



## Dehradun Litchis Hit by Heat

### Why in News?

The extreme heat in **Uttarakhand**, with temperatures exceeding **42 °C**, has caused **litchis** to **dry out** and **suffer damage** from **cracking**.



### Key Points

- The rise in heat waves has affected the fruit's overall growth and maturation.
- **Litchi trees** takes **water from the soil, aiding in seed growth and aril development**.
- The tubercle's **red skin has been exposed to heat and cracked**, it has caused a **decrease in cell elasticity, impacting the fruit's juiciness, size, and succulence**.
- Ramnagar litchi, recognized with a [Geographical Indication \(GI\)](#) certificate, **is in high demand** in nearby states like **Chandigarh, Delhi, and Haryana**.
- [Pomologists](#) caution against harvesting litchis too soon because litchis from Bihar enter the market before those from Uttarakhand.
  - Picking them early may result in the presence of tart and undersized litchis.
  - To enhance the flexibility of the young litchi fruits left on the trees, it is recommended to water them in the morning and evening while also using boron and **gibberellic acid**.

### Litchi

- **Botanical Classification:** Litchi belongs to the Sapindaceae family and is known for its delicious, juicy, translucent aril or edible flesh.
- **Climatic Requirements:** Litchi thrives in **sub-tropical climates and prefers moist conditions**. It grows best in regions with low elevation, up to an altitude of around 800 meters.
- **Soil Preference:** The ideal soil for litchi cultivation is **deep, well-drained loamy soil** rich in organic matter.
- **Temperature Sensitivity:** Litchi is sensitive to extreme temperatures. It does not tolerate temperatures above **40.5°C** in summer or freezing temperatures in winter.
- **Rainfall Impact:** Prolonged rain, especially during flowering, can interfere with pollination and affect the crop adversely.

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