



News

The Best Houseplants, From Low-Light Indoor Plants To Pet-Friendly Palms

When it comes to caring for houseplants, some folks are born with a green thumb while others swear they could kill a cactus. As a member of the latter category (or so I thought), I understand the hesitation that goes along with becoming a plant parent. I loved the idea of filling my space with the best indoor plants, but I was scared to end up with a bunch of dead foliage. Then two years ago, a friend (who is also a gardening teacher) brought over a plant clipping to my apartment. She helped me settle it in a pot and shared advice on how to care for it. That gifted plant ushered me into the wide world of indoor greenery—my collection has grown to 11 houseplants spread over three window sills—brightening my home and offering fulfillment along the way.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** August 17, 2021**Source:** Forbes**Lupin and Arsenic: Research on soil decontamination by an exceptional plant**

In Canada, over 7000 sites contaminated with metals such as arsenic are considered 'highly concerning' by the government, with some past and recent mining operations and wood preservative facilities having left their mark on the environment by increasing soil arsenic levels by up to 1000 times the maximum regulatory health limits. One way in which arsenic contaminated soils could be rejuvenated is to exploit natural mechanisms which have evolved in certain plants for contamination tolerance. "The legume crop white lupin (*L. albus*) is one such arsenic tolerant plant species being studied as for sustainable remediation," explains Adrien Frémont, lead author of the study and a doctoral student in biological sciences at the Université de Montréal.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** August 24, 2021**Source:** Science Daily**Fossil leaves may reveal climate in last era of dinosaurs**

Richard Barclay opens a metal drawer in archives of the Smithsonian Natural History Museum containing fossils that are nearly 100 million years old. Despite their age, these rocks aren't fragile. The geologist and botanist handles them with casual ease, placing one in his palm for closer examination. Embedded in the ancient rock is a triangular leaf with rounded upper lobes. This leaf fell off a tree around the time that T-rex and triceratops roamed prehistoric forests, but the plant is instantly recognizable. "You can tell this is ginkgo, it's a unique shape," said Barclay. "It hasn't changed much in many millions of years." What's also special about ginkgo trees is that their fossils often preserve actual plant material, not simply a leaf's impression.

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** August 24, 2021**Source:** AP News**Organic and conservation farming boost multifunctionality of ecosystems: Study**

One of the main challenges facing agriculture is to produce sufficient food with minimal environmental impact. Agricultural practices followed in conservation agriculture and organic farming — integrated plant protection, crop rotation and the use of organic inputs — helped in reducing the productivity-environmental protection dilemma, according to a study published August 20, 2021. Organic farming also had a reduced environmental impact, with a 46-51 per cent lower global warming potential and an 80-85 per cent reduced aquatic ecotoxicity potential per hectare, the report said. Agricultural practices influence a wide range of ecosystem functions and services. The study assessed the overall performance of important cropping systems in Europe within adapted ecosystem services and using the ecosystem multifunctionality — the ability of ecosystems to provide multiple functions and services simultaneously. Researchers evaluated and compared the agronomic,

[.....Read more...](#)**Date:** August 26, 2021**Source:** Down to Earth**Citizens' groups oppose Bandhwari waste plant, write to pollution board**

Gurgaon: Concerned over the proposed construction of a waste-to-energy plant at the Bandhwari landfill site, various citizens' groups, including Aravalli Bachao, Citizens for Clear Air and NCR Waste Matters, have written to the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB), saying the site is in the eco-sensitive Aravalli belt, which is Delhi-NCR's green lung and a key groundwater recharge zone. They have expressed concern about the plant's polluting effects on the ecosystem. A public hearing to listen to objections and suggestions on the proposed plant will be held on August 31. In several letters sent over the past week, the groups pointed out that the hearing notice claimed that the environment impact assessment was available on HSPCB's website, but it hasn't been uploaded, even though the hearing is in five days. "It makes no logical sense to burn mixed waste and create more pollution.

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