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Cedrus deodara

[Synonyms : *Cedrus libani* var. *deodara*, *Pinus deodara*]

DEODAR CEDAR is an evergreen tree. Native to the western Himalayas it has pale reddish brown cones.

It is also known as California Christmas tree, *Céder himalájsky* (Slovak), *Cédre de l'Himalaya* (French), *Cedr himálajský* (Czech), *Cedro Deodara* (Portuguese), *Cedro do Himalaia* (Portuguese), *Cedro Himalaja* (Esperanto), Deodar (English, Hindi), *Déodar* (French), Deodar pine, *Devadaru* (Bengali, Sanskrit), *Devadri* (Telugu), *Dewdar* (Punjabi), *Himalaja-Ceder* (Danish), *Himalayaceder* (Swedish), Himalayan cedar, *Himalayazeder* (German), Indian cedar, *Tevadari* (Tamil), and *Zeder* (German).

Deodara means in Hindi 'timber of the gods' and is one of the names used for the tree in northern India.

The tree's common name Deodar cedar is said to be derived from the name of the Indian State of Deodar.

Like that of the cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) the oil extracted from the wood is called Libanol and has been used medicinally to treat bronchitis and tuberculosis. This oil has also been employed in veterinary medicine too.

This durable and lightweight wood has long been used in construction work, such as buildings and bridges, and has also been made into railway sleepers. It has been used for making carts and carriages, as well as beer vats, packing cases and gymnastic equipment.

It is understood that the deodar cedar first arrived in Britain in 1731.

Today the wood's essential oil is used commercially in India as an ingredient in certain perfumes.

Medicinally, the oil from the wood has not only been used as already indicated in treating bronchitis and tuberculosis, but also to treat ulcers and skin diseases. It has been used in remedies for snake bites, kidney disorders and piles as well. The bark has been employed in cures for fevers, dysentery and diarrhoea.