

Prosopis Juliflora

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Prosopis Juliflora Latest News

Recently, the Madras High Court issued a set of 34 directions for the eradication of the exotic and invasive species prosopis juliflora from Tamil Nadu.

About Prosopis Juliflora

- It is a **shrub or small tree** in the family **Fabaceae**, a kind of mesquite.
- It is native **to Mexico, South America and the Caribbean**.
- It is one of the **most invasive species** in arid and semi-arid areas.
- It was brought to Delhi by the British in the 1920s, when the national capital was being built.
- **Other names:** In India it is known locally by many names such as **Bellary jaali, seemai karuvelam, seemai jaali, gando baval, vilayati kikar**.

Characteristics of Prosopis Juliflora

- **Adaptability:** It has a **very wide ecological adaptability** which can grow on soils from sand dune to clay soil, and from saline to alkaline soil type.
- **Rainfall:** It can grow below 200 to above 1500 m above sea level, and with a mean annual rainfall ranging from 50 to 1500 mm
- It is **considered an invasive plant**.
- It is characterized by vigorous growth which helps them to outcompete indigenous plant species.

Impacts of Prosopis Juliflora on Environment

- This tree **absorbs more** than **four litres of water** to obtain one kilogram of biomass.
- It **cannot even shelter birds** as it produces less oxygen and more carbon dioxide.
- It can also turn the **groundwater poisonous**.
- It **causes land erosion** due to the loss of the grasslands that are habitats for native plants and animals.

Source: **TH**

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