

Economic Importance of Gymnosperm

INTRODUCTION → The gymnosperms are naked seeded sporophytic plants having the body differentiated into root, stem and leaves. They are primitive vascular plants. They have pair own features. They show secondary growth. The xylem consist of trachieds. These plants are of great economic importance.

Economic Importances → This can be discussed under the following heading.

1. Sources of wood → The gymnosperms are the sources of wood. They provide lighter, coloured, strate, light weighted, principle wood. They take a fine finish with sharp tools and have good making properties. It is used extensively for cabinet and furniture making, interior decoration and toys making.

The scented wood of Sedow is use for making railway sleepers and carriers. The wood of Pseudotsuga yields play-wood. Similarly the wood of Abies and Picea are used for box making, packing cases and for light furnitures.

Again the wood of Lariks, Agathis is hard, heavy and strong. It is used for railway sleepers, posts,

door making and transmission poles.

2. Sources of Resin → The conifers are main source of various type of resin. They are insoluble in water but dissolve in organic solvent. They are extensively used in the manufacture of furniture, tents, medicines and in paper sizing.

3. Sources of essential oil → Several essential oils are obtained from gymnosperms such as Tsuga and Picea. These are used as deodorant. The toilet, shaving soap, bath preparation are scented by liddle oil obtained from Abies. Similarly the oil obtained from Sedrus is used in perfumery and in medicine to cure tuberculosis, scene diseases and others.

4. Sources of Canadalsan → It is obtained from Abies, Balsamea. It is used as a mounting medium for microscopic objects.

5. Sources of Amber → It is fossil resin obtained from the fossil member called Pinitis. It is used in x-ray therapy, modern hospitals. The blood containers are made from Amber. It is also used to manufacture cigarette holders, a mouth pieces of pipes and ornaments.

6. Sources of Fatty oil → Several fatty oils are obtained from seeds of gymnosperm like Cephalotaxus, Pinus, Torreya. The oil is used for food and also for paint.

7. Sources of Paper and Board → The Indian conifers yield pulp for paper industries. These include Pinus, Piceae, Abies and Cryptomeria.

8. Used as food → Seeds of several gymnosperm are edible.