

Plant-protection solutions for interior and facade greening in Berlin

Interior greening is installed and maintained in order to deliver benefits for indoor environments and visitors alike. Only thriving plants can make such measures a success. These plants have to be kept in healthy and attractive condition with professional maintenance and care so that they can perform their functions properly. Just like all other living organisms, plants can be hindered by various problems over the course of their lives. What needs to be done?

- Identifying undesirable developments at an early stage
- Specialist analysis of causes
- Initiating growth-promoting or pesticide measures at the appropriate time

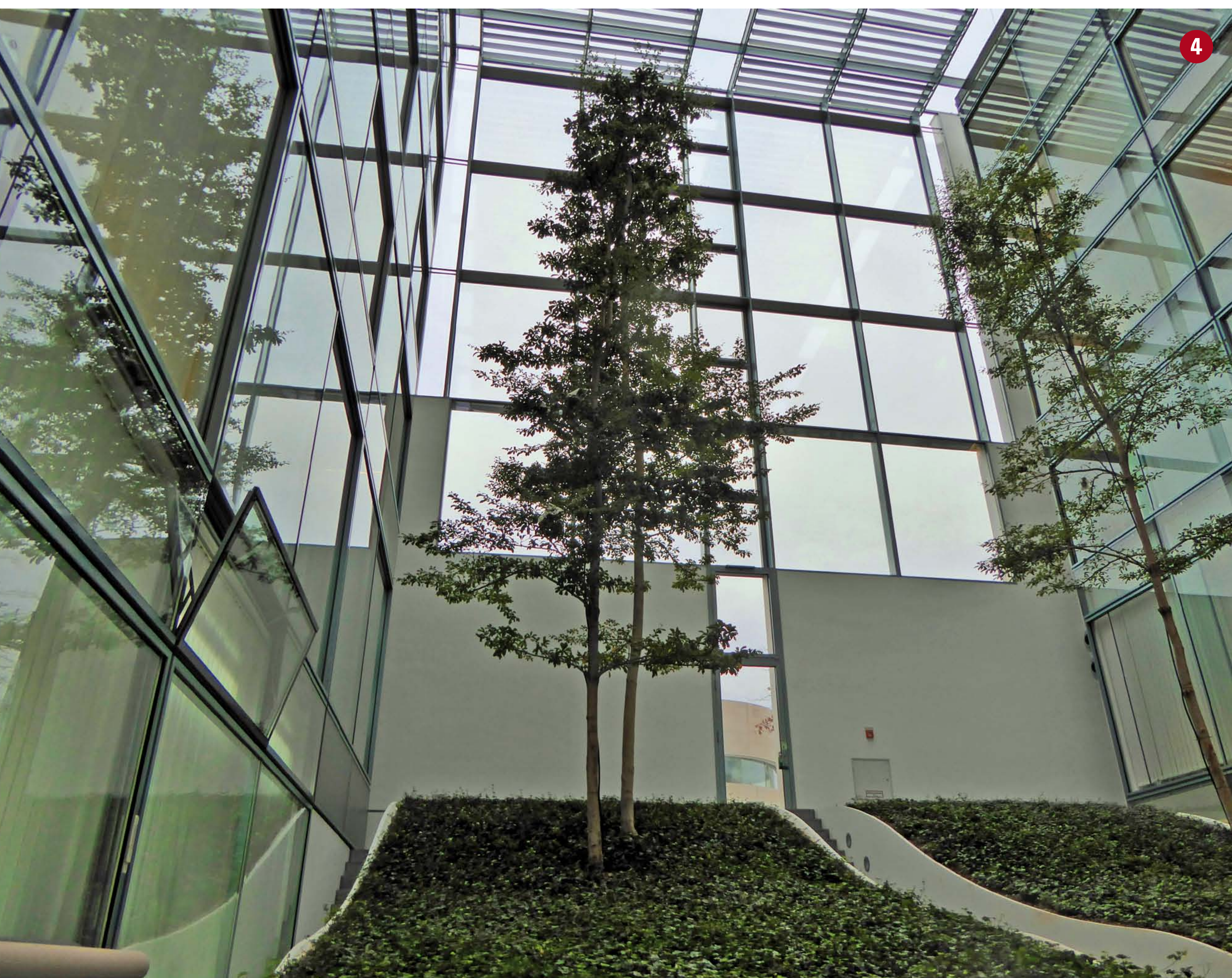
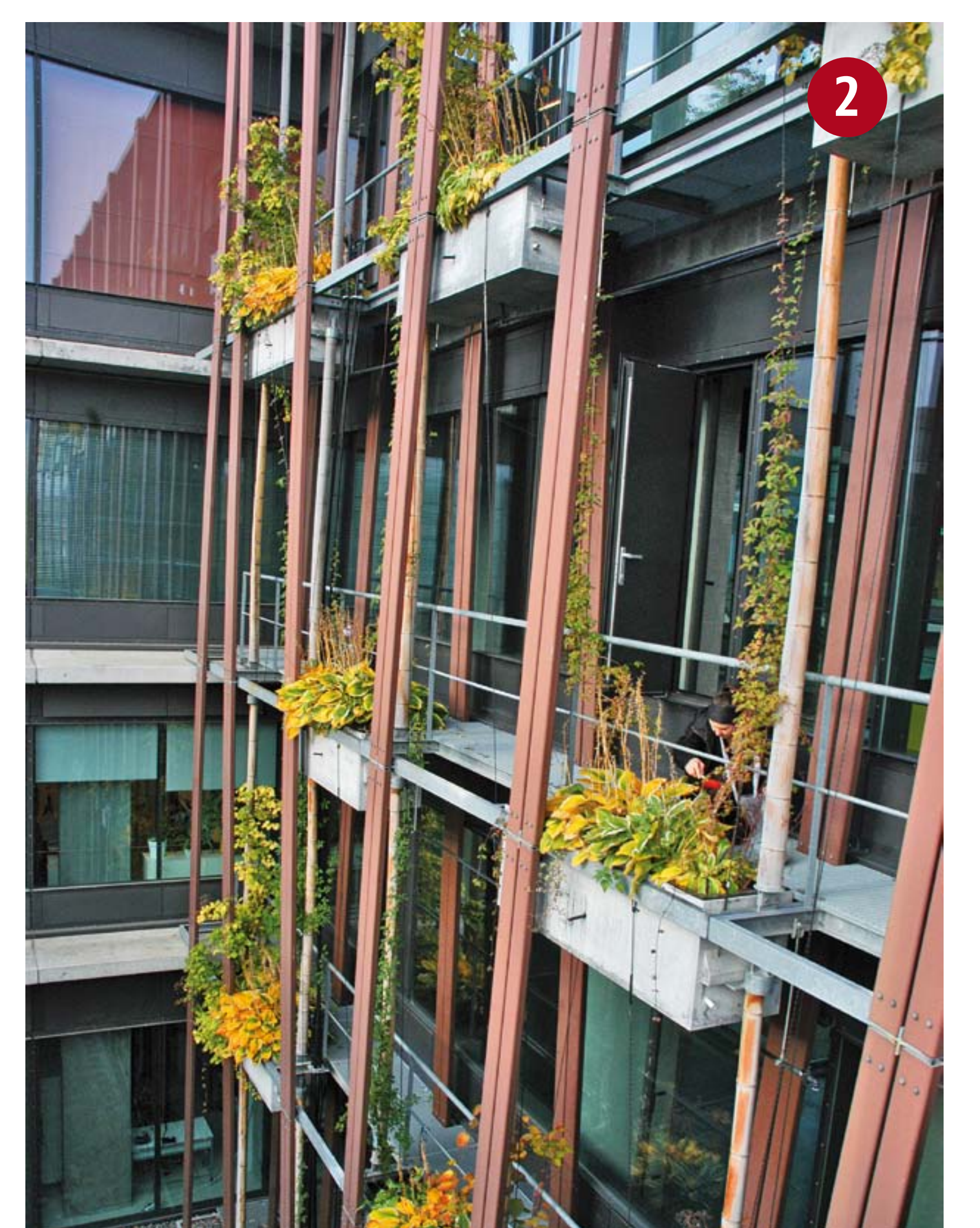
Reduction of pest infestation using biological antagonists

Certain factors that apply at our latitudes – such as a lack of light when the days are short at comfortable temperatures during the colder half of the year or the suboptimal quality of water used to water plants – combine to result in losses of quality for interior greenery in the long term. In addition, increased infestation with pests can worsen damage under these conditions. Even after plants have

been installed indoors, organisms can still quickly become established and spread on stressed plants. The use of chemical products is not always the best choice when trying to reduce pests. Effective regular treatment with pesticides is almost impossible in large facilities that have visitors. Beneficial organisms – a wide variety of these are available – have been used successfully in many buildings in Berlin in recent years as solutions that do not involve chemicals. Specialist, building-specific advice from the Office of Plant Protection, for example, is recommended.

Solution of abiotic problems

Not all reductions in quality can be ascribed to pests. It often happens that plants do not thrive for unknown reasons, both indoors and outdoors. Visual examinations are sometimes insufficient. Tests on water and substrate quality, measurements of indoor climate, and the use of bioindicators can be useful tools in the process of identifying causes. This approach has proven itself on numerous occasions, particularly in cases of salinisation of substrates. It has been successful in determining causes when toxic substances were present in irrigation water for facade greening in Berlin.



- 1 Leaf-edge necrosis due to salinisation of the substrate
- 2 Suboptimal development of facade greening due to toxic substances in irrigation water
- 3 Ladybird larvae to counteract pests on indoor greenery
- 4 Indoor space in Berlin

Further information:

www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de/pflanzenschutz

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> **Buildings planted with greenery**