

Appointments

## ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF GYMNOSPERM

The economic importance of Gymnosperms can be categorized in the following heads:-

### (1) FOOD VALUE-

- Sago (edible starch) is obtained from Pith and Cortex of stem of *Cycas revoluta*.
- Chillgoza (edible starch) is obtained from *Pinus* seed.
- The seeds of *Gnetum* is also edible.
- Young leaves of *Cycas* are cooked as vegetables in some part of the world.

### (2) MEDICINAL VALUE-

- Taxol (Anticancer drug) Alkaloid is obtained from *Taxus* sp (Bark)
- Ephedrine (Alkaloid) from *Ephedra* is used in asthma, cough, cold bronchitis etc.
- Juice of young leaves of *Cycas revoluta* is used for curing blood vomiting.
- *Cycas* gum is used as antidote against snake bite.

### (3) TIMBER VALUE-

- Gymnosperms are good source of timber (softwood) used for making furnitures & other construction purpose.
- Coniferous wood is resistant towards insect & fungus.
- *Pinus* wood is used for making doors, poles, beams, railway wagon flooring etc.

Notes: *Podocarpus* wood is used for making Plywood.

- *Agathis australis* is largest timber producing tree in the world.

### 4) SOURCE OF OIL-

Edible oil is extracted from the seed of *Cycas revoluta*, *Pinus cembra* etc.

July

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31							

## Appointments

- Red cedar wood oil from heartwood of *Juniperus virginiana* is used in oil immersion microscopy.
- oils of *Cedrus*, *Cupressus* are used in making perfumes & soaps.

## (5) INDUSTRIAL VALUE -

- Tannins from bark of *Pinus*, *sequoia*, *Araucaria* are used in leather industry.
- Canadabalsam (Resin) from *Abies balsamea* used in making permanent slides.
- Amber (Fossil Resin) from *Pinus succinifera* is used for making Jewellery Pipes & cigar holders.
- Wood Pulp of *Pinus*, *Abies* are used in making News paper, Writing Papers.
- leaves of cycads used in making Basket, Mats, Hats, Brooms etc.
- Wood of *Taxus* is used in making Pencil.

## (6) ORNAMENTAL VALUE -

- *Cycas*, *Zamia*, *Araucaria*, *Thuja*, *Pinus*, *Ginkgo*, *Podocarpus*, *Juniperus* are grown as ornamental tree.

## (7) OTHER USES -

- They prevent soil erosion.
- Living Fossils (*Cycas*, *Ginkgo*) provide important scientific knowledge about past flora of earth.
- Bark of *Gnetum ula* is used to obtain fibre for making fishing Nets & Ropes.
- Some Gymnosperms particularly Conifers are good source of Fuel-wood.

## Notes

Arunish K. Singh  
Assistant Professor  
Botany Department  
D.K. College Dumraon.

## August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							