



News

5 best indoor plants that can keep the air inside your home clean, toxic-free

Over the years there have been numerous studies which have proved how air pollutants also lurks inside our homes. This made people sit up and take note of the fact that air pollution isn't happening just outside, but also in the four walls of their homes. According to Garden Therapy, a website dedicated to gardening and green living, states that cosmetics, metals, materials, furniture and cigarette smoke are some of the prime sources of homebound pollution which release toxins, dust and germs in the air. And before you panic and rush to market for buying air purifiers then stop! Because there's a long-term solution which can efficiently, naturally and easily purify the air inside your home/office. Indoor plants can help make room for pure, harmless and healthy air. [.....Read more...](#)

Date: December 20, 2020**Source:** Free Press Journal**Conifers can be green because of a photosynthetic short-cut**

How can conifers that are used, for example, as Christmas trees, keep their green needles over the boreal winter when most trees shed their leaves? Science has not provided a good answer to this question but now an international team of scientists, including researchers from Umeå University, has deciphered that a short-cut in the photosynthetic machinery allows the needles of pine trees to stay green. The study was published in the journal Nature Communications. In winter, light energy is absorbed by the green chlorophyll molecules but cannot be utilized by the downstream reactions in the photosynthetic machinery as freezing temperatures stop most biochemical reactions. This is especially a problem in the early spring when temperatures can still be very low, but sunlight is already strong, [.....Read more...](#)

Date: December 23, 2020**Source:** Science Daily**How a 'tree mortgage' scheme could turn an Indian town carbon neutral**

In the misty, hilly terrain of Wayanad, in the southern Indian state of Kerala, the people with any access to land in the quiet town of Meenangadi have been out counting their trees. Sheeja CG, a 46-year-old farmer, has lived among coffee, coconut and pepper plantations all her life but last month she increased her income dramatically by mortgaging 53 of her trees at the local bank, in return for a sum of 2,650 rupees (£26.96), or 50 rupees each. She was one of the first beneficiaries of the state-sponsored scheme. It's a simple incentive with big gains: plant a tree, and after three years residents can mortgage each sapling for an interest-free loan that can be renewed annually for 10 years. The money need be repaid only if the tree is chopped down. [.....Read more...](#)

Date: December 28, 2020**Source:** The Guardian**Crops grown in Bangalore high on toxic heavy metals**

Scientists in Bangalore, India have found toxic levels of four heavy metals, chromium, nickel, cadmium and lead, in crops and vegetables grown on soil irrigated with water from six lakes in the city, reports a study published December in Current Science. According to the study, the 17 lakes in and around Bangalore, a bustling city of more than 12 million people, have become part of the city's drainage system, into which flow untreated sewage and industrial effluents from garment factories, electroplating industries, distilleries and other small-scale but polluting units. However, many farmers are now using water from these lakes to irrigate and water vegetable crops. For the study, N.B. Prakash, a professor at the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and one of the authors of the study, [.....Read more...](#)

Date: December 29, 2020**Source:** phys.org**Worthy articles address plight of trees in a warming climate**

Focusing on a particular town devastated by a hurricane, flooding, or wildfire can sharpen our attention and turn generalizations about climate change into concrete instances we can both understand and feel. So, too, focusing on particular kinds of trees can help us grasp some troubling climate change impacts already underway. The New York Times has a particularly good recent story of this kind: "They're among the World's Oldest Living Things. The Climate Crisis Is Killing Them" looks at three iconic species, each with its own named national park, that burned in the 2020 California wildfires. This striking story (text by John Branch, photos by Max Whittaker) emphasizes the emotional importance of such trees (though Joshua trees are actually tree-sized yuccas). If a paywall proves an obstacle, this shorter newsletter version may be accessible. [.....Read more...](#)

Date: December 31, 2020**Source:** Yale Climate Connections

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