



## News

**Forest soils recovering from effects of acid rain**

Before the United States 1970 Clean Air Act, rainfall all over the country was acidic. As precipitation would fall from the sky, it would mix with gases from industrial plants, emissions from cars, and especially coal and fossil fuel consumption. That caused the water to become acidic - also called "acid rain." Besides the air pollution hurting plants and humans, this acid rain also hurt our soils. Even dry deposits of these acidic emissions could be hurtful to humans, plants, soil and water. Acidic soil can bind nutrients so that plants can't get them. It can hurt the microbes in soil, as well as plants. One odd "helpful" thing acid rain did, though, was to provide a few nutrients to the soil. The sulfur in the acid rain - in the form of sulfates - actually provided nutrition to plants. ....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** February 05, 2020**Source:** Eurek Alert**Haryana's solution for river pollution: Biodiversity parks to come up for rejuvenation of Yamuna, Ghaggar**

Acting on the National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s recent directions to all states and Union Territories (UTs) to identify polluted river stretches and rejuvenate them, the Haryana government has decided to have huge biodiversity parks along its two rivers – Ghaggar and Yamuna – besides taking other time-bound steps. Ghaggar which enters Haryana's Panchkula district from Parwanoo side of Himachal Pradesh, with comparatively less water, touches four districts —Panchkula, Ambala, Fatehabad and Sirsa — which hardly have any polluting industries - in the state before entering Rajasthan. Unlike Ghaggar, Yamuna river, which enters Haryana's Yamunanagar district from Uttarakhand side, however, criss-crosses Yamunanagar, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, ....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** February 06, 2020**Source:** Hindustan Times**8,500 trees to face axe in Bengaluru to ease traffic**

The Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) will axe more than 8,500 trees in Bengaluru to decongest traffic in the tech corridor in the city much to the chagrin of environmentalists. Campaigning organisation Jhatkaa.org has collected more than 2,500 signatures demanding an immediate stay on felling of trees, some of which are as old as 80 years. Jhatkaa.org has also called for proper and accessible public consultation to be held for all projects. The existing two-lane and four-lane roads will be converted into four-lane and six-lane roads respectively along the stretch between Bannerghatta, Sarjapura, Mandur, Anekal and Whitefield. Environmentalists point out that one of the reasons for the rise in air pollution in Bengaluru is the indiscriminate felling of ....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** February 09, 2020**Source:** Deccan Chronicle**'Rule breaking' plants may be climate change survivors**

Dr Annabel Smith, from UQ's School of Agriculture and Food Sciences, and Professor Yvonne Buckley, from UQ's School of Biological Sciences and Trinity College Dublin Ireland, studied the humble plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) to see how it became one of the world's most successfully distributed plant species. "The plantain, a small plant native to Europe, has spread wildly across the globe -- we needed to know why it's been so incredibly successful, even in hot, dry climates," Dr Smith said. The global team of 48 ecologists set up 53 monitoring sites in 21 countries, tagged thousands of individual plants, tracked plant deaths and new seedlings, counted flowers and seeds and looked at DNA to see how many individual plants have historically been introduced outside Europe. ....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** February 10, 2020**Source:** Science Daily**Climate warming disrupts tree seed production**

Masting, the process by which trees vary the amount of seeds they produce year by year, is a characteristic of many forest tree species, including oaks, beeches, pines and spruces. It is beneficial because during 'famine years', seed-eating animals (such as moths) are starved so their numbers decrease, while in the 'bumper years', seed production is so high that it satiates insects and seed predators, so that some seeds can survive to establish the next generation of trees. However, a study of beech tree seed production published in the journal *Nature Plants*, found that increased seed production due to warmer temperatures was accompanied by a reduction in the degree of year-to-year variability in seed production, and specifically a reduction in the frequency of the 'famine years'. Thus the main ....[Read more...](#)

**Date:** February 12, 2020**Source:** Science Daily

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