

JUNE 2026

URECC NEWSLETTER



Why Vegetation Management Matters



There's something timeless about trees. They ground us, remind us of where we've been, and reach toward what's ahead. Here in our community, we take pride in the natural beauty that surrounds us, from the shade on a summer afternoon to the colors that mark each changing season.

At URECC, we also carry a responsibility that is just as important. We power your homes and businesses and work to ensure that when you flip a switch, the energy you rely on is there. Every day, we work to balance preserving the beauty of our area with delivering safe, reliable electricity. One of the most important ways we do that is through regular tree trimming.

Keeping power lines clear of overgrown vegetation plays a major role in preventing outages. When severe weather moves through, strong winds and storms can bring down branches and damage power lines. In fact, nearly half of all outages are caused by trees and vegetation coming into contact with electrical infrastructure.

That is why you may see our crews and trusted contractors working in your neighborhood throughout the year. Our teams are highly trained and follow strict safety and industry standards. While the work may seem routine, it is a proactive step we take to prevent outages before they happen.

This work is not only important, it is required. Utilities must manage vegetation near power lines to maintain safe and reliable service. Regular trimming helps remove weakened limbs and keeps fast-growing trees from becoming hazards, especially as severe weather events become more frequent.

We are also using new technology to work smarter. Tools like drone inspections help us monitor lines and surrounding vegetation more efficiently, allowing us to identify potential issues early and respond quickly.

Above all, this work is about safety. Trees that grow too close to power lines can create dangerous situations. Branches can carry electrical current, and children or families may not realize the risk. During storms, fallen trees can also create hazards for both our members and our lineworkers.

There is also a cost benefit. Preventative maintenance like tree trimming is far more cost-effective than repairing damage after an outage. By staying ahead of potential problems, we help reduce disruptions and keep costs down.

You can play a role, too. When planting trees, consider how large they will grow and how close they are to power lines. Planting in the right place helps prevent future issues. If you are digging near underground lines, always call 811 before you start.

At URECC, we are proud to serve this community. We live and work here, and we care about keeping it safe, resilient, and beautiful.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

During these warm summer months, a smart thermostat can help keep your home comfortable while reducing cooling costs. Smart thermostats learn your routine and automatically raise the temperature when you're away and cool things down before you return, avoiding unnecessary energy use. You can also adjust settings remotely from your phone, so you're never cooling an empty house. Setting your thermostat a few degrees higher while you're away or asleep can lead to significant savings. Many smart thermostats provide reports and tips, helping you fine-tune your energy use and stay cool while keeping your electric bill in check.

UTILITY SCAM AWARENESS TIP OF THE MONTH

Protect your accounts by enabling multi-factor authentication (MFA) wherever possible. MFA adds an extra layer of security by requiring a second step—like a code sent to your phone or an authentication app—beyond just your password. Even if your login information is stolen, MFA can serve as an additional guard against full account compromise or data breaches. Choose app-based authentication over text messages when available, as it's more secure. Taking a few minutes to turn on MFA for email, banking and additional online accounts can significantly reduce your risk of identity theft and financial loss.

LIGHTING SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Lightning Awareness Week is June 21 through 27. It's a reminder for families to learn about lightning safety and stay protected during storms. Here are a few tips to keep your family safe.

- When thunder roars, go indoors. Do not wait until rain starts.
- Stay away from windows and doors during storms.
- Avoid using corded phones or plugged in devices.
- Avoid open fields, tall trees, and metal objects.

Stay alert and stay safe!



REMINDER PEAK SUMMER HOURS 4:00PM - 9:00PM

Avoid energy-intensive activities, like drying clothes or using the oven, during peak energy hours.



MEMBER NOTICES

The summers in Texas are marked by extreme heat. Stay ahead by taking steps to manage your usage and more! Visit URECC.coop or follow us on social media all summer long for energy-saving tips you don't want to miss! We understand that unexpected spikes in your bill can be stressful. Our Budget Billing program is designed to support you by averaging your electricity usage over the past 12 months, so your monthly statement is consistent and predictable. We're here to help make budgeting a little easier for you.

Find out if your account qualifies for this free and beneficial program by contacting our Member Services team at 903-843-2536 or by email at memberservice@urecc.coop.

RESPECT THE POLE

Reminder: To help ensure everyone's safety, please do not attach basketball rims, satellite dishes, or any other items to electric poles. These structures are not designed to support additional weight, and doing so can create serious safety hazards and cause damage to equipment. We appreciate your cooperation in helping keep our community safe.

URECC BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: LOS PINOS VINEYARD



At Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards, we are passionate about crafting exceptional wines from grapes grown in our own vineyards, without ever losing sight of the importance of enjoying the experience. Established in 2001 and owned by four couples, our vineyard is more than just a winery; it is a peaceful retreat where guests can unwind with a glass of wine, enjoy a meal at our full-service steakhouse, explore the tasting room and gift shop, and even stay overnight in our charming on-site cottage.

Often described as one of East Texas's best-kept secrets by guests and wine enthusiasts, we proudly offer 31 different wines to suit a wide range of tastes, available both locally and through major retailers such as Brookshire's, Fresh by Brookshire's, Spec's, Total Wine, Harley's, and Fat Dogs. We are committed to supporting local businesses whenever possible, including featuring Laura's Cheesecake from Mount Pleasant as our dessert partner.

Guests can also join our Wine Club to enjoy exclusive discounts, complimentary tastings, and special events throughout the year.

As a member of the Piney Woods Wine Trail, a collaboration of approximately 24 wineries dedicated to promoting East Texas wines, we also host our own festival in Lindale each May and October.

Whether you are visiting for award-winning wines, a relaxing getaway, or a memorable dining experience with live weekend music, Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards offers a welcoming haven for connection, relaxation, and enjoyment.



Practical Ways to Save Energy this Summer !

With summer temperatures on the rise, home cooling systems have to work overtime, often leading to higher energy costs. The upside? Even simple energy-saving changes can have a big impact.

Here are some important areas to focus on this month:

- **Set your thermostat wisely:** Your thermostat has a major impact on summer energy use. Set it to 78°F when home and a bit higher when away to save energy and reduce costs over time.
- **Use ceiling fans the right way:** Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Set them to spin counterclockwise in summer for a wind-chill effect, letting you raise your thermostat without losing comfort.
- **Block the sun's heat:** Sunlight heats your home quickly. Close blinds during peak hours, especially on south and west-facing windows. Blackout curtains or reflective film help reduce heat.
- **Avoid heat-building activities during peak hours:** Ovens, stovetops, and dryers add heat and strain your AC. Run them in the morning or evening, and grill outside when possible to keep your home cooler.

Securing Your Financial Future

June is one of the most popular months for weddings, and while they are joyful, they can also be expensive. The average U.S. wedding costs around \$36,000, so planning ahead can make a big difference.

Starting early gives you more time to save and helps reduce stress as the big day gets closer. Setting a clear budget for things like the venue, food, photography, and attire can help you stay on track.

Whether you are planning years in advance or saving on a shorter timeline, giving your money time to grow can help you prepare for this special occasion.

Chickpea Salad

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 garlic clove, grated
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 3 cups cooked chickpeas, drained and rinsed
- 2 cups mixed yellow and red grape tomatoes, halved
- ½ English cucumber, diced
- ½ cup Pickled Red Onions
- ½ cup kalamata olives, pitted and halved
- ½ cup chopped fresh parsley
- ¼ cup chopped fresh dill
- ¼ cup chopped fresh mint, plus whole mint leaves for garnish



Instructions:

- In a large bowl, whisk together the olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, mustard, salt, and several grinds of pepper.
- Add the chickpeas, tomatoes, cucumber, pickled onions, and olives and toss to coat.
- Add the parsley, dill, and mint and toss again.
- Season to taste, garnish with fresh mint leaves, and serve.