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SC BACKSTORY
Stars mark
the scars

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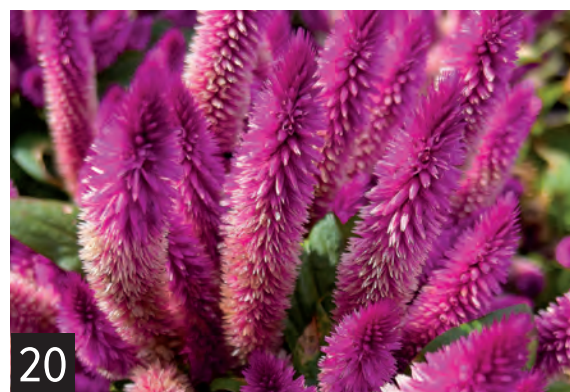
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Brielle Hollon basks in a field of sunflowers at Denver Downs Farm. Photo by Nathan Bingle.

Co-ops lock in data center rate that protects families and businesses

SC electric cooperatives keep data centers' energy costs from shifting to smaller members

BY AVERY G. WILKS AND SARAH ELLIS OWEN

FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES served by South Carolina's electric cooperatives can rest assured that data centers will pay their own way for energy, thanks to a recently formalized rate structure.

For years now, the state's 19 co-ops have included terms in individual contracts to make sure data centers cover the full costs of any electric infrastructure and power plants needed to serve them. Going forward, a formal rate schedule adopted by the co-ops guarantees those protections will be included in every contract for these large power users.

The new framework includes gold-standard protections for existing co-op members. Those protections are reflected in the power supply contracts for the handful of data centers that co-ops will soon serve across South Carolina.

The new policy was unanimously approved by the board of Central Electric Power Cooperative, an organization headquartered in Columbia that purchases electricity in bulk on behalf of the state's distribution co-ops.

"All of our ratemaking decisions are about fairness," says Berl Davis, CEO of Palmetto Electric Cooperative and chairman of Central's board. "South Carolina

families and businesses should not and will not subsidize the energy costs of major corporations. We have always recognized that and ensured our rates were consistent with that ideal. This rate reinforces that approach."

"South Carolina families and businesses should not and will not subsidize the energy costs of major corporations. We have always recognized that."

—BERL DAVIS, CEO OF PALMETTO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE AND CHAIRMAN OF CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER COOPERATIVE

The new standards are locked in as large technology companies continue to eye sites in South Carolina for potential development. Data centers are energy-intensive facilities filled with servers that provide computing power for the internet and artificial intelligence.

Co-ops currently serve one South Carolina data center, which began operations in 2007. Three others are under development in co-op territories in different parts of the state. More could be

on the way as the global race for cyber dominance continues.

Central's new rate structure keeps co-ops ready for that future. It applies to large energy users that have peak needs similar to about 3,000 homes.

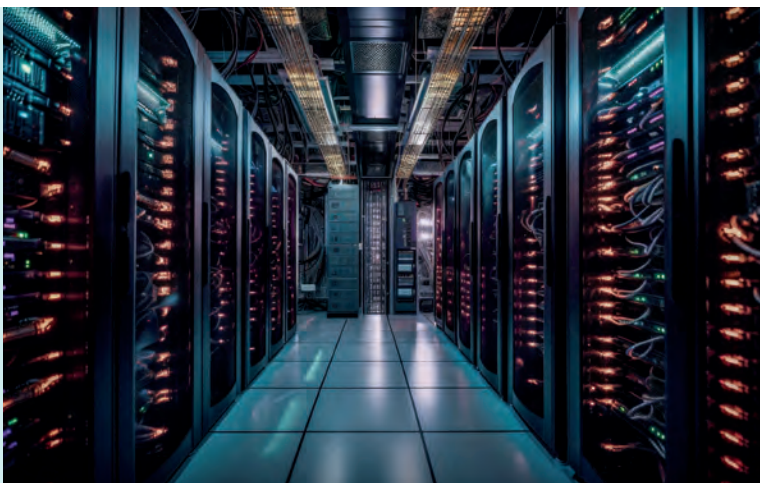
The policy includes the following protections, all of which have been endorsed by third-party advocates as pro-consumer. Data centers must:

- ▶ Sign contracts of at least 15 years with early termination penalties.
- ▶ Prepay for necessary electric infrastructure upgrades.
- ▶ Lower electricity use during potential energy shortages.
- ▶ Provide upfront cash deposits, along with other financial security requirements.
- ▶ Meet monthly energy demand minimums, ensuring sufficient revenues are generated to protect other consumers.

With these protections in place, co-ops are minimizing the risks and costs associated with serving data centers while maximizing the potential benefits. The significant and steady energy demands of large industrial users of electricity enable co-ops to buy and sell power with greater efficiency. This means users like data centers can help co-ops pay off fixed costs—such as poles, wire and substation equipment—that contribute to other members' power bills.

"Large energy users bring challenges, but they also can bring significant benefits to the power grid, creating efficiencies and paying for system costs that otherwise would have been borne by South Carolina co-op members," says Central CEO Rob Hochstetler. The new policy "keeps South Carolina open for business while protecting our residential and commercial members as we make needed investments in the reliability of our grid." ☺

A formal rate structure adopted by the state's 19 co-ops guarantees data centers will cover the costs of their own electric infrastructure and power plant needs.





Prothonotary Warbler.
Photo by Joan Eckhart



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Stars mark the scars

BY BENJAMIN CULBRETH

MOST CONFLICTS TODAY in the South Carolina State House are confined to lawmakers' debates on the House and Senate floors.

But more than 150 years ago, a much more devastating struggle struck the state capitol. And the scars of that moment in American history are still present.

Many notable markers of history dot the State House grounds in downtown Columbia, obvious to visitors casually strolling the well-manicured paths: statues memorializing famous figures, from Benjamin Tillman to Strom Thurmond, and markers honoring heroes of war and law enforcement and African American history-makers.

But it takes a more astute observer to alight on the six small-ish bronze stars adorning the granite walls of the capitol building. The stars have hung there for nearly a century, placed by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1929 to mark damage caused by Union cannonballs that made their mark in the waning days of the Civil War.

NOTABLE HISTORY A star marks a spot on the S.C. State House where a cannonball took out a chunk of granite in 1865.

The war comes to Columbia

Union Gen. William T. Sherman's cannons sat in prime position on Feb. 16, 1865, on hills along the south side of the Congaree River, in present-day West Columbia. They fired upon the State House, which was still being constructed. Six of the shots landed on the western and southwestern faces of the building.

Sherman and his 60,000-man army arrived in Columbia after their devastating March to the Sea, which left Atlanta in ashes and many other places decimated, as the Confederacy clung to its final breaths. Sherman's army faced little resistance as it moved into the heart of the Palmetto State.

His troops marched through Columbia and left it in a similar state as the smoldering Atlanta. Somewhere between a

third and half of South Carolina's capital city was destroyed. Accounts are muddled on the full extent of the destruction, as well as on who actually set the city ablaze: Union soldiers were a common scapegoat, but Sherman himself claimed the fires were initiated by Confederates and made worse by high winds.

Federal troops ransacked and burned the original wooden State House, which stood beside the current capitol. Before moving on, Sherman's men raised the United States flag over the partially built State House and repealed the Ordinance of Secession.

Today, a close look at the stars reveals the cracks of damage, all relatively minor, caused by the impact of Sherman's cannonballs.

The stars aren't the only reminder of the scars from this conflict. A statue of George Washington, which now stands on the front steps of the State House, was installed inside the original capitol in 1864. While never proven, Union soldiers have long been blamed for damaging the statue, including breaking the lower half of Washington's cane, which remains incomplete to this day.

The war and Reconstruction interrupted the construction of the new State House, which wasn't fully completed until 1907. South Carolina leaders added the stars to the building half a century after the war, a time when social and political wounds were still fresh.

Generations later, these simple markers still serve as a stark reminder of a dark period in American history in the state where it all began. ☪



WORK IN PROGRESS Construction of the new State House was already underway when the existing wooden capitol was burned by Sherman's troops.

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Asian-inspired meals

BY BELINDA SMITH-SULLIVAN

Craving your favorite takeout but want to keep it fresh, fast and simple? Skip the delivery app! These recipes deliver bold, authentic flavors in less time than it takes to order out.

THAI OVEN-GRILLED CORNISH HENS WITH CHILI DIPPING SAUCE

SERVES 4

HENS

- 12 garlic cloves
- 1 cup cilantro leaves
- ¼ cup brown sugar, packed
- 2 teaspoons white pepper
- 2 teaspoons ground coriander
- ¼ cup fish sauce
- 2-4 Cornish game hens, butterflied/spatchcocked

CHILI DIPPING SAUCE

- ½ cup distilled white vinegar
- ½ cup sugar
- ¼ teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon minced Thai chilies (or jalapeño)
- 3 garlic cloves, minced

In the bowl of a food processor, pulse garlic, cilantro, sugar, pepper, coriander and fish sauce into a paste. Rub over hens and under skin. Marinate for at least 6 hours, up to 24.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Place hens skin-side up on a rack in a roasting pan. Roast for 50–60 minutes until an instant-read thermometer reaches 160 F. Turn oven to broil and cook for 5–8 minutes until skin is charred and crisp.

In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, simmer vinegar, sugar and salt until dissolved. Stir in chilies and garlic. Allow to cool before serving alongside hens.

GINIA MOORE



KAREN HERMANN

STEAK FRIED RICE

SERVES 4

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1½ tablespoons peanut oil | 3 cups cooked, chilled rice |
| ½ pound steak, sliced | 2 eggs, slightly beaten |
| 1 tablespoon unsalted butter | 2 tablespoons tamari or soy sauce |
| ½ cup frozen peas and carrots | 2 scallions, sliced |
| 2 garlic cloves, minced | |

Add oil to a large skillet over medium-high heat. Brown steak for 2–3 minutes; remove from skillet and set aside. Melt butter in same skillet and sauté peas and carrots for 3 minutes. Add garlic and sauté an additional 30 seconds. Add rice and let sit undisturbed for 2 minutes to get crispy on bottom. Push rice aside, pour in eggs and scramble. Return steak to pan, add soy sauce and mix everything together. Serve and garnish with scallions.



CHEF'S TIP How to cook perfect Asian-style rice:

- ▶ Rinse uncooked rice 3–4 times in cold water until the water runs clear to remove excess starch, ensuring the cooked rice won't be gummy.
- ▶ Use a 1-to-1.25 ratio of rice to water (1 cup rice to 1¼ cups water).
- ▶ Follow the **10-5-5 rule**: Bring rice to a boil, cover and cook on high for 10 minutes, simmer on low for 5 minutes, then turn off the heat and let it steam for 5–10 minutes.
- ▶ Never skip the resting period, as this allows moisture to redistribute, resulting in better texture.
- ▶ Use a rice cooker for convenience or a heavy-bottom pot with a tight-fitting lid to keep steam inside.



IT'S A MATTER OF TASTE.

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JULIA NEDRYGAILOVA

SESAME CHICKEN WITH BROCCOLI AND RED PEPPERS

SERVES 4

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| ¼ cup tamari or soy sauce | 1 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into 1-inch cubes |
| 2 tablespoons honey | 2 cups broccoli florets |
| 1 tablespoon sesame oil | 1 red bell pepper, sliced |
| 1 tablespoon fresh grated ginger | 1 tablespoon sesame seeds |
| 2 garlic cloves, minced | |

Preheat oven to 400 F. In a small bowl, whisk soy sauce, honey, sesame oil, ginger and garlic. Arrange chicken, broccoli and pepper slices on a large, rimmed baking sheet. Pour half the sauce over the mixture and toss to coat. Bake for 20–25 minutes. Drizzle with remaining sauce and sprinkle with sesame seeds.



GWENAELE VOT

STIR-FRIED BEEF AND BOK CHOY

SERVES 4

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 pound flank steak, sliced thin across the grain | 8 small heads baby bok choy, halved and dark leaves removed from bulbs |
| 2 tablespoons tamari or soy sauce, divided | 2 garlic cloves, minced |
| Pinch cornstarch (about ⅛ teaspoon) | 1 tablespoon grated ginger |
| 1½ tablespoons peanut oil | 3 tablespoons oyster sauce |
| | 1 teaspoon sesame oil |

In a medium bowl, toss beef with 1 tablespoon soy sauce and cornstarch. Heat oil in a skillet or wok over high heat; sear beef for 3–4 minutes until browned. Remove and set aside. Add bok choy bulbs, garlic and ginger; stir-fry for 2 minutes. Add bok choy leaves and ¼ cup water; cover and steam for 1–2 minutes. Return beef to skillet. Add oyster sauce and remaining soy sauce. Toss to coat and drizzle with sesame oil.

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36	8.77	7.93	10.35	9.44	13.94	12.25	21.05	17.72
37	8.77	8.15	10.52	9.81	14.78	12.96	21.89	19.41
38	8.77	8.16	11.19	10.18	15.63	13.78	23.63	20.20
39	9.13	8.31	11.62	10.55	16.47	14.31	24.48	21.69
40	9.55	8.48	12.04	10.98	17.31	15.14	26.14	23.59
41	10.05	8.72	13.10	11.58	19.36	16.75	29.55	25.97
42	10.48	9.01	14.21	12.30	21.07	18.16	32.93	28.31
43	10.98	9.36	14.72	13.18	22.96	19.75	37.90	30.94
44	11.58	9.73	15.67	14.10	24.92	21.38	40.72	33.67
45	12.17	10.15	16.86	15.16	27.03	23.23	44.52	37.06
46	12.84	10.64	17.85	15.83	29.43	24.89	48.77	39.98
47	13.43	11.16	19.03	16.68	31.68	26.58	53.20	43.40
48	13.48	11.88	20.27	17.37	34.21	28.38	57.52	47.00
49	13.69	12.33	21.73	18.32	36.87	30.28	62.61	51.34
50	14.36	12.98	23.00	19.82	39.63	32.49	68.64	56.25
51	15.37	13.75	25.30	20.65	44.27	34.96	77.37	61.14
52	16.36	14.87	27.63	22.13	48.94	37.92	86.78	66.78
53	17.46	15.88	30.95	24.81	53.81	41.34	97.56	72.99
54	18.68	16.72	33.99	26.20	59.70	45.14	109.19	80.58
55	20.70	17.50	37.13	27.85	66.66	49.40	120.50	89.53
56	22.69	19.48	42.01	31.07	73.22	52.91	137.43	95.90
57	24.69	20.63	45.81	33.43	80.38	57.13	149.95	106.31

MONTHLY RATES

Issue Age	\$100,000		\$250,000		\$500,000		\$1,000,000	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
58	27.70	21.98	50.43	36.04	88.63	61.58	168.05	115.60
59	30.37	23.51	55.50	38.76	97.92	66.66	185.80	125.20
60	33.49	24.28	60.76	41.71	108.50	72.14	205.58	135.21
61	36.49	25.09	66.43	47.10	121.89	82.68	235.39	153.85
62	39.88	27.91	73.90	51.32	135.58	91.51	261.93	165.16
63	43.69	34.01	81.54	57.25	152.14	101.63	286.93	186.31
64	47.91	38.28	90.20	62.32	169.25	111.96	322.16	199.83
65	52.81	40.88	100.33	68.23	190.05	124.63	360.57	222.65
66	58.71	44.61	114.29	75.40	210.49	134.77	391.94	241.24
67	64.59	49.08	125.27	83.64	233.74	145.34	435.97	260.67
68	72.24	59.65	143.07	105.55	253.50	172.80	484.22	321.07
69	79.34	64.22	158.23	129.28	287.72	187.50	546.75	351.10
70	86.85	68.11	177.24	147.66	317.88	202.37	594.72	374.91
71	102.45	82.60	203.10	159.34	373.07	234.59	701.44	442.89
72	113.68	93.16	232.46	172.23	426.44	271.99	806.74	511.27
73	127.55	106.68	267.15	188.15	492.36	318.18	936.81	595.73
74	142.08	119.36	303.50	204.84	561.42	366.57	1073.07	684.22
75	159.25	140.48	346.45	224.56	643.04	423.76	1234.11	788.80
76	200.03	168.51	418.29	276.67	784.08	529.52	1488.28	981.25
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Flower power

In the morning, before dawn breaks, the sunflowers face east, waiting for that bright yellow orb to rise so they can chase the sun across the Southern sky.

The ground is a wet brown from rain the night before. The sunflower field is green, a gentle sway in the stalks. The smell of growth pervades the field. Inside one of the petals, a bee is at work. One variety of the flowers, standing over 6 feet in height, blazes a red bloom. To the east, where there were once woods, the land is now scalped as new development encroaches.

In its own way, Denver Downs Farm is chasing light, seeking a path to honor its past but also ensure the farm endures and doesn't succumb to the scrape of a developer's grader. Others are doing the same, even as farmland shrinks in the Palmetto State year by year.

"For 150 years, we've always had to evolve," says Catherine Garrison Davis, whose great-grandfather saved

Sunflower agritourism helps keep SC farms in business

BY MICHAEL BANKS

PHOTOS BY NATHAN BINGLE

the money he earned working in a cotton mill in 1869 to buy 200 acres near Anderson, off Old Generals Boulevard. "Agritourism is working right now and allowing us to continue our farm heritage. We'll keep doing this until it doesn't work, and then we'll think of how to continue that farm heritage."

For now, making it "work" means growing sunflowers. Lots of them. More than 75,000

flowers sprout over the 6-acre field from 10 varieties with names such as Zohar, Firecracker, Desert Sun and Rouge Royale. The farm is a canvas of deep green splotched with a dizzying kaleidoscope of orange, red, yellow and gold wrapped around a rich brown center.

"We're always looking for what's the best use of our land," Davis says. "We're very proud of our farm heritage. It was special for us to grow up on a dairy farm and to know that our grandparents had roots here. We want to keep it in agriculture moving forward."



FAMILY LEGACY Denver Downs Farm grows on land that has been passed down through four generations, with the Garrison sisters and their families sustaining their agricultural heritage. From left, James Davis, Catherine Garrison Davis, Garrison Smith, Lee Garrison Smith and Ron Smith are framed by the farm's sunflower bounty.

The cult of sunflowers

The South Carolina Sunflower Festival attracts thousands to the Upstate each summer, with visitors from 30 states and five countries, says Chris Gill, an original founder of the event.

"There is a cult following among sunflowers, more than just about any other flower out there," Gill says. "There's just something about them that people look at and they smile."

Gill is part-owner of Little Cane Creek Farm in West Union, along with Pat Williams. In the early years, they focused on corn mazes to bring people and revenue to the farm. But when Williams pitched a festival celebrating sunflowers, Gill was quick to agree.

"People will spend big money on sunflowers," he says. "And it just took off."

After hosting the event for several years, they partnered with Denver Downs, which had more land and better accessibility than their locale in the mountains. And the event has grown each year.

The festival holds a special meaning for Gill.

"My grandmother had cancer back in 2014 before we had started the festival. I'd always get her sunflowers at the store to brighten her day. She just really enjoyed it," he says, pausing to look out at the field of flowers, thinking of his grandmother.

"She smiled to the end," Gill says. "It's those emotional connection pieces that allow us to go back to those special moments in our lives. Everybody's got a story, and we get to hear that story here."

Give-and-take with Mother Nature

Williams pauses to catch his breath beneath a canopy. It's mid-June, the first day of the 2025 festival, and he's been on the run since early April when he first put seeds in the ground. He knew the early planting date was a gamble with the threat of a late frost, but he feared more the heat of summer, which would keep crowds away.

Some 60 days later—even with a cloudy, wet May—Williams was blessed with a full field.

"Anybody can grow a sunflower, but a good-looking, healthy sunflower is tricky," says Williams, who talks of amending and enhancing the high-phosphorous soil, increasing the organic matter and loosening the compacted ground. "It's a give-and-take with Mother Nature. Good soils are getting harder and harder to find because many of our good soils are ending up in subdivisions."

Williams, who lives in Walhalla and is a member of Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative, was raised in agriculture and now raises calves to send to the next spot in the market. His grandfather had a farm just 10 miles from Denver Downs.

"The Lord has blessed me richly," he says, adding that farming "can be stressful at times. ... But once you get on a tractor and get going, it's the greatest."

The switch to agritourism

The Garrison sisters—Catherine Garrison Davis, Elizabeth Garrison Raser and Lee Garrison Smith—are fourth-generation owners of Denver Downs Farm along with Lee's husband, Ron. They've shepherded the transition of their 140-acre property from a dairy farm to a regional attraction.

"It still feels like a family farm," Smith says, "but the agritourism has allowed us to continue making it as a farm."

Where there once was a hay field, there are now jumping pillows, a zip line, a track for pig races, a hay barn, a paintball course, a bubble-making barn and pits filled with corn. At the top of the hill is a 250-foot-long slide where you can reach up to 35 mph going down. There's live music and a barbecue restaurant. ►►

"There is a cult following among sunflowers, more than just about any other flower out there."

—CHRIS GILL, COFOUNDER OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL



FIELD EXPERT Pat Williams cofounded the annual sunflower festival that helps bring extra revenue to Denver Downs and his Little Cane Creek Farm.



FAR MORE THAN FARMING Thousands of visitors make their way to Denver Downs Farm each year to enjoy a zip line, paintball course, bubble-making barn, 250-foot-long slide and more at seasonal events including the always-popular South Carolina Sunflower Festival.

“Agritourism is working right now and allowing us to continue our farm heritage.”

—CATHERINE GARRISON DAVIS, CO-OWNER OF DENVER DOWNS FARM

GET THERE

2026 South Carolina Sunflower Festival

WHEN: July 11–12, 18–19

WHERE: Denver Downs Farm, 1515 Denver Road, Anderson

MORE INFO AND TICKETS:
denverdownsfarm.com

Six people work the farm full-time, joined by nearly 120 part-timers in the busy season in the fall. The farm hosts an autumn pumpkin festival, along with a corn maze and hayrides

and bonfires. In the spring, they celebrate Easter, followed by the Sunflower Festival come around mid-June or July, whenever the sunflowers hit peak bloom. Several thousand people visit the farm each festival weekend throughout the year.

The Garrison girls don't have to look far to see where they've come from. Across the street from Denver Downs is their family's homeplace that dates back to 1869. There's an old mule barn, a log cabin built in the 1700s and an old carriage house. Magnolia trees planted by an uncle stand tall. The vines their mother put in the ground still produce muscadines. There were once peach and pear trees, but only a fig tree remains, still bearing fruit.

Their father, T. Ed, was a World War II veteran, ag teacher and state lawmaker who ran one of the largest dairy farms in Anderson County. Their mother, Juanita, wrote gardening books and had a column in the local paper. And she was ahead of the agritourism movement, hosting schoolchildren on the farm in the 1960s.

Inside the home, where Davis now lives with her two sons, visitors are offered a glass of sweet tea while seated around the kitchen table. Her momma's wallpaper from the 1980s remains. Her father's desk from the state Senate sits beneath photos of T. Ed and Juanita with Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter and ticket stubs from the Clinton inauguration. Photos abound, and there's a certificate honoring the Garrisons as the 1976 Farm Family of the Year in South Carolina.

The Garrison girls believe their parents would be proud of what they've done. Smith tells of how their mother, who died in 2019, thought it was important for people to know where their food comes from.

“She would say, ‘When I’m not here, y’all go on with your life. I’ve had a great life, and y’all need to have a good life yourselves,’” Smith recalls. “She would be so happy and proud with what we’re doing.” ☺

FLORAL FAVORITES

Chris Gill, co-owner of Little Cane Creek Farm and cofounder of the sunflower festival, demonstrates how to care for cut sunflowers.

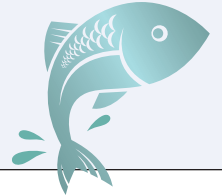


Keep your flowers fresh

Once you've cut your sunflowers, trim off the lower leaves, then get them in water and in cool conditions.

“It’s about like you and me. When they’re out in the field, they like it to be nice and hot and sunny. But when they go home, they want to sit in the AC,” says Garret Alexander, a volunteer at the South Carolina Sunflower Festival.

About every two days, pull your flowers out of their container and put them in a kitchen sink full of water. Use a pair of kitchen shears to trim the stems under the water. Then, change out the container water, adding a little bit of sugar, and put the flowers back in their container.



Upstate

JUNE

18–20 Juneteenth Celebration, downtown, Spartanburg. (864) 596-2000 or cityofspartanburg.org.

18–20 Mighty Moo Festival, Veterans Memorial Park, Cowpens. thecowpensmightymoo.com.

19 Juneteenth at Unity Park, Unity Park, Greenville. (803) 232-2273 or greenvillesc.gov.

19 Juneteenth Soul Food Festival, Main Street, Fountain Inn. (864) 531-0644 or mainstreetfountaininn.com.

20 Americana Folk Festival, Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens. (864) 898-2936 or visithagoodmill.com.

20 Browse and Stroll Art Market, Swamp Rabbit Trail, Travelers Rest. (864) 834-8740 or travelersrestsc.com.

20 Greenville Reggae Block Party Juneteenth Edition, 904 Pinckney St., Greenville. greenvillereggaec.com.

20 Mamma Mania!, Abbeville Opera House, Abbeville. (864) 366-9673 or abbevillecitysc.com.

25–July 12 Beehive: The '60s Musical, Centre Stage Theatre, Greenville. (864) 233-6733 or centrestage.org.

27 Greer Freedom Blast, Greer City Park, Greer. (864) 968-7008 or freedomblast.org.

JULY

2 Fireworks at Unity Park, Unity Park, Greenville. (864) 232-2273 or greenvillesc.gov.

3–4 Easley 4th of July Festival, downtown, Easley. (864) 855-7900 or cityofeasley.com.

4 Celebration of Freedom, Cowpens National Battlefield, Gaffney. (864) 461-2828.

4 Independence Day at Kings Mountain, Kings Mountain National Military Park, Blacksburg. (864) 936-7921 or nps.gov/kimo.

9–11 South Carolina Festival of Discovery, Main Street, Greenwood. (864) 942-8448 or uptowngreenwood.com.

9–19 South Carolina Peach Festival, multiple venues, Gaffney. southcarolinapeachfest.com.

9–25 Upstate Shakespeare Festival—The Two Noble Kinsmen, Falls Park, Greenville. (864) 235-6948 or warehousetheatre.com.

17–18 Banjo Extravaganza, Hagood Mill Historic Site, Pickens. (864) 898-2936 or visithagoodmill.com.

SCLiving.coop/calendar

Our mobile-friendly site lists even more festivals, shows and events. You'll also find instructions on submitting your event. Please confirm information with the hosting event before attending.

17–26 Heathers: The Musical, Spartanburg Little Theatre, Spartanburg. (864) 542-2787 or spartanburglittletheatre.com.

29–Aug. 9 South Carolina New Play Festival, multiple venues, Greenville. (828) 440-0175 or southcarolinanewplayfestival.org.

ONGOING

Thursdays, June 18–July 9 Anne Springs Close Greenway Rooted Rhythm Concert Series, 291 Dairy Barn Lane, Fort Mill. (803) 547-4575 or asccgreenway.org.

Midlands

JUNE

17 Children's Entrepreneur Market at Family Fun Day, Northwest Family YMCA, Irmo. (803) 407-8007 or kidsmarkets.com/markets/irmo.

19–July 19 Urinetown, Trustus Theatre, Columbia. (803) 254-9732 or trustus.org.

20 Columbia Shrimp & Grits Fest, Seawell's, Columbia. columbiashrimppandgrits.com.

20 Juneteenth Freedom Fest, Finlay Park, Columbia. juneteenthfreedomfest.com.

20 Newberry Juneteenth, downtown, Newberry. newberryjuneteenth.com.

20 Ridge Peach Festival, downtown, Trenton. ridgepeachfestival.org.

22–28 Black Eats Week 803, various restaurants, Columbia. blackeatsweek803.com.

26–July 5 Oliver! The Musical, Rock Hill Theatre, Rock Hill. (803) 326-7428 or rockhilltheatre.org.

27–28 American Radio Relay League Field Day, Andrew Jackson State Park, Lancaster. (803) 285-3344.

JULY

3 Community Band Patriotic Concert, Icehouse Amphitheater, Lexington. lexcommunityband.org.

4 4th of July Celebration: 250th Army Birthday, Fort Jackson, Columbia. jackson.armymwr.com.

4 July 4th Celebration, Living History Park, North Augusta. (803) 510-7885 or colonialtimes.us.

4 Lake Murray Independence Day Celebration, Lake Murray, Columbia. (803) 781-5940 or lakemurraycountry.com.

4 Lexington County Peach Festival, Gilbert Community Park, Gilbert. lexingtoncountypeachfestival.com.

10–18 Sherwood: The Adventures of Robin Hood, Aiken Community Theatre, Aiken. (803) 648-1438 or aikencommunitytheatre.org.

11 Boondock Farms Tomato Pie Festival, 755 Foreman St., Jackson. (706) 589-4920 or boondockfarms.com.

16–18 Pageland Watermelon Festival, 128 N. Pearl St., Pageland. pagelandwatermelonfest.com.

16–26 Chapin Community Theatre presents Disney's Mary Poppins, Harbison Theatre, Columbia. (803) 404-0015 or chapintheatre.org.

18 Floatchella Lake Murray, Fat Frogs Marina, Chapin. floatchellalakemurray.com.

19 Aiken Master Gardener Association Lunchbox Series: All About Citrus, Millbrook Baptist Church, Aiken. aikenmastergardeners.org.

Pee Dee & Lowcountry

JUNE

18–21, 25–28 Bye Bye Birdie, Main Stage Community Theatre, Hilton Head Island. (843) 689-6246 or msctheatre.org.

20 Hilton Head Margarita Festival, 59 Pope Ave., Hilton Head Island. (843) 715-3942.

20 Juneteenth Family Fest, Riverfront Park, North Charleston. jffcharleston.com.

20–27 Hampton County Watermelon Festival, downtown, Hampton. hcmelonfest.org.

24–Aug. 9 Mean Girls: The Musical, Arts Center of Coastal Carolina, Hilton Head Island. (843) 842-2787 or artshhi.com.

26 Reggae Nights Summer Concert: Da' Gullah Rootz, James Island County Park, Charleston. (843) 795-4386 or ccprc.com.

26–27 Da' Gullah American Revolutionary Experience, USCB Performing Arts Center, Beaufort. beaufort250.com.

27 Conway Riverfest, downtown, Conway. (843) 248-2273 or conwayriverfest.com.

27 Dragonboat Beaufort, Port Royal Waterfront, Beaufort. dragonboatbeaufort.org.

27 Lizard Man Stomp, downtown, Bishopville. (803) 484-6359 or facebook.com/lizardmanstomp.

28 Carolina Day—Commemoration of the Battle of Sullivan's Island, Fort Moultrie, Sullivan's Island. (843) 883-3123 or charlestoncvb.com.

JULY

4 4th of July Bash, 40 Patriots Point Road, Mount Pleasant. (843) 884-2727 or patriotspoint.org.

4 4th Off Main, Richard Gray Recreation Complex, Hardeeville. (843) 784-2231 or hardeevillesc.gov.

4 Folly Beach July 4th Fireworks, beachfront, Folly Beach. visitfolly.com.

4 Fourth of July Carnival, Harbour Town, Hilton Head Island. (843) 785-3333 or seapines.com.

4 Great Guns on the Ashley Artillery Demonstration, Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site, Charleston. (843) 852-4200.

4 Moncks Corner Independence Day Celebration, Moncks Corner Regional Recreation Center, Moncks Corner. (843) 719-7900 or monckscornersc.gov.

4 Murrells Inlet 4th of July Boat Parade, MarshWalk, Murrells Inlet. (843) 652-4236 or facebook.com/murrellsinletboatparade.

4 Salute from the Shore Military Flyover, Cherry Grove to Beaufort. salutefromtheshore.org.

12–18 Junior Shag Association SOS, Ocean Drive Beach & Golf Resort, North Myrtle Beach. juniorshaggers.com.

14–26 Little Women, Dock Street Theatre, Charleston. (843) 577-5967 or charlestonstage.com.

17 Reggae Nights Summer Concert: Well Charged, James Island County Park, Charleston. (843) 795-4386 or ccprc.com.

17–26 Beaufort Water Festival, Waterfront Park, Beaufort. bftwaterfestival.com.

18–19 Da' Gullah American Revolutionary Experience, May River Theater, Bluffton. beaufort250.com.

25 Sweetgrass Festival, Memorial Waterfront Park, Mount Pleasant. (843) 884-8517 or experiencemountpleasant.com.

25–26 Folly Beach Wahine Classic All-Female Surf Contest, beachfront, Folly Beach. follywahine.com.

31–Aug. 2 Low Country Coin Club Summer Show, Exchange Park Fairgrounds, Ladson. lowcountrycoinclub.com.

ONGOING

Tuesdays through Aug. 18 HarbourFest Fireworks, Shelter Cove Harbour & Marina, Hilton Head Island. sheltercoveharbourfest.com.

FISH & GAME CHART

The Solunar forecast provides feeding and migration times. Major periods can bracket the peak by more than an hour, minor periods by a half-hour before and after.

	AM	Minor	Major	PM	Minor	Major
JUNE						
15	6:03	—	6:37	12:54		
16	7:12	12:56	7:45	1:28		
17	8:21	2:06	8:51	2:36		
18	9:25	3:12	9:53	3:39		
19	10:24	4:12	10:49	4:36		
20	11:16	5:05	11:39	5:28		
21	—	5:52	12:03	6:14		
22	12:24	6:35	12:45	6:56		
23	1:04	7:14	1:25	7:36		
24	1:42	7:53	2:04	8:15		
25	2:22	8:33	2:45	8:56		
26	3:03	9:15	3:27	9:39		
27	3:46	9:59	4:11	10:23		
28	4:33	10:45	4:58	11:11		
29	5:21	11:34	5:47	—		
30	6:12	12:00	6:37	12:25		
JULY						
01	7:04	12:52	7:28	1:16		
02	7:56	1:44	8:19	2:07		
03	8:46	2:35	9:09	2:57		
04	9:36	3:25	9:57	3:46		
05	10:24	4:13	10:45	4:34		
06	11:10	4:59	11:32	5:21		
07	11:57	5:45	—	6:08		
08	12:20	6:31	12:44	6:56		
09	1:06	7:19	1:33	7:46		
10	1:55	8:10	2:25	8:40		
11	2:49	9:05	3:21	9:37		
12	3:47	10:04	4:20	10:37		
13	4:49	11:05	5:21	11:38		
14	5:52	—	6:23	12:39		
15	6:55	12:40	7:24	1:09		
16	7:56	1:42	8:22	2:09		
17	8:53	2:41	9:17	3:05		
18	9:46	3:35	10:09	3:57		
19	10:36	4:25	10:58	4:47		
20	11:23	5:12	11:45	5:34		
21	—	5:57	12:08	6:19		
22	12:29	6:40	12:52	7:03		
23	1:12	7:24	1:36	7:47		
24	1:55	8:07	2:20	8:32		
25	2:39	8:52	3:05	9:17		
26	3:25	9:38	3:50	10:03		
27	4:11	10:24	4:37	10:49		
28	4:59	11:11	5:23	11:36		
29	5:46	11:58	6:10	—		
30	6:34	12:23	6:57	12:46		
31	7:22	1:11	7:44	1:33		

DATA BY SOLUNAR SERVICES

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JUNE IN THE GARDEN

■ Begin replenishing your birdbath's water at least once or twice a week. To keep this fly-in refreshment stand clean, give it a good wiping about every two weeks. In addition, check the bird feeder after hard rains; if a soggy yuck has settled in the basin, clean it out and refill it with fresh, dry seed.

■ Houseplants that are vacationing outside now enjoy the high summer humidity more than we do because it helps keep their leaves hydrated. Wiping your broad-leaf babies occasionally with a wet cloth will also add beneficial moisture to the foliage and even help prevent any bad bug egg-laying activities.



WISPY WONDERS Plumed celosias, or feather dusters?

TIP OF THE MONTH Although celosias can be grown from seed, opting for transplants instead will get their flower shows going quicker. And you won't have to look far to find them—celosia starter plants are rather common summer offerings at local garden centers. Typically grown as annuals, these deer-resistant pretties prefer full sun and organically rich, well-draining soil. In mass plantings, celosias will turn plenty of heads, but they can also help spiff up large container creations. Deadheading spent blossoms will encourage additional blooms. Finally, while celosia flowers are long-lasting, if you want them to last even longer, they can be easily dried.

Clarifying celosias

BY L.A. JACKSON

ASK A GARDENING FRIEND to describe what celosia looks like, and don't be surprised if a sputtering response is all you get. Celosia, like the beauty it is, is oftentimes in the eye of the beholder.

My opening gibberish might make celosia seem like some sort of shape-shifter. Actually, celosia comes in three common forms, each individually beautiful and definitely different from the others. Allow me to unclutter the confusion and introduce them to you:

Plumed (*Celosia plumosa*). This variety is the most common—so much so that gardeners can usually point to it and confidently say, "That's celosia!" Plumed celosia shows off feathery flowers that look like they could be plucked and used for furniture dusters. Depending on the cultivar, they can grow between 8 and 24 inches tall, and all have flashy, wispy blooms that shine in bright hues of pink, red, purple, orange or yellow.

For even more visual zing, the plumed cultivar 'New Look' is worth the hunt. An All-America Selections winner (1988), it melds striking red plumes with simmering, sultry reddish-bronze foliage. 'China Town' and 'Dragon's Breath' sport similar sass.

Wheat (*Celosia spicata*). This is my favorite celosia because it usually displays fuzzy, skinny, bottlebrush-like blooms, similar to our native liatris

(another one of my faves). Its colors tend to be refined shades of purple, pink or red, which can help provide soothing visual relief to a busy mixed border. Heights for different wheat celosia selections range from 2 to 3 feet high.

'Asian Garden' (2017 AAS winner) is a popular wheat celosia pick with its bright pink spikes. Prefer a lighter shade of pink? The blushing blooms of the cultivar 'Flamingo Feathers' are a good choice.

Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*). Here's the really weird celosia. Some cultivars do sport flowers that, as advertised, kinda look like the crest of a fancy rooster, but others look like brains. No kidding. And colorful brains, too. They can shine in shades of sizzling yellow, dazzling red, simmering purple, snappy orange and even electric green.

'Orange Queen Improved' and 'Prestige Scarlet' (1997 AAS winner) are two common selections of this uncommon flower. Other equally odd cultivars are clustered in popular series such as "Neo," "Chief" and "Brainiac," whose spot-on descriptive name is, ahem, a no-brainer. ☺

L.A. JACKSON is the former editor of Carolina Gardener magazine. Contact him at la.jackson1@gmail.com.

WAIT, REALLY?
Yes, this is a
celosia—the
wheat version.

L.A. JACKSON

Face the music

BY JAN A. IGOE

A FEW YEARS AGO, a miraculous machine appeared on the market. Technology finally produced something parents have been searching for since the dawn of time: a nontoxic teenager repellent.

This amazing device emits a buzzing noise at frequencies adults can't hear, but to teenagers, it's polka time with Lawrence Welk. Anyone under the age of 20 is biologically compelled to cover his or her ears and flee. Touted as a deterrent to loitering and vandalism, this clever contraption promises to disperse adolescents before they start erecting skateboard ramps and piercing each other's navels.

I didn't know such a thing existed when my kids were teens, or I would have mounted several around the house, starting with the refrigerator. One of my neighbors bought one just to protect herself from OPT, or Other People's Teenagers. She strenuously objects to them walking, texting or breathing anywhere near her property, which is inconveniently located in a populated area. For some strange reason, would-be hermits never move to spacious, private caves in remote areas of the Outback. Instead, they plop themselves down in communities where homes are 20 feet apart, neighbors borrow sugar, and parents get mad when teen-phobic residents wage sonic war on their kids.

We decided to test the effects on our 22-year-old, who can still pick up on people whispering in Europe. Without tipping her off, we drove by the teen-proof house to observe her reaction. We were still half a block away when she grabbed her ears and started screeching in tongues. Other than her screams, I never heard a sound.

It's still hard to believe that youthful ears are that sensitive to anything, considering their musical preferences. When you're stopped at a traffic light and some



When you're stopped at a traffic light and some pulsating subwoofer on wheels rolls up beside you, you know without looking that the driver is a teenager.

pulsating subwoofer on wheels rolls up beside you—booming bass and mangled lyrics at jet engine decibels—you know without looking that the driver, who is immensely pleased by your contortions, is a teenager. They invented sonic warfare.

And they're smarter than adults. Tech-savvy teens soon found a way to convert the sound we used to scatter them to a ringtone inaudible to parents, teachers and authority fossils. They're

using our best weapons against us.

The OPTs in our community aren't taking the attack lying down, either. They've formed a heavy metal band that practices two driveways down from the neighborhood's sonic boomer. About 25 kids have already signed up, and 10 more are just waiting for their drum sets and amps to arrive.

Since the band formed, our neighbor's been the one running around with both hands clutching her ears. In the interest of peace, she seems receptive to a truce with the OPTs, who will negotiate a volume reduction right after she builds them a skateboard park. ☺

EDITOR'S NOTE: South Carolina Living is reprinting some of Jan A. Igoe's previous columns. This "Humor Me" originally appeared in the July 2011 issue. Visit SCLiving.coop/news/in-memory-of-jan-igoe.



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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 7/31/2026. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window or entry/patio door, get one (1) window or entry/patio door 40% off, and 12 months no money down, no monthly payments, no interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or entry/patio doors between 6/13/2026 and 7/31/2026. 40% off windows and entry/patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or entry/patio door in the order. Additional \$50 off each window or entry/patio door, minimum purchase of 4 required, taken after initial discount(s), when you purchase by 7/31/2026. Only valid on initial visit. Subject to credit approval. 12-month Promo Period: while no payments are due, interest accrues but is waived if the loan is paid in full before the Promo Period expires. Any unpaid balance owed after the Promo Period, plus accrued interest, will be paid in installments based on the terms disclosed in the customer's loan agreement. Financing is provided by various financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender, or familial status. Savings comparison based on purchase of a single unit at list price. Available at participating locations and offer applies throughout the service area. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. License numbers available at renewalbyandersen.com/license. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. ²Based on testing of 10 double-hung units per ASTM E2068 20 years after installation. ³It is the only warranty among top selling window companies that meets all of the following requirements: easy to understand terms, unrestricted transferability, installation coverage, labor coverage, geographically unrestricted, coverage for exterior color, insect screens and hardware, and no maintenance requirement. Visit renewalbyandersen.com/nationsbest for details. ⁴Review aggregator survey of 5-star reviews among leading national full-service window replacement companies. January 2024 Reputation.com. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2026 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA14201