

## Sal Borer

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### Sal Borer Latest News

Recently, the Madhya Pradesh forest department has sought permission from the central government to fell nearly 150,000 sal trees in Dindori district after a severe infestation of sal borer insects.

### About Sal Borer

- It **is a beetle** of the order- Coleoptera, family-Cerambycidae.
- It is the **most devastating insect** pest responsible for catastrophic **damage of sal forests** of the country.
- **Appearance:** It looks dark brown in color and is about the size of a human finger.
- It causes extensive damage to **sal trees both in standing** as well as **freshly felled timbers**.
- The less vigorous, weak, unhealthy trees or those with reduced vitality are easily attacked or killed due to borer.
- The attack of **the borer is considered epidemic** when the sal trees affected are more than **1% of the total number of trees**.

## Key Facts about Sal Tree

- It is one of the oldest and strongest trees found in India.
- It's called the '**Sentinel of the Forests**' because it can live for dozens of years and has the ability to withstand environmental changes.
- **Distribution:** It is found naturally in **Uttarakhand, Terai region of Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal.**
- **Required Climatic Conditions for Sal Tree**
  - **Temperature:** It can tolerate temperatures **as high as 40-45°C** in summers and as low as 5°C in winters.
  - **Soil:** It can be grown in the plains, provided there is **light loamy soil with** good drainage and the area receives approximately **1000 mm - 3000 mm of annual rainfall.**
  - **Climate:** It requires a **warm and humid climate** and can thrive at altitudes up to 1500 metres above the sea level.
  - This tree can live up to 100 years and doesn't require frequent watering or care.

**Source: DTE**

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Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sal-borer/>

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