

Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD)

October 25, 2022 • vajiramandravi.com



About Sandalwood Spike Disease (SSD):

- It is caused by phytoplasma — bacterial parasites of plant tissues — which are transmitted by insect vectors.
- The disease was first reported in Kodagu in 1899.
- It is being classified as “vulnerable” by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 1998.
- Presently, there is no option but to cut down and remove the infected tree to prevent the spread of the disease.
- Between 1 and 5% of sandalwood trees lost every year due to the disease.
- SSD has been one of the major causes for the decline in sandalwood production in the country for over a century.

Source : [The Hindu](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/sandalwood-spike-disease-ssd/>

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