

RARE & ENDANGERED PLANT HIGHLIGHT

Gossypium tomentosum

Also known as Hawaiian cotton, *Gossypium tomentosum* was once extremely common to the dry and rocky coastal areas of the Hawaiian Islands. It now is threatened by coastal development and the spread of alien invasive weeds.



This plant is rare by all standards including ICUN, the World Conservation Union and due is also protected under the Endangered Species Act. Although closely related to commercial cotton, the fibers of *Gossypium tomentosum* have not been used to produce cotton on a large scale. Hawaiian cotton has been important in research and breeding programs aimed at producing disease resistance in commercial cotton. Native Hawaiians used the bright yellow flowers were used to make dye.