



# News Brief

Center for Urban Forest Research  
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST RESEARCH STATION

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USDA Forest Service  
State and Private Forestry

## Some Important Updates

**Happy New Year!** We hope you and your family had the very best of holidays, and we wish you all the best in the New Year.

### New Research Summary

#### *Why Shade Streets? The Unexpected Benefit*

In a recent study on asphalt streets and tree shade, we found that shaded asphalt can outperform unshaded asphalt by better than 2 to 1. More shade equals more time between repavings. Shaded asphalt in our study required only 2.5 slurry seals in 30 years compared to unshaded asphalt that required 6 slurry seals. Just a 20% increase in shade improved pavement condition by 11%, a 60% savings in resurfacing/resealing over 30 years. See the research summary at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/cufr\\_673\\_WhyShadeStreets\\_10-06.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/cufr_673_WhyShadeStreets_10-06.pdf)

### In the Local News

#### *Leave It to Trees: Backyard Beauties Cool the Air and Clean It Too*

Our relationships with our trees tend to be superficial. We like them because they're pretty. But beauty is only bark deep. As the world heats up and skies get murkier, trees are gaining respect for what they do, not just how they look. "Now we are beginning to develop a greater breadth of science on not only the environmental effects of trees, but (their impact) on.... See more at:

[http://www.redding.com/redd/fe\\_home\\_garden/article/0,2232,REDD\\_17504\\_5134150,00.html](http://www.redding.com/redd/fe_home_garden/article/0,2232,REDD_17504_5134150,00.html)

By Laura Christman, Record Searchlight, Redding, CA

#### *Trees – A Different Shade of Green*

While tree planting in cities is nothing new, the scale and intent of the efforts in Los Angeles, Sacramento and a handful of other cities mark a significant shift in the way urban forests are perceived. Once seen merely as a way to beautify the concrete jungle, ... See more at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/HighCountryNews.pdf>

By Fletcher Jacobs, High Country News, Paonia, CO

### Dr. McPherson Describes Urban Forestry's New Look

#### *Urban Forestry in North America*

During the past decade, the urban and community forestry paradigm has shifted from a focus on beautification to one that encompasses all of the environmental, conservation, economic, and social benefits of community trees. Increased investment will follow as new markets emerge .... Read more of Dr. McPherson's paper in the Renewable Resources Journal at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw\\_cufr676UrbanForestryNorthAmerica.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/products/psw_cufr676UrbanForestryNorthAmerica.pdf)

### Firesafe Buildings and Landscapes: New Research and Tools

*2-hour Short Course, presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Fire Ecology & Management Congress in November, 2006*

This special session describes the development and use of ecoSmart-Fire, an interactive, flexible, software tool designed to help residents make fire safety choices while considering ways to enhance beauty, retain native vegetation, ensure privacy, conserve water, and save energy. View the PowerPoint presentations at:

[http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/presentation\\_detail.php?id=678](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr/presentation_detail.php?id=678)

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