



News

Pollination: Air pollution renders flower odors unattractive to moths

Pollination is a critical ecosystem service, one that is performed mainly by insects. Flowers attract insects using floral scents, which are chemical signals that the pollinators can have an innate preference for. This preference is the result of the co-evolutionary relationship between flowers and their pollinators that has evolved over millions of years. For about 20 years, the term "Anthropocene" has been used in the scientific community to refer to the geological epoch in which humans are responsible for many changes in biological and atmospheric processes. However, until recently, little has been known about the effects of anthropogenic climate change and atmospheric pollution on natural environmental odors that drive chemical communication between organisms.[Read more...](#)

Date: September 04, 2020

Source: Science Daily

First International Day for Clean Air calls for decisive global action to beat air pollution

With extreme air pollution events on the rise, global efforts to reduce pollution and its effects will receive an advocacy boost when, for the first time ever, the world marks the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies on 7 September. Adopted by a UN General Assembly Resolution in 2019, the International Day of Clean Air for blue skies – whose observance is facilitated by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) – stresses the importance of and urgent need to raise public awareness at all levels and to promote and facilitate actions to improve air quality. The Republic of Korea led global efforts to create this new International Day of Clean Air for blue skies and will host an event to start celebrations. In many parts of the world extreme air pollution events have become a seasonal phenomenon, almost as reliable as the monsoon or autumn foliage. In early November,[Read more...](#)

Date: September 07, 2020

Source: UN Environment

Why growers of plantation crops need weather-based insurance

Till July end this year, key plantation districts across South India such as Kodagu, Chikkamagalur, Idukki and Wayanad faced a rainfall deficit. Come August, the heavy downpour in the first fortnight helped wipe out the deficit besides triggering flooding, landslides and inflicting crop losses in some of these districts. For plantation districts in South, August has turned out to be a dreaded month with several regions witnessing heavy rainfall and flooding for the third consecutive year. Growers attribute such extreme weather events to climate change and are seeking some sort of protection to their crops in the form of an insurance cover. In Assam, heavy rain and flooding has hit output this year. "As the freak weather is becoming a new normal, the government should extend the Fasal Bima scheme to plantation crops," says KK Vishwanath, a coffee and pepper grower in Kodagu.[Read more...](#)

Date: September 09, 2020

Source: The Hindu Business Line

Global warming threatens soil phosphorus, says a soil scientist from RUDN University

A soil scientist from RUDN University found out that the resources of organic phosphorus in the soils of the Tibetan Plateau could be depleted because of global warming. To do so, he compared phosphorus content in the soils from the Tibetan Plateau that has a cold climate and from the warmer Loess Plateau. The results of the study were published in the Agriculture, Ecosystems and Environment journal. Phosphorus is the second most vital element for plants after nitrogen. In the soil, it is bound into organic or inorganic compounds. The soil cycle of phosphorus has several stages: first, organic substances mineralize; then, phosphorus is transferred to inorganic mineral compounds; after that, it is consumed by plants, and then it returns to the soil with organic plant waste.[Read more...](#)

Date: September 11, 2020

Source: Eurek Alert

Arctic plants face more competition for pollinators as temperatures rise

Climate change is ramping up the competition for Arctic plants to attract pollinators, according to a new study from the University of Helsinki. Warmer temperatures are extending the flowering periods of more plant species, as well as their need for insect pollination. The researchers report that the most attractive plant species steal the majority of pollinators, and other flowering plants are suffering as a result. "Most flowering plants are dependent on the pollination services provided by insects. Thus, plants need to time their flowering to periods of maximal pollinator abundances. On the other hand, plant species compete with each other for pollination. Thus, plant species flowering at the same time can affect each other's pollination success," said study lead author Mikko Tiusanen.[Read more...](#)

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Source: earth.com

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