



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

Urban bug wars heating up on oak trees of the Carolinas

If you're swatting at more insects this summer in the city, you might blame the pavement. Sidewalks, along with other urban fixtures like parking lots and buildings, are contributing to a misbalance between two of nature's rivals: pest insects and the predatory bugs that normally keep each other's population in check. It's the heat these surfaces absorb that's causing the issue. Cities are inherently warmer than rural areas because they have fewer plants to provide shade. The more asphalt, concrete and brick – the more heat, and in some cases, the more pest insects, like *P. quercifex*, which thrive in warmer conditions. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 04 April, 2015

Source: <http://www.charlotteobserver.com>

For a breath of fresh air

There is a growing concern about the quality of air in our cities. Air pollution is now a major cause of diseases in India and reducing the amount of pollutants should be our primary focus. As a first step, plant trees that purify the air in and around your home. The African tulip tree is a good option for planting by compound walls. With its fragrance and bright orange coloured flowers, it has great visual appeal too. The pacific rosewood or *poovarasa maram*, the Bengal almond tree and the yellow flame tree can be grown on the streets with a gap of five metres between each tree. "These four trees have the capacity to absorb and mitigate gases emitted by vehicles," says K. Baranidharan, Asst. Professor, Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam. He has been researching on how trees can help combat urban air pollution. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 10 April, 2015

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

Tree-felling is rampant across NCR as infra projects get priority

NOIDA: For all the corrective steps taken by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to curb pollution in the NCR by constraining construction, vehicles, waste burning and industries, not much thought goes into saving trees, a crucial cog in preserving urban air quality. The cities' lungs, which soak up carbon dioxide and release oxygen, are being felled with abandon across Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad, in the name of development. For years, green activists have cried hoarse about the need to preserve the city's trees. Most of their pleas have fallen on deaf ears because of a lack of enforcement of NGT orders. The latest in this orgy of destruction is the green belt along Hapur Chungi-Vivekananda Road in Ghaziabad. Ironically, this is being done to promote chief minister Akhilesh Yadav's message of non-motorized transport. [Read more..](#)

Date: 15 April, 2015

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

Column: Plant a tree, improve our public health

Next week, we honor our life-giving planet with Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 24). What better way to celebrate these springtime rites than by planting a tree? A growing body of evidence suggests that trees not only have aesthetic and environmental value, they benefit public health in many ways, too. This was one of the findings of a task force convened four years ago by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Twenty-five urban and environmental specialists came together to explore what makes a vibrant community. Among the factors they considered were "urban forests." They concluded that "trees are the key" to creating and managing sustainable communities and -- not incidentally -- to alleviating many public health challenges. [Read more...](#)

Date: 15 April, 2015

Source: <http://helenair.com>

City plans tree giveaway to cut water pollution

A fir tree can absorb almost 300 gallons of water per year. An ash tree takes care of about 100 gallons. Dogwoods only take in about 26 gallons. For the city of Spokane, all these thirsty trees – and dozens more varieties – play an important role in keeping the Spokane River free of pollutants. This Friday and Saturday mark the city's first Free Tree Weekend. On a first-come, first-served basis, the city is giving away 2,000 trees through three local nurseries. There are 35 varieties of trees, from the small Rocky Mountain bristlecone pine and Canada red chokecherry to the medium-sized Venus dogwood and Greenspire littleleaf to large Serbian spruce and corkbark fir. Spokane residents are eligible for two free trees. [Read more...](#)

Date: 16 April, 2015

Source: <http://www.spokesman.com>

How Iran's Khuzestan went from wetland to wasteland

Out on the horizon, the blue sky darkens, turns a misty, golden yellow, and rapidly gives way to a shiny green, looking almost like a lagoon. Just for a moment everyone wonders if it's going to rain, as temperatures drop and winds blow across the city. But the dust storms are about to begin. Soon a grey darkness will appear and no sky or sun will be visible. In offices, homes and schools, adults begin to shut windows, doors and any vents. There is little panic. They are used to emergency drills from wartime, as the province of Khuzestan, south-west Iran, was a front line in the Iran-Iraq war of 1980 to 1988. [Read more...](#)

Date: 16 April, 2015

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com>

Breathing poison in the world's most polluted city

In London last week, the most dangerous particles - PM 2.5 - hit a high of 57 - that's nearly six times recommended limits. Here in Delhi, we can only dream of such clean air. Our reading for these minute, carcinogenic particles, which penetrate the lungs, entering straight into the blood stream - is a staggering 215 - 21 times recommended limits. And that's better than it's been all winter. [Read more...](#)

Date: 19 April, 2015

Source: <http://www.bbc.com>

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