

Palmyra Palm Tree

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Palmyra Palm Tree Latest News

Palmyra palm trees in Odisha are providing dual benefits by reducing lightning-related deaths and serving as a food source for elephants during lean seasons.

About Palmyra Palm Tree

- It is commonly named as **sugar palm, or toddy palm or fan palm.**
- It is a **native of tropical Africa** but cultivated and naturalized throughout India.
- In India, it is **planted as a windbreak on the plains.**
- **Required Climatic Conditions**
 - **Soil:** It exhibits adaptability to a wide range of soil types, including arid and wastelands. They thrive particularly well in **sandy soil, red soil, black soil, and river alluvium.**
 - **Rainfall:** These palms are also suited for semi-arid regions with an annual rainfall of **less than 750 mm.**
 - They can grow at altitudes **from sea level up to 800 meters.**

- Palmyra is mainly **propagated through seeds** and there is no vegetative method available for its propagation.

Benefits of Palmyra Palm Tree

- It is used as a **natural shelter by birds**, bats and wild animals.
- The chief product of the **palmyra is the sweet sap (toddy)** obtained by tapping the tip of the inflorescence.
- The toddy ferments naturally within a few hours after sunrise and is locally popular as a beverage.
- **Palmyra palm jaggery** (gur) is much more nutritious than crude cane sugar.
- Traditionally, the Indian '**Nadar**' **community** are the people who make their living from this tree using its wood, fruits, sap, stems, petioles and leaves to process a variety of food products, beverages, furniture, building materials, and handicrafts.

Source: DTE

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