

## Seed Dispersal



The seeds formed that fall on the ground might not always be planted by humans. They are dispersed by certain agents such as wind, water, animals, etc.

### The three main agents which help in the dispersal of seeds and fruits



**1. Dispersal of seeds by wind:** The seeds which are light, small or have tufts of silky hair on their body are carried away to distant places by the wind.

- Seeds of Dandelion, drumstick, maple, madar and fruit of Acer and Sunflower are dispersed by wind.



**2. Dispersal of seeds and fruits by water:** Seeds and fruits having structure favourable for floating are dispersed by water.

- For example seeds/fruit of coconut, lily and lotus are dispersed by water. Coconut trees grow near the sea shore. The fibrous fruit falls in water and is carried away by water currents.



**3. Dispersal of seeds and fruits by animals:** Seeds and fruits which are dispersed by animals are either edible or have hooks, barbs, spines, bristles and stiff hair on their surface.

- Such seeds stick to the skin of animals or clothes of human beings and are carried to distant places.
- Human beings and birds eat the pulp (or edible) portion of fruit and throw the seeds. Such seeds germinate and develop into new plants.

Fruits of Tribulus and Xanthium have hooks and spines on their body.

**Seed dispersal takes place both naturally as well as artificially. Botanists and garden-keepers practice the artificial methods of seed dispersal.**