

Sal Tree

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Sal Tree Latest News

Scientists of the Environment Department of Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) at Shimla have revealed that the Sal tree (*Shorea robusta*) is the best air purifier to deal with the menace of pollution.

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 also 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.
- It's especially suitable for hilly areas.

How can Sal Trees Control Pollution?

- **Dust and Particle Trapping:** Its **leaves are thick and waxy** that can **trap dust**, carbon and fine particles in the air on their surface.
- **Air Purification:** It has a **higher chlorophyll content** which gives it the strength to withstand harmful gases such as carbon monoxide and sulphur dioxide present in vehicle exhaust.
- **Natural Filter:** It also has a **very dense canopy** that acts as a natural filter while trapping pollutants in the air.

Source: ETV Bharat

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

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