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COMMERCIAL TIMBER SPECIES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH

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Himachal Pradesh is a predominantly mountainous state. Its climate is more congenial to forest and it comprises four forest zones. Sub-tropical, Sub-temperate, Wet-temperate and Dry-temperate. It consists of foot hills and valleys level, it comprises dry deciduous, Chir pine, Sal (2140sq.km) and thorny forest (43 sq.km) mostly of xerophytic species and sub temperate forest are various species of pines, oaks and broad-leafed species grow. The forests of Himachal Pradesh are not only of importance for the state, but also have a strong influence on the ecology, climate and bio resources of the neighbouring states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.

The most of village in the state are either adjacent to enclosed the forest. It is deeply integrated with the livelihood of the local people. They depend on the forests for the construction of houses, firewood, agricultural implements, fodder and a variety of the other products and services, including certain medicinal herbs. Some of the users of forest products feel equally responsible for their conservation and the regular regeneration of forest. The timber distribution to local people is harvest timber legally in forests near to places of habitation, for the constructing their own houses and the timber distribution is more of a harvesting policy.

Table 1: Species with family

Species (Scientific Name)	Common Name	Family
<i>Cedrus deodara</i>	Deodar	Pinaceae
<i>Dalbergia latifolia</i>	Rose wood	Fabaceae
<i>Eucalyptus teriticornis</i> Sm.	Nilagiri, Forest red gum	Myrtaceae
<i>Pinus patula</i>	Maxican weeping pine	Pinaceae
<i>Pinus roxburghii</i>	Chirpine	Pinaceae
<i>Pinus wallichiana</i>	Blue pine	Pinaceae
<i>Toona ciliata</i> etc.	Tooni	Meliaceae

Distribution

The major timber species in Himachal Pradesh are conifer viz, *Cedrus deodara*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Pinus wallichiana*, *Picea smithiana*, *Abies pindraw*, *Abies spectabilis*, *Cupressus torulosa*, etc. are distributed to parts of Chamba, Kangra, Mandi, Bilaspur, Solan, Sirmour, Kinnaur and some parts of spiti.

Commercial Importance

Timber has a wide uses in construction and industrial level, about 40 per cent of the total timber are removed from the forests all over the world. There are various types of timber products like plywood, fiber boards, laminates, Particle boards and Veneers.

Timber- Wood is used for the commercial purpose like making furniture and other type bridges, boats, Houses, etc.

1) *Cedrus deodara*:



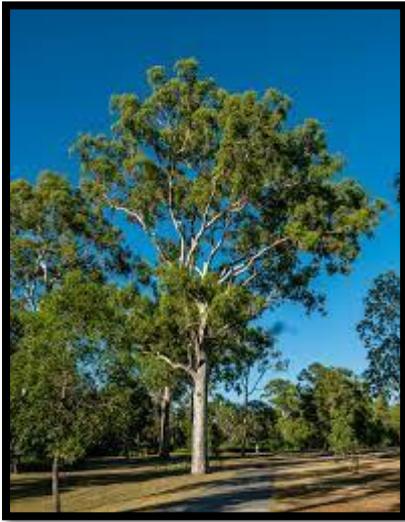
It is a most durable and strongest coniferous timber species. It is used as valuable construction material and the commercial uses such as railway sleepers, floor-boards, beams, posts, door and window frames and shingles. It is also used for bridge construction, furniture, electrical poles, battery separators and second grade pencils.

2) *Dalbergia latifolia*:



It is very durable, Fragrant and strong wood species. These species have various commercial use for industry level to make premium-grade furniture, paneling, veneers, and interior and exterior joinery and the other uses are include knife handles, musical instruments, agricultural implements calico-printing blocks, mathematical instruments, and boat keels and screws. Fine furniture, decorative veneer, specialty items, joinery, bedroom suites, figured veneer, living-room suites, office furniture, tables.

3) *Eucalyptus teriticornis* Sm.:



Eucalyptus species wood is the most durable, strong, hard and tough. It is very useful tree species and also used to commercial purpose like construction, mining timber, poles, stakes, boxwoods, bridge timber, railway sleepers and wharves and other purpose are flooring, vehicle bodies, furniture, handles, ladders, sporting goods, agricultural implements, veneer, plywood, core stock, matches, joinery, vats, toys, novelties, turnery and also making to pulp and paper, fibreboard, hardboards and particle boards.

4) Pinus Species:



All Pinus species (*Pinus wallichiana*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Pinus patula*) to most useful timber species and also commercial uses like Furniture, packaging cases, house fitment, railway sleepers and pulp and paper production, gum and resins, etc.

5) *Toona ciliata*:



It is commercial used for making furniture, house construction, floors, boarding, panels of doors and windows and also for making boats, oars, carvings, musical instruments, masts etc and other used to commercial plywood and grade I moisture proof plywood.

Conclusion

Himachal Pradesh is a predominantly mountainous state and there are four type of forest zones. Sub- tropical, sub- temperate, wet- temperate and dry temperate. It comprises dry deciduous, chir pine, sal and thorny forest. The most of villages in the state are either adjacent to enclosed the forest. The major timber species in Himachal Pradesh are conifer viz, *Cedrusdeodara*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Pinus wallichiana*, etc. Wood is used for the commercial purpose like plywood, fiber boards, laminates, Particle boards and Veneers, etc.

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