Thurber Wild Cotton or Algondoncillo

*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.