



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 activists decry burning of live trees for Holika

AGRA: With Holi just round the corner, green activists are seeing red as rules to burn only dead trees are set to be flouted by many in the festival. For the past fortnight or so, various Holi Committees have been piling logs of woods for burning the symbolic Holika but many of them have also cut green trees, prompting NGOs working for environment conservation to seek intervention of the authorities concerned. However, the various government departments are busy passing the buck. Green activists say tonnes of wood burnt in the city during Holika Dahan every year, a festival symbolizing burning evil, is destroying the green cover and putting a spanner in the drive to preserve the environment. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 02 March, 2015

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

Tree planting could reduce Henley pollution

The group is considering planting the trees in Duke Street and Northfield End as their leaves are covered in tiny hairs and ridges that trap pollution particles. The idea was suggested by committee member Caroline Langer after she saw the trees used during an experiment on the BBC's Trust Me I'm A Doctor. The programme showed Michael Mosley and surgeon Gabriel Weston set up a row of 24 young silver birch trees in tubs along the pavement of the A9 in Lancaster. Behind the trees were four terraced houses and, next to those, four identical terraced houses without trees outside. After two weeks, pollution in the houses with trees was 50 to 60 percent lower than in those without. [Readmore...](#)

Date: 07 March, 2015

Source: www.henleystandard.co.uk

Did You Know: Delaware's lost trees

Forests have been important to Delaware life for centuries. The Native Americans were the first to live in wooden homes and off the bounty gathered from the trees. The Finns who immigrated to New Sweden starting in 1638 were known as both the "forest-clearing" and "forest-destroying" Finns for their ability to quickly clear the woods by ax and fire, leaving ground ready for farming. Until the Civil War, America's economy was "almost entirely wood-fueled," according to a Delaware Department of Agriculture exhibit prepared for the Delaware Agricultural Museum and Village. People burned wood to cook, to heat and to power equipment. Settlers from Europe and their descendants used the wood to make charcoal (critical for the DuPont Co. gunpowder business), make potash (a fertilizer made from burned trees), create barrels and other storage containers, extract tannin to make leather and build ships (until iron ships became more popular). Wood was everywhere. [Read more..](#)

Date: 10 March, 2015

Source: www.delawareonline.com

A Tree Covered Apartment Building Protects Residents from Pollution (and Looks Like Paradise)

Covered with 150 individual trees, the 25 Verde apartment building in Turin, Italy, looks like a playground for the nature lover. Designed by Luciano Pia, the 5-story, 63 unit building was constructed with large pots on its outside walls, while wooden shingles and tree-like steel beams complete the arboreal aesthetic. It's not just for good looks though. With the perks of living in an urban environment come some serious downsides. Air pollution is a constant problem for the city dweller's health, but this building's 150 trees can absorb nearly 200,000 liters of carbon dioxide per hour (and if you don't think that will make a big difference in air quality, just sample a deep breath at your local city park). [Read more...](#)

Date: 11 March, 2015

Source: www.visualnews.com

Letter: Tree-belt destruction

Stop! As I sit in my home office on Hastings Street, I can hear the whirring-whizzing death knell to what I'm sure is nearly all of the remaining trees in the "tree belt" (insert laughter at the name) on this street with the exception of perhaps three. I don't doubt that you have plans for those as well. And why? To appease Eversource (aka WMECO). Well, while appeasing them, you are devaluing our property, our neighborhood, our quality of life, and our environment. Make no mistake. I'm concerned about tree cutting throughout the town. But Hastings Street seems to be the street du jour. Frankly, I have serious doubts about the alleged "ill health" of these trees as well. We know that pruning and caring for our trees will make them last a very long time. [Read more...](#)

Date: 13 March, 2015

Source: [/www.recorder.com](http://www.recorder.com)

Plants that glow, fake bugs, and a "miracle" grass

A flowering tobacco plant that glows in the dark? A fake female bug that lures sex-hungry males to their death? A new lawn grass that even a weed-killer won't kill? Those are among the interesting tidbits taking place lately inside horticulture labs. Let's zoom in for a closer look at what researchers are up to: A glowing plant. A St. Louis biotech company called Bioglow has produced the world's first self-glowing plant by inserting genes from a glowing marine bacteria into a flowering tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*). The resulting Starlight Avatar plant is a tender houseplant that grows in gel in a small plastic box. It emits a dim glow in the dark. The genetically engineered plant lives only 2 to 3 months and is very sensitive to light as well as dry conditions. Its inventor, molecular biologist Dr. Alexander Krichevsky, says only about half of the plants survive a transplant out of the plastic box into soil in an open pot inside. [Read more...](#)

Date: 13 March, 2015

Source: <http://blog.pennlive.com>

Plastic: From mega-useful to the king of waste

The material of a thousand uses has become the material causing thousands of problems. Plastics manufacturing is an industry as central to modern society as energy or construction. Yet it remains fraught with environmental and health hazards. What, if anything, is being done about it? In 1905, Belgian Leo Baekland combined formaldehyde and phenol, which produced a new material that could bind all types of powders together. [Read more...](#)

Date: 17 March, 2015

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

NEWSBULLETIN COMMITTEE

Executive Editor

Dr. Nandita Singh

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>

Ministry of Environment & Forests: <http://envfor.nic.in>