

What is Seagrass?

March 5, 2025 • vajiramandravi.com



Seagrass Latest News

According to recent study, seagrass has been declining at a rate of 1-2 per cent per year for the past century and nearly 5 percent of species are now endangered.

About Seagrass

- It is a flowering **plant** that **grows submerged** in shallow **marine waters like bays and lagoons**.
- They are so-named because most species have long green, grass-like leaves.
- **Characteristics of Seagrass**
 - Seagrasses have roots, stems, and leaves and produce flowers and seeds.
 - Like terrestrial plants, **seagrass also photosynthesizes** and manufactures their own food and releases oxygen.
 - They evolved around 100 million years ago, and there are approximately 72 different seagrass species that belong to four major groups.

Distribution of Seagrass

- They are found on **all continents except Antarctica**.

- The **tropical waters** of the **Indo-Pacific hold the highest diversity** of seagrasses in the world.
- India too has vast seagrass meadows, home to 16 species of seagrass with major concentrations in the **Gulf of Mannar, Palk Bay, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep Islands and the Gulf of Kutch.**

Advantages of Seagrass

- They are better than trees for **capturing carbon** and providing food for millions of people. Beyond supporting marine life, seagrass also acts **as a natural barrier, protecting coastal communities from storms and erosion.**
- These underwater plants can **store carbon up to 35 times faster than tropical rainforests**, locking it away for thousands of years.
- **Threats:** Pollution from cities, industries, and agriculture continues to degrade these meadows, while coastal development and tourism put additional pressure on fragile habitats of Seagrass.

Seagrass FAQs

Q1: What is sea grass used for?

Ans: Seagrasses support commercial fisheries and biodiversity, clean the surrounding water and help take carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere

Q2: What is the significance of sea grass?

Ans: Seagrasses provide shelter and food to an incredibly diverse community of animals, from tiny invertebrates to large fish, crabs, turtles, marine mammals and birds.

Source: DTH

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/what-is-seagrass/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.