



News

GM grass cleanses soil of toxic pollutants left by military explosives, new study shows

A grass commonly used to fight soil erosion has been genetically modified to successfully remove toxic chemicals left in the ground from munitions that are dangerous to human health, new research shows. The study -- led by the University of York-- demonstrates that genetically modified switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) can detoxify residues of the military explosive, RDX, left behind on live-fire training ranges, munitions dumps and minefields. RDX has been a major component of munitions since WW2 which are still used extensively on military training grounds. This use has now resulted in widespread pollution of groundwater. Researchers generated the plants by inserting two genes from bacteria able to breakdown RDX.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** May 03, 2021**Source:** Science Daily**With Covid-19, We Need To Vote For Trees, Now**

Struck by Covid-19, I struggled for weeks. High fever and joint pain were not my biggest adversaries – being breathless was. Breathing was painful and a chore, not a barely noticeable act. My hands shook as my lungs rattled; my throat seemed full of glass shards. My first real relief came on the seventh day, which I owe to a somewhat-nameless phenomena. In the searingly hot days of April, strange, sudden storms that happen independently of larger weather phenomena have no real name. They are not pre-monsoon or post-monsoon showers. And so are vaguely called ‘thunderstorm’, ‘dust-storm’ or ‘squall’. A squall that struck Delhi cleared the heavy, brown-grey air that always hangs over the capital. I feverishly threw open my windows and raggedly breathed in the clean rainwashed air.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** May 08, 2021**Source:** Bloomberg Quint**A wonder bamboo from Tamil Nadu to mitigate climate change**

In this era of global warming and climate change, it is imperative for humanity to take earnest measures for mitigating human-made disasters. Scientists advise minimising the use of fossil fuels. Environmentalists suggest reducing the pollution levels of air, water and land. At the same time, ecologists advocate making the earth green by protecting forests and creating tree cover by planting more number of trees through all possible ways. But greening barren lands depends on the initiative of individuals, with the support of certain government schemes. Unless due importance is given for developing tree cover outside forest areas, we are destined to face the harsh realities of global warming and climate change. Considering the urgent need of greening,

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** May 10, 2021**Source:** Down to Earth**Of world's 100 cities at greatest environmental risk, India has 43: Report**

Asian cities face the greatest risk from environmental issues including air pollution and natural disasters, according to a report by research firm Verisk Maplecroft. Of the 100 most vulnerable cities, 99 are in Asia, according to the report released on Thursday. Of those, 37 are in China and 43 are in India, the world's first and third biggest emitters of greenhouse gases respectively. Globally, 1.5 billion people live in 414 cities that are at high risk from pollution, water shortages, extreme heat, natural hazards and the physical impacts of climate change. Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia, topped the list of combined risk based on all nine factors analyzed by Verisk Maplecroft. India is home to 13 of the 20 riskiest cities in the world, a result of its extreme levels of air and water pollution. China's flood-prone Guangzhou and Dongguan topped the list of cities facing threats from natural hazards, followed by Japan's Osaka and Tokyo for being vulnerable to earthquakes and typhoons. Lima is the only city outside Asia among the top 100 most at-risk cities overall.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** May 13, 2021**Source:** Business Standard**Planting a million trees in the semi-arid desert to combat climate change**

Reflecting on her childhood, Tucson, Ariz., Mayor Regina Romero points to her father as the figure who lit an environmentalist fire within her. Any chance he'd get, Romero's father would take his wife and six kids to an 800-acre ranch in the Sierra Madre mountain range of Sonora, where they learned how to ride horses, direct cattle, and to respect the wildlife, such as bobcats and brown bears. "We invaded their space," he would tell them. At the ranch, there was an outhouse instead of running water, rivers instead of showers. It was very rudimentary, Romero told EHN. But riding through these biodiverse mountains on horseback made it all worth it. "It was just so liberating," Romero said. Five years ago, Romero's father passed away. Still his legacy lives on, as Romero, the first-ever Latina mayor of America's 33rd largest city, uses her platform to build an environmentally resilient community.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** May 14, 2021**Source:** Environmental Health News

NEWSBULLETIN COMMITTEE

Executive Editor

Dr. Pankaj Kumar Srivastava

pankajk@nbri.res.in

Compiled By

Mr. Sunil Tripathi, Mr. Diwakar Saini

NBRI ENVIS Node: <http://www.nbrienvvis.nic.in>NBRI Website: <http://www.nbri.res.in>ENVIS Cell: <http://envvis.nic.in>Ministry of Environment & Forests: <http://envfor.nic.in>

The Environmental Information System at Eco-Auditing Laboratory, National Botanical Research Institute is focussed on "Plants & Pollution". This is the E-mail Publication that Feature News, Information and Events Related to Plants & Pollution.

The Focus of ENVIS has been on Providing Environmental Information to Decision Makers, Policy Planners, Scientists and Engineers, Research Workers, etc. all over the World.

Eco-Auditing Group is Involved in R & D on Eco-Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Eco-Friendly Models that are Technologically and Economically Feasible for Phytoremediation of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.