



The Environmental Information System at Eco-Auditing Laboratory, National Botanical Research Institute is focussed on "Plants & Pollution". This is the E-mail Publication that Feature News, Information and Events Related to Plants & Pollution.

The Focus of ENVIS has been on Providing Environmental Information to Decision Makers, Policy Planners, Scientists and Engineers, Research Workers, etc. all over the World.

Eco-Auditing Group is Involved in R & D on Eco-Monitoring, Environmental Impact Assessment, Eco-Friendly Models that are Technologically and Economically Feasible for Phytoremediation of Polluted Lands and Polluted Waters etc.

## News

### Green walls: A red card for office worker health?

New research by University of York academics reveals that living 'green' walls may have adverse health effects on office workers living in hot, polluted climates. Investigating levels of air pollutants in modern office buildings, Dr Nicola Carslaw from York's Environment Department led a modelling study focusing on ultrafine particles (UFPs). Such particles are a health concern as they can carry potentially toxic species into the lungs. Using a detailed chemical model for indoor air, concentrations of UFPs were simulated for offices in Athens, Helsinki and Milan during a heatwave across Europe in August 2003, and again during more typical summer temperatures in August 2009. These three cities were selected to compare contrasting climates and locations across Europe. The researchers found that indoor concentrations of UFPs were highest in the Milan and Athens offices, reflecting high outdoor air pollution levels in these cities. Such pollutants make their way indoors through doors, windows and ventilation systems as well as through gaps in the building fabric [Readmore...](#)

**Date:** 05 October, 2015

**Source:** <http://www.eurekalert.org>

### Here's a plan: plant trees, mine coal

Yet another mining company is going through the process of selling off assets via Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code. The company is Patriot Coal out of West Virginia, in bankruptcy court now. But in a twist, one party seeking to scoop up mining assets and liabilities is the head of an environmental group. His plan is to plant millions of trees on mine sites to offset coal's carbon pollution and at the same time continue mining. This strikes critics as the equivalent of low-tar cigarettes, or perhaps healthy cheesecake. But the corporate executive behind the proposal has said he wants to be controversial. His stated passion: reforestation. "We've got about 3.1 trillion trees," said Tom Clarke, who runs the nonprofit Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, as well as the company Kissito Healthcare. "And it's estimated that when human civilization began, we had about 5.6 trillion. So we need to almost double the number of trees. We think this is an economic model that can actually move the needle closer to that number."

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**Date:** 07 October, 2015

**Source:** <http://www.marketplace.org>

### Interest Builds In Giving Farmers Credit For Growing Green

Like all business owners, farmers want to get paid for their work. Sometimes, that work creates problems for the environment, so regulators are advancing the idea of creating environmental markets to allow farmers to make money off of their conservation practices. Under plans in development, farmers could generate environmental credits by farming in ways that store carbon, filter out water pollution, or preserve wildlife habitat. Those credits could be bought, sold, and traded by companies that need to balance out their own emissions or pollution. A handful of these markets are already up and running. For example, in Oregon, farmers are earning money by planting trees along a salmon stream to keep the water cool. In California, power plants are under orders to cut carbon emissions. They're trading offsets with rice farmers who have changed their cropping practices to cut methane emissions.

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**Date:** 16 October, 2015

**Source:** <http://www.npr.org>

### Black gum trees beautiful, hard working

There is something uplifting about a simple walk in the park at this glorious time of the year. The air feels fresh and clean, as if its suddenly infused with more oxygen. Dried leaves crunch underfoot, releasing their unique fall perfume into the air, and suddenly my mind drifts back to walking home from high school and enjoying that same autumn scent so many years ago. The brilliant reds, rich auburns and golden yellows of the autumn foliage warms the cool air. Pair the colours with a vibrant blue sky and the effect is truly magical. A showy trio of young black gum (*Nyssa sylvatica*) trees caught my eye at the Niagara Parks Botanical Garden this past weekend. Not satisfied with enjoying the colours from afar, I stepped beneath an arching canopy of rose, tangerine, amber and green leaves resembling a rich and intricate Tiffany-style glass shade. Although beautiful, this Carolinian native is not just a pretty face, it can also be a problem solver, tolerating poorly drained soils and welcoming wildlife with seeds and nectar.

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**Date:** 20 October, 2015

**Source:** <http://www.niagarafallsreview.ca>

### UC Riverside Analyzes the Benefits of Urban Trees

RIVERSIDE, Calif.— What have your trees done for you lately? According to UC Riverside Professor of Botany and Plant Science Darrel Jenerette, trees cool our homes, neighborhoods, and improve our health. Now he is exploring the hypothesis that the cooling provided by your trees may also help save water, an important virtue during California's unprecedented drought. Jenerette and colleagues are relying on citizen scientists to collect the bulk of the data, sampling trees from Malibu to Palm Springs. Since last August, over 300 people have taken measurements on more than 1,300 trees, across 25 days of sampling. [Read more...](#)

**Date:** 26 October, 2015

**Source:** <http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu>

### Green concern over metro line between Noida, Greater Noida

The National Green Tribunal has sought a response from the Noida and Delhi Metro Rail Corporations and the Uttar Pradesh government after a petition challenged the construction of a metro line from Noida to Greater Noida. The petition said the project lacked environmental clearance despite its huge land and water needs and the fact that its alignment would pass through the Hindon river. The NGT has also sought replies from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Noida and Greater Noida authorities. The Tribunal was hearing a petition filed by environmental activist Vikrant Tongad, which raised the issue of the construction of a metro line from Noida to Greater Noida, which involves an area of over 1,50,000 square meter. Mr. Tongad said the Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC) was constructing the metro line, which had a total land requirement of 284762.01 sq.m and a depot.

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**Date:** 27 October, 2015

**Source:** <http://www.thehindu.com>

## NEWSBULLETIN COMMITTEE

### Executive Editor

Dr. Nandita Singh

[n.singh@nbri.res.in](mailto:n.singh@nbri.res.in)

### Compiled By

Dr. Shivani Srivastava, Yashpal Singh, Deepmala Yadav

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

**NBRI Website:** <http://www.nbri.res.in>

**ENVIS Cell:** <http://enviis.nic.in>

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