



News

Trees can clear dust, reduce noise

Sucking in carbon dioxide and replacing it with oxygen is not the only contribution of plants. A new study shows that 91 tree species are saviours in a polluted city, clearing the air of harmful sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. The finding shows that green drives in the city have to move beyond merely providing shade and preventing soil erosion, and also address the problem of toxic gases and dust.

The study by Chennai-based biodiversity organisation Care Earth Trust shows that trees like jamun (naaval) is effective against sulphur dioxide, while neem, soapnut and mandharai can remove lead from the atmosphere, said S Balaji, who led the study that was part of Development of Greening and Plantation Strategy for Chennai. "Trees which are planted close to each other act like a green barrier. They can remove 14% sulphur dioxide, 13% particulate matter, 8% nitrous oxide and .05% carbon monoxide," he said. While it is common knowledge that a building surrounded by trees uses less energy, in the form of airconditioning, as the greenery provides shade[Read more...](#)

Date: April 17, 2018

Source: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>

Moss capable of removing arsenic from drinking water discovered

A moss capable of removing arsenic from contaminated water has been discovered by researchers from Stockholm University. And it happens quickly--in just one hour, the arsenic level is so low that the water is no longer harmful for people to drink. The study has been published in the journal Environmental Pollution. The aquatic moss *Warnstofia fluitans*, which grows in northern Sweden, has the ability to quickly absorb and adsorb arsenic from water. The discovery allows for an environmentally friendly way to purify water of arsenic. One possible scenario is to grow the moss in streams and other watercourses with high levels of arsenic.[Read more...](#)

Date: April 17, 2018

Source: <https://phys.org/>

Using the right plants can reduce indoor pollution and save energy

People in industrialized countries spend more than 80% of their lives indoors, increasingly in air-tight buildings. These structures require less energy for heating, ventilating, and air conditioning, but can be hazardous to human health if particulate matter and potentially toxic gases, including carbon monoxide, ozone, and volatile organic compounds, from sources such as furniture, paints, carpets, and office equipment accumulate. Plants absorb toxins and can improve indoor air quality, but surprisingly little is known about what plants are best for the job and how we can make plants.....[Read more...](#)

Date: April 19, 2018

Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>

How the Environment Has Changed Since the First Earth Day

When Earth Day was first created in 1970, it rode the coattails of a decade filled with social activism. Voting rights were strengthened, civil rights were outlined, and women were demanding equal treatment. But there was no Environmental Protection Agency, no Clean Air Act, or Clean Water Act. Fast forward 48 years and what started as a grassroots movement has exploded into an international day of attention and activism dedicated to preserving the environment. Officially, the United Nations recognizes this upcoming April 22 as International Mother Earth Day. Across the globe, millions of people take part in Earth Day. According to the Earth Day Network, one of the largest activist bodies organizing Earth Day events, people celebrate by holding marches, planting trees, meeting with local representatives,.....[Read more...](#)

Date: April 21, 2018

Source: <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/>

Trees with grassy areas soften summer heat

Trees cool their environment and 'heat islands' benefit from it. However, the degree of cooling depends greatly on the tree species and the local conditions. In a recent study, scientists at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) compared two species of urban trees. It is cooler under black locusts, especially on hot summer days. This has significant implications for landscape architecture and urban planning: "Tree species such as the black locust that consume little water can provide a higher cooling effect if they are planted on grass lawns.....[Read more...](#)

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Source: <https://www.sciencedaily.com/>

NEWSBULLETIN COMMITTEE

Executive Editor

Dr. Pankaj Kumar Srivastava

pankajk@nbri.res.in

Compiled By

Mr. Sunil Tripathi, Mr. Diwakar Saini, Mrs. Vineeta Yadav

NBRI ENVIS Node: <http://www.nbrienviis.nic.in>

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