Come explore us yellow flowers maintain lower temperatures even peak heat southern Spain summer heat make life tough plant thistle Carlina corymbosa beats heat cooling flowers well temperature air around Carlos Herrera Darren Incorvaia April 5 2024 6:30 sun-drenched mountains southern Spain one type thistle seems built-in air conditioning flowers plant — Carlina corymbose — stay cooler hot air around Ecologist Carlos Herrera reports average 3 degrees Celsius 5.4 degrees Fahrenheit cooler hottest part day temperature difference becomes even extreme flowers cool 10 degrees Celsius 18 degrees Fahrenheit air reaches blazing 45 °C 113 °F plant ’ flowers remain relatively chilled 35 °C 95 °F Herrera shared findings February 13 Ecology “ substantial coolings relative air next ” says ecologist Christopher Still works Oregon State University Corvallis involved work says “ ’ nice careful study. ” Spain ’ Sierra de Cazorla mountain range scorching summers leave many plants dead dried dormant brown sea bursts yellow thistle flowers peek browned-out neighbors recent trek mountains Herrera touched one thistle heads Even though peak day ’ heat bloom felt pleasantly cool Herrera works Spanish National Research Council Sevilla mountains study links region ’ plants pollinators recalls bending touch bloom “ checking presence nectar flower head. ” Weekly updates help use Science News Explores learning environment Thank signing problem signing became curious flower felt chilled decided find Using electric thermometer measured temperatures seven thistles across two different sites Herrera checked bloom many times different days flowers grew consistently cooler day heated Many plants beat heat letting water evaporate tiny holes pores process called transpiration ’ similar people sweat stay cool ’ little research flowers keep cool studies focused plant ’ leaves leaves ’ usually get cooler air around Herrera reports difference less drastic seen thistle flowers ’ certainly possible thistle cools leaves Still says flowers leaves measured differently ’ hard say sure