

## Cicada Invasion: 6 roles

**Anchor 1:** The cicada invasion that occurs every 221 years has begun in South Carolina. While the word “invasion” may sound scary, we note that cicadas are harmless insects.

**Anchor 2:** That’s right, but they can pose a problem. Some complain about the noise. In large numbers, cicadas can be quite loud. In one South Carolina County, residents are calling the sheriff’s office asking why they can hear sirens or a constant roar. [Name of reporter] is live on the scene. What more can you tell us, [name]?

**Reporter:** Here in Newberry County, South Carolina, residents have been calling the police station to ask what the noise is all about. I had the chance to speak with the sheriff.

**Sheriff:** Our office sent out a message on Facebook on Tuesday letting people know that the whining sound is just the male cicadas singing to attract mates after more than a decade of being dormant. We’ve heard cicadas in the past, but this year is different. Everything is different: we had a leap year, an eclipse, different moon phases... Now, we’ve got cicadas everywhere. But we’re telling folks these insects are harmless. They don’t bite.

**Reporter:** The sheriff reported that the noisiest cicadas were moving around the county of about 38,000 people. Calls have come from all over. Hopefully, with more awareness, the calls will now decrease.

**Anchor 1:** We just received some facts The numbers are astounding. We’re not talking a few thousand. Trillions of these red-eyed cicadas

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are emerging from underground in the eastern U.S. this month. The broods emerging are on 13- or 17-year cycles. What else have you learned, [name of reporter]?

**Reporter:** That's right, [name of anchor]. Trillions are emerging. I was told that this will be the first time since 1803 that two broods emerged simultaneously. I spoke earlier with a local university professor and entomologist.

**Professor:** It's actually quite a spectacular ecological event. The bugs will arrive in numbers that have not been seen in generations. While it's true that their noise may be annoying to some, the sound is harmless to humans and pets. This whole event will only last for 2-3 weeks. I think people should go out there and enjoy it.

**Reporter:** Here's one resident who moved to Newberry a few years ago from Michigan. What do you think about the noise from the cicadas?

**Resident:** It's that sound in the background that kind of puts you into a meditative state on your walk. It's really quite wonderful.

**Reporter:** You wouldn't call it loud?

**Resident:** Well, they say the cicadas are louder than a police siren but quieter than a jet engine. I honestly don't mind it. Insects come along with the warmer weather, and they don't stay around for long.

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**Reporter:** From Newberry, South Carolina, I'm [name]. Back to you [name of anchor 2].

**Anchor 2:** Residents of South Carolina will not be the only ones to hear the loud song of cicadas this year. The dual cicada brood emergence will be seen in parts of Illinois and Iowa, as well as parts of Kentucky, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.

**Anchor 1:** The Newberry sheriff rightfully noted that this year has been particularly eventful. What more will Mother Nature show us this year?

**Anchor 2:** Well, whatever happens, we'll be here to report the latest news. Thanks for tuning in today, and we'll see you tomorrow. I'm [name] with my co-anchor [name of anchor 1], wishing you a pleasant rest of the day.

### Information and quotes adapted from the following sources:

<https://apnews.com/article/noisy-cicadas-south-carolina-police-39f2bd760a51c8c1d28d88b12473840e>

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/cicadas-loud-south-carolina-residents-calling-police-newberry-county/>

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/04/24/cicadas-south-carolina-noise-complaints-sheriff/73438442007/>

<https://www.wyff4.com/article/cicadas-invasion-south-carolina/60547051>

<https://www.wkyt.com/2024/04/25/cicada-geddon-causes-some-report-noisy-insects-law-enforcement/?outputType=amp>