

Seabuckthorn

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Seabuckthorn Latest News

Recently, Spiti's seabuckthorn has been granted the Geographical Indication (GI) status.

About Seabuckthorn

- It is popularly known as the '**Wonder Plant**', '**Ladakh Gold**', '**Golden Bush**', or '**Gold Mine**' of cold deserts.
- It is an important plant of **trans-Himalayan region** that belongs to the **family Elaeagnaceae**.
- **Distribution:** Sea buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) is a plant found throughout **Europe and Asia**.
 - **In India**, it is found above the **tree line in the Himalayan region**, generally in dry areas such as the **cold deserts of Ladakh and Spiti**.
- It produces small **orange or yellow-coloured berries** that are sour in taste but rich in vitamins, especially vitamin C.
- Sea Buckthorn berries have a unique characteristic of remaining intact on the shrub throughout the winter **months despite the subzero temperature**.

Climatic and Soil Requirements Sea buckthorn

- It is a **temperate crop** and therefore its cultivation can be done only in temperate regions.
- It can withstand a wide range of temperatures from -43 to 40°C. This unique feature enables the species to **adapt very well in harsh climatic conditions.**
- The shrubs reach 0.5-6 m tall, rarely up to 10 m in height, and typically occur in dry, sandy areas, on hills and hillsides, in valleys and river-beds.
- The dense and thorny bushes of **sea buckthorn are salt tolerant** and demand full sunlight for growth.

Ecological Importance of Sea buckthorn

- The shrub develops an extensive root system **having ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen.**
- It is an ideal plant for **soil erosion control**, land reclamation, wildlife habitat enhancement and farm stand protection in temperate regions.

Source: IE

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