

# **NATURAL VEGETATION OF UTTAR PRADESH**

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## **Forest Cover of Uttar Pradesh**

According to the India State of Forest Report 2017, the total forest cover area in the state is 16582 sq km. In terms of forest canopy density classes, the state has 2,617 sq km area under Very Dense Forest (VDF), 4,069 sq km area under Moderately Dense Forest (MDF) and 7,993 sq km area under Open Forest (OF).

### **Total Forest and Tree Cover:-**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Area (in sq km)</b>
Tree Cover	7,442
Forest Cover	14,679
Total Forest and Tree Cover	22,121
Of State's Geographical Area	9.18%
Of India's Forest and Tree Cover	2.76%

## **Classification of Forests in Uttar Pradesh**

Forests of Uttar Pradesh are classified into two categories in the state such as:

### **Administrative Classification of Forests:**

These forests are classified into six groups:-

*Reserved Forest* These forests are under the direct control of State Government. No public entry is allowed in these forests. According to India Report 2017, Uttar Pradesh has 72.79% of forest area under reserved forest.

*Protected Forests* These forests are looked after by the government, but the local people are to collect fuel-wood, timber and graze their cattle without causing serious damage to these forests.

*Unclassed Forests* These forests are those in which there is no restriction on the cutting of trees and grazing of cattle. According to India State of Forest Report 2017, Uttar Pradesh has 20.23% of forest area under unclassified forests.

*State Forests* These forests are those which are completely conserved and controlled by the State Government.

*Community Forests* These are those forests which are managed and controlled by local bodies District Councils, Municipal Corporation, Municipalities or Panchayats.

*Private Forests* These are those forests which are controlled by individual or some individuals.

### **Classification on the Basis of Specific Characteristics**

Based on the relief, rainfall and vegetation types, the forests of Uttar Pradesh are divided into three types:-

***Tropical Moist Deciduous Forests***

These forests are found in the areas receiving an annual average rainfall of 100 to 150 cm. Such forests are found at Bhabar and Terai regions which include Bahraich, Shravati, Maharajganj, Pilibhit, etc. districts of the state. Teak is the dominant species of these forests. Major trees in these forests are Sal, Palash, Ber, Mahua, Dhak, Amla, Jamun, Semal, etc.

### ***Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests***

These forests grow in the areas receiving the rainfall 50 to 100 cm. The main regions of these forests are the plains of Ganga, Yamuna and their tributaries. These forests are found in all parts of the plains and usually in Eastern, Central and Western regions which include Lucknow, Raebareli, Unna, Ghaziabad districts of the state. These trees are mostly deciduous. Large tracts of these forests have been cleared for cultivation. Sal, Palash, Amaltas, Bel, Anjeer, etc are important trees of these forests. Neem, Peepal, Sheesham, Mango, Jamun, Babool, Imlı (Tamrind), etc grow along river banks and in places that contains moisture.

### ***Tropical Thorny Forests***

These forests grow in the areas receiving low annual rainfall from 50 to 75 cm. These forests have widely scattered thorny trees, mainly babool, thorny legumes and spurge. During rains, short grasses also grow here. The trees are generally small here forming open dry forests. Phulai, khair, dhaman, neem, etc are important tree species of these forests. Various types of resin and gum are obtained from these trees. Southern Uttar Pradesh including Mirzapur,

Jhansi, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Chitrakoot, Banda, Jalaun are covered with these forests.