

Teak (Tectona grandis)

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Teak (Tectona grandis) Latest News

Tissue-cultured teak is being promoted as a high-yield, fast-return solution to boost India's timber cultivation and trade, raising debates about its productivity, economic viability, and ecological sustainability.

About Teak (Tectona grandis)

- **Teak (Tectona grandis)** is globally valued for its **durability, strength, and resistance to pests and water**, earning it the title of **"king of timbers"**.
- It is one of the **world's most valuable tropical hardwoods**, extensively used in **shipbuilding, construction, furniture, flooring, and musical instruments**.
- **India holds 35%** of the world's **planted teak forests**, with **Asia accounting for over 95%** of global teak resources.
- As per the **FAO Global Teak Resources and Market Assessment 2022**, **Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra** have the largest areas of **native teak forests**.

Geographic Distribution

- **Native to South and Southeast Asia**, especially **India, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, and Indonesia**.
- In India, teak is found in states like **Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Assam**, and the **Northeast region**.
- Grows primarily in **moist deciduous and mixed deciduous forests**.
- Prefers **well-drained soils** and **full sunlight**; can grow up to **30-40 meters** in height and live for **hundreds of years**.

Ecological and Structural Characteristics

- **Large, deciduous tree** with a **straight, cylindrical trunk** (1-1.5 m diameter).
- **Leaves**: Oblong, glossy, dark green; arranged in **opposite pairs**.
- **Flowers**: Small, white/cream, **fragrant**, borne in clusters.
- **Wood colour**: Golden brown to dark brown.
- **Ecological role**: Supports **wildlife and biodiversity** in native ecosystems.

Regulatory Context

- **Green felling** (commercial harvesting of trees) is **prohibited** in **government forests** under the **Forest Conservation Act, 1980**, and **National Forest Policy, 1988**.
- Hence, **private teak plantations** are key to meeting **domestic and export demands**.

Source: **DTE**

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

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