

HIGHLIGHTS

TRIAL GARDENS AND HORT RESEARCH AT THE SOUTH MISSISSIPPI BRANCH EXPERIMENT STATION

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GARDEN OF NIGHTMARES

*Deep in the night, the terrors come
And monsters emerge from the black
Searching, hunting in the garden
For a tasty Midnight Snack.*

*Great beasts arise in colors vivid
All striped and blotched and dotted
Lions and tigers and bears, oh my
And Hippos of Rose and Red spotted.*

*Then flowers appear as from out of this world
In forms that have never existed
They fold and they turn and they coil and they curve
With contortions so strange and so Twisted.*

*Now beating and beating, tiny hearts fill my dreams
And white eyes pierce the black of the night
Then I'm back to the day and my fears fade away
In this garden of ghoulish delight.*



Tomato Midnight Snack F1 (above right, top) is an All-America Selections winner for 2017 from PanAmerican Seed. The indigo-type cherry tomatoes ripens to red with a glossy, black-purple overlay when exposed to sunlight. Fruit are great for fresh eating (and often enjoyed by new-age werewolves).

Celosia Twisted™ Yellow (above right, bottom) will be new for 2018 from Ball Ingenuity. This variety is vegetatively propagated and will be sold as plants in nurseries. During our trials, plants grew bushy and were prolific in producing new inflorescences. (Zombies often mistake the inflorescences for brains.)

Hypoestes Hippo™ Rose (left, top) and Hippo™ Red (left, bottom), new for 2018 from Proven Winners, showed off their bright foliage colors under shade earlier this year in our container trials. Foliage colors darkened as the season went on.

Roselle (*Hibiscus sabdariffa*, photos to right) produces creamy white flowers with a dark center. (Yes, they are watching you.) The calyces mature into bright red “hearts” (actual beating is rarely seen, except on Halloween) that may be steeped into tea or made into jam or jelly. Plants are easy from seed or cuttings.

