

FLORAL DIVERSITY

Floral diversity in the State is described under forest vegetation, medicinal and aromatic plants, diversity in agricultural crops including unexploited and lesser known cereal crops, wild fruits and wild ornamental plants. Out of the total 47,000 plant species found in the country as many as 3,256 species are reported from Himachal Pradesh.

The vegetation is a blend of Ban oak Forest, Moist Temperate Deciduous Forest, Himalayan Alpine Pastures and Rhododendron Scrub Forest. Coniferous forest dominate the mid and high hills with Oaks in depressions. In the foothills, forests are dry deciduous with sal as the predominant species. In dry localities chir pine occur as the dominant species. These rich forests and the diversity of the bioresarches available in the State support the Livelihood of the inhabitants. Himachal Pradesh is a reservoir of medicinal plants. The State is rich in medicinal herbal plant wealth and people in the villages in same pockets are dependent on the medicinal herbal plant wealth for their livelihood.

Flora of Himachal Pradesh

Plant Groups	Number of species
Angiosperms	3120
Gymnosperms (Conifers)	12
Pteridophytes (Ferns)	124
Total	3256

Source: Jairajpuri (1991) – Himachal Pradesh Forest Sector Review, 2000