarser, inferior quality; it can also be buff or yellow
<i>G. herbaceum</i>	Old World	Sub-Saharan Africa, spread to Persia and Turkey Afghanistan, Spain, and China	Currently there are half a dozen varieties, African (North), Arabian, Syrian, Maltese	Short-staple, also inferior quality; it can also be red and green
<i>G. barbadense</i>	New World	Pacific Coast of Chile and Peru, spread to West Indies	<i>Pima</i> in Arizona, which then moved to Peru; <i>Sea Island</i> and <i>Egyptian</i> cotton are cultivars; tetraploid, tough plants	Long staple, creamy in color but it can also be brown, red or tawny. <i>Sea Island</i> is the longest; American Pima is between Sea Island and Egyptian.
<i>G. hirsutum</i>	New World	Central America and Mexico	<i>Upland</i> and <i>Acala</i> cotton, now in US; tetraploid, tough plants	Medium length fiber, Acala longer than Upland. Upland is the whitest; Acala is matt, they can also be brown, green or red;

Photo by Terry M. Dwyer

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