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Just like people, the Earth Goddess needs to drink water and eat (but she eats fertilizer instead of food).

ENGINEERING: PLANTS, DESIGN

# A LIVING SCULPTURE

Every spring, the Earth Goddess comes alive. She's a 25-foot-tall living sculpture that dwells in the Atlanta Botanical Garden and is made up of roughly 18,000 multicolored flowers. In 2013, a team of artists and metal workers created the Earth Goddess' skeleton out of steel. A system inside her body waters everything from her head to her hands. Although the plants get most of their energy from the sun through photosynthesis, the garden's staff feed the sculpture fertilizer every other week to make sure she continues

to thrive. The coolest part? Her hair color can change each year! Most of the time, the flowers cascading down her head are different colors of the rainbow. But one year, the staff decided to only plant flowers in different shades of pink. "She's always evolving," says Jim Smith, the Earth Goddess' main gardener at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. "She's a diva." When temperatures start to get chilly in October, gardeners remove the plants from the Earth Goddess and she returns to her seasonal slumber.

— KILEY PRICE