

Indian Sandalwood

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Indian Sandalwood Latest News

According to a recent report by the sandalwood development committee (SDC) set up by the Union Government, globally, the estimated annual demand for sandalwood stands at 5,000 to 6,000 tonnes.

About Indian Sandalwood

- Santalum album L. (Santalaceae) commonly known as Indian Sandalwood is one of the oldest and precious sources of natural fragrance.
- It is known by the name “**Chandan**” and “**Srigandha**” in India.
- **Required Climatic Conditions for Indian Sandalwood**
 - **Soil:** Sandalwood grows **better in slight alkaline condition** soil PH Range between 6.7. to 7.5.
 - **Climate:** It thrives in **hot and humid climates**.
 - The ideal temperature for the growth of Sandalwood is between 12 degrees Celsius to 35 degrees Celsius.
 - It requires good drainage and **does not stand water logged ground**.

- It is a **long-duration crop, taking nearly 20 years** to develop quality heartwood, which is the primary source of sandalwood oil.
- It freely produces seed and **natural regeneration occurs both via seedlings** and through root suckers after trees have been uprooted and the stump removed from the ground.
- **Uses:** Sandalwood and its essential oils have very high commercial values because of its use in aromatherapy, **soap industry, perfumery, cosmetics, and pharmaceuticals.**
- **Major Sandalwood Growing States:** Sandalwood is mostly grown in states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu in India.
- **Reasons for decline in sandalwood production:** Illegal logging and smuggling, Habitat loss due to deforestation, **Slow growth and long maturation cycle, Pests and diseases.**

Source: TH

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