

Citrus Gummosis: A Silent Killer of Fruit Trees

*Shreya Verma and Dr. A.K. Verma

Faculty of Agriculture, KNIPSS, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India

*Corresponding Author's email: shreyaofficial036@gmail.com

In many homes and farms across India, citrus trees like lemon, orange, and kinnow are more than just fruit plants — they are a part of everyday life. But one disease that silently affects these trees and often goes unnoticed is Citrus Gummosis. This article explains, in simple words, what Citrus Gummosis is, how to spot it, why it happens, and how farmers and gardeners can protect their trees from it.



What is Citrus Gummosis?

Citrus Gummosis is a disease that affects the bark of citrus trees. It is caused by a type of fungus that lives in moist soil. One of the most common signs of the disease is a thick, dark brown gum-like liquid oozing from the trunk or branches of the tree. This is not a normal process — it's a sign that the tree is sick and needs care.

How to Recognize It?

Here are some early signs of Gummosis:

- Sticky, brown gum coming out of the trunk or lower stem
- Cracks or patches forming on the bark
- Yellowing leaves that fall off early
- Drying of branches and reduced fruit yield
- Slow growth or sudden decline in tree health

Why Does It Happen?

The disease is mainly caused by fungi such as *Phytophthora palmivora* and *Phytophthora parasitica*, especially in the following conditions:

- Poor drainage or excess water around the tree roots
- Injuries to the bark during weeding, pruning, or digging
- Use of unclean tools for pruning
- Very humid or rainy weather

How to Prevent and Control Gummosis

1. Cultural Practices

- Always plant citrus trees in well-drained soil.
- Avoid deep planting and waterlogging.
- Keep the base of the tree dry and clean.
- Use disinfected tools when pruning.

2. Natural Methods

- Mix *Trichoderma*, a friendly fungus, in the soil — it fights harmful fungi naturally.

3. Chemical Control

- Gently clean the infected area of bark.

- Apply Bordeaux paste or fungicides like Metalaxyl or Fosetyl-Al.
- Repeat after rain if symptoms continue.

A Practical Tip for Farmers

“जैसे ही गौद दिखे, देर न करें। पेड़ को सूखने से बचाने के लिए शुरुआत में ही इलाज करें।”

— Local Farmer, Uttar Pradesh

Conclusion

Citrus Gummosis is a serious but manageable disease. With early care, good practices, and awareness, we can stop the damage before it spreads. Whether you grow trees in your backyard or on a farm, regular inspection and quick treatment are the best tools to protect your citrus plants. Let's care for our citrus trees — and enjoy healthy fruits for years to come.