



News

Artificial tree promises to suck up as much air pollution as a small forest

Trees are nature's way of cleaning the air, but they come with the downside of needing time in order to grow. A Mexican startup called Biomitech has a way around this, however. The company has developed an artificial tree that it claims is capable of sucking up the equivalent amount of air pollution as 368 living trees. That's not only a saving on growing time, but also on the space needed to accommodate them. Called Biourban, the near 14-foot metal tree employs microalgae that pulls carbon dioxide and other contaminants from the air and returns pure oxygen in exchange. Since launching in 2016, the company has installed one tree in its home city of Puebla, Mexico, another in Columbia, and a third in Panama. It has additional contracts for two more trees in Mexico, and the possibility of "planting" [Read more...](#)

Date: August 16, 2019

Source: Digital Trends

Mobile forests could help cities cope with climate change

Cities are becoming harder places to live in as climate change brings higher temperatures, water scarcity and flooding that not only makes already crowded urban areas less comfortable but also put lives at risk. But it may be possible to protect citizens from these threats by integrating more nature into urban areas, according to researchers. 'We lost sight on how to work with nature,' said Dr Laura Wendling, an urban scientist at the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. Using natural systems, however, it is possible to help cities adapt to climate change, she says. Nature-based solutions can provide cities with urban cooling, cleaner air, regulated water supplies and flood protection. They include simple approaches like planting new trees and creating parks with a rich collection of biodiversity. [Read more...](#)

Date: August 19, 2019

Source: Horizon Magazine

The Amazon is burning at record rates—and deforestation is to blame

Multiple news outlets are reporting that Brazil's National Institute for Space Research (INPE) reported a record 72,843 fires this year, an 80 percent increase from last year. More than 9,000 of those fires have been spotted in the past week. The size of the fires is still unclear, but they spread over several large Amazon states in northwest Brazil. On August 11, NASA noted that the fires were large enough that they could be spotted from space. "This is without any question one of only two times that there have been fires like this," in the Amazon, says Thomas Lovejoy, an ecologist and National [Read more...](#)

Date: August 21, 2019

Source: National Geographic

VTCNA Health Tips: Hemp And Bioremediation

As we start to look towards fall harvest, and ten thousand acres of Vermont hemp now flowering, I wanted to educate readers on the idea of bioremediation – or phytoremediation – when it comes to hemp farming and CBD products. The Ministry of Hemp's article How Hemp Can Heal Our Soil & Why It Matters To Consumers defines bioremediation as "using living things to heal the soil, allowing us to clean and reclaim polluted lands." While bioremediation uses bacteria and other microorganisms, phytoremediation relies on crops like hemp to achieve the same results. Elaine Charkowski of Central Oregon Green Pages articulates the value of phytoremediation, saying that it "can also be used to clean up metals, pesticides, solvents, explosives, crude oil, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and toxins leaching from landfills," and that hemp is particularly adept at this process. [Read more...](#)

Date: August 26, 2019

Source: Heady Vermont

Kenya warms to the water hyacinth as wonder source of biofuel

It is 9am on the shores of Lake Victoria's Winam Gulf in Kenya's Kisumu county. Tourists are arriving on the beach in droves, preparing to spend the day sunbathing and taking boat rides. Behind them, enormous marabou storks on spindly grey legs are pacing the beach, waiting for scraps. Nearby, a group of women scan the horizon, looking for the fishing boats that will soon arrive with their daily catch. But there's something else on the horizon too, a sheet of water hyacinth pulled over the surface of the lake. The leaves of the floating plant extending like an oversized green shag carpet, rolling gently in the wind. "We hope that the boats arrive before the hyacinth covers this area, [because] it will be difficult for [the fishermen] to access the dry land and bring us fish," says Elizabeth Keita, a fishmonger in the village of Dunga, as she eyes the bobbing green sheet in the distance. [Read more...](#)

Date: August 27, 2019

Source: The Guardian

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