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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

CLASS-VII

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▶ 8. Reproduction in plants

Seed Dispersal Agents :

Wind, water, animals, birds and humans are the dispersing agents of seeds. These are described below :

Dispersal by Wind or Air

The seeds that are very light and have wing or hair-like structure on them, are easily carried away by the blowing wind, e.g. seeds of maple, drumstick have wings, seeds of Madar or oak have hairs on them, cottonseed also possess hairs on them, while seeds of grasses, orchids, begonia are very small and light. These seeds can be easily carried away by the wind and dispersed away from their natural habitat.

Dispersal by Water

The seeds of some plants that have an outer fibrous or spongy covering are dispersed through water. They have the ability to float in the water and drift along with its flow, e.g. seeds of water lily, lotus, chestnut (singhara) and coconut are dispersed through water. The coconut fruits have a fibrous outer coat which enables them to float in water and carried away by flowing water to far off places.