

Economic Importance of Gymnosperms:
Some of the Major Economic Importance's of
Gymnosperms are given below:

1. Edible Seeds:

Seeds of Pinus gerardiana are edible. They are eaten after roasting.

2. Timber:

Gymnosperms possess softwood. The same is used in preparation of light furniture, plywood, packing cases, match sticks, railway sleepers, etc.

3. Paper:

A number of gymnosperm woods are used in the manufacture of paper. They include Picea, Pinus, Larix and Abies.

4. Fibre Boards:

Needles of Pinus and other conifers are used in making fibre boards that are used in making packing cases.

5. Linoleum:

Saw dust is employed in making linoleum and plastics.

6. Resin:

Resin is a semifluid secreted by special tubes which contains terpenes, resin acids and esters. It solidifies on exposure to air. Therefore, it plugs the places of injury. It helps in sealing female cones after pollination, scale leaves around leaf bases and apical buds. Resin retains water. It is antiseptic and toxic to pests.

Therefore, it prevents microbial and insect attack. Resin is commercially extracted and distilled to obtain turpentine and rosin. Rosin is used in water proofing, sealing joints and preparation of writing paper. Turpentine is used as solvent in paints, polishes and wax. It is employed medicinally in removing pains, curing bronchitis and expelling worms.

7. Ephedrine:

Drug ephedrine is obtained from Ephedra, a gymnosperm. The drug is used in curing respiratory ailments, including asthma.