



NEWS BULLETIN

Plants and Pollution

ENVIS RP-NBRI

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Vol. 10, October 2020

Clean Air Day 2020

CSIR-NATIONAL BOTANICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, LUCKNOW

Peace Lily And Pollution – Do Peace Lilies Help With Air Quality

Gardening Know How, 04 October 2020

It makes sense that indoor plants should improve air quality. After all, plants convert the carbon dioxide we breathe out into the oxygen we breathe in. It goes way beyond that, though. NASA (which has a pretty good reason to care about air quality in enclosed spaces) has conducted a study on how plants improve air quality.

The study focuses on 19 plants that thrive indoors in low light and actively remove pollutants from the air. Way at the top of that list of plants is the peace lily. Keep reading to learn more about using peace lily plants for air purification. The NASA study focuses on common air pollutants that tend to be given off by manmade materials. These are chemicals that become trapped in the air in enclosed spaces and can be bad for your health if breathed in too much.

One of these chemicals is Benzene, which can be naturally given off by gasoline, paint, rubber, tobacco smoke, detergent, and a variety of synthetic fibers. Another is Trichloroethylene, which can be found in paint, lacquer, glue, and varnish. In other words, it's commonly given off by furniture. Peace lilies have been found to be very good at removing these two chemicals from the air. They absorb the pollutants from the air through their leaves, then send them to their roots, where they're broken down by microbes in the soil. So this makes using peace lily plants for air purification in the home a definite plus.

Do peace lilies help with air quality in any other ways? Yes, they do. In addition to help with air pollutants in the home, they also give off a lot of moisture in the air. Getting clean air with peace lilies can be even more effective if a lot of the pot's topsoil is exposed to the air.

Pollutants can be absorbed straight into the soil and broken down this way. Trim away the lowest leaves on your peace lily to allow lots of direct contact between the soil and the air.....

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Celebrate Clean Air Day

City of Carlsbad California, 07 October 2020

In support of California Clean Air Day Oct. 7, the City of Carlsbad is encouraging community members to take a pledge to do their part to reduce air pollution in homes, schools and businesses.

The pledge includes individual actions people can take to reduce air pollution such as:

Change or clean your home air filter

- Change your car cabin air filter
- Replace gas-powered yard tools with electric or hand-powered tools
- Switch to using natural all-purpose cleaners
- Buy local produce
- Plant a home garden or plot in a community garden
- Plant a tree
- Walk or bike to the store or transit stop
- Don't idle your engine
- Telecommute and attend meetings remotely

The city's is also doing its part to create policies and programs that reduce air pollution in our community:

Cool Rides School Carpool Pilot Program

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing congestion at drop-off and pick-ups times at elementary schools and reducing the number of cars through family ridesharing
- Increase safety of travel to and from school

Carlsbad Connector

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting people travelling to Carlsbad for work to use the COASTER versus driving alone in their car, bridging the last mile gap between the station and our city's primary industrial commercial cores

Over the nine-month pilot, more than 400 riders per week were transported on the Carlsbad Connector at its peak in February 2020

The service logged more.....

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5 NASA-approved air purifying indoor plants to fight air pollution

India TV, 19 October 2020

The whole of India is reeling under smog and pollutants that are floating in air. Heavy smog has engulfed the city into a gloomy state of grey and you sure must be worrying about the health of your close ones as well as yourself.

We are often asked to plant trees to curb pollution but did you know that not just trees, but house plants are also a great way to counter pollution? The American space agency, NASA released a list of house plants that are effective in purifying the air at homes.

Here are a few easily available, hardy, really difficult to kill house plants that will help you fight back air pollution in your homes this year!

1. Pothos

Commonly known as money plant in most households, this cute creeper is a must-have plant in every home. A great plant for beginners, pothos is a very effective air purifier, helping in significantly reducing the most common house air pollutants including benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene, xylene, and toluene.

2. Sanseveria

Making for a beautiful home decor element, Sanseveria or snake plant is a very popular house plant for its beautiful snake-like shaded leaves. But not everyone knows that it has brilliant air-purifying capabilities for which it has been included in NASA's list of air-purifying plants.

3. Peace Lily

A flowering house plant, peace lily is known to bring good luck and health other than its air-purifying properties. It can remove benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene, ammonia, xylene, toluene and several other known pollutants from air.

4. Aloe vera

There are high chances that you might already have this plant in your home. If not, you must get one right now for its air-purifying characteristics as well as million other benefits.....

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Delhi-NCR residents prep for bad AQI days ahead with air purifiers, indoor plants

The Hindustan Times, 02 October 2020

With several sectors reopening and a visible increase in vehicular movement, air pollution is rising in Delhi. Air Quality Index (AQI) hit 148 recently and India Meteorological Department expects air quality to deteriorate further by the end of this month. So, city residents are gearing up for the low AQI days expected in the months to come by buying air purifiers and plants, halting outdoor workouts, and even running awareness campaigns to ban firecrackers.

Air-purifier, a must

Gurugram resident Upasana Mahatani is hoping for "kinder" days ahead in terms of air quality, but is still preparing for the worst. "I'm ordering another air purifier and, unfortunately, we have more than enough masks," she says.

App to report waste burning

Manas Fuloria, CEO of software firm Nagarro, is working towards a tangible solution to the problem. He says, "We are building an app so that people can report waste burning via WhatsApp. For eg someone can click and send a photo, and we will inform the authorities."

Plants to the rescue

Delhi-based author Siddharth Singh, who has written The Great Smog of India, shares that he feels like shifting from the city to another place for these dreaded days. "I wanted to move out of Delhi for the 3-4 week period when the air quality in Delhi is stuck in the hazardous territory. Unfortunately, I won't be able to do that due to the pandemic. So, instead, I've ensured that my house is insulated from the outside air, and to do that I've purchased new filters for my indoor air purifiers. I have indoor plants too, but mostly because I love greenery. I'll also be avoiding any strenuous activities during the peak smog period as that has a disproportionately adverse impact on

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