

HIGHLIGHTS

TRIAL GARDENS AND HORTRESEARCH AT THE SOUTH MISSISSIPPI BRANCH EXPERIMENT STATION

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DRACULA, BEWITCHED!

TALES TOLD AT MIDNIGHT.

TALES TOLD 'ROUND CAMPFIRES.

TALES TOLD OF WITCHES.

TALES TOLD OF VAMPIRES.

CAULDRONS THAT BOIL

AND POTIONS THAT BUBBLE,

THE WITCHES CONSPIRED

TO BRING **THE COUNT** TROUBLE.

A GOBLET OF **CRIMSON**

THEY OFFERED THAT NIGHT,

AND **THE COUNT** DRANK IT DOWN

WITH **BLOODTHIRSTY** DELIGHT.

BUT HIS VISAGE SOON CHANGED

AS THE BREW CAST ITS SPELL.

"WHAT BEWITCHMENT IS THIS???"

HE DEMANDED THEY TELL.

SO THE WITCHES REVEALED

THEIR ELIXIR OF DOOM,

"MADE FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

WHERE THE NIGHTSHADE DOES BLOOM."

"WITH SWEET POTATO LEAVES

SOME BRIGHT AND SOME DARK,

SLICED OFF AFTER MIDNIGHT

WITH THE TOOTH OF A SHARK."

"THEN STIRRED IN HOT SERPENT OIL

BY ELVES, GNOMES, AND FAIRIES,

AS FOUL GOBLINS LOOK ON,

THEIR FACES GREEN WITH ENVY."

DARK RED GUSHED THE POTION

WITH ONE FINAL INCANTATION,

AND THEY SERVED IT TO **THE COUNT**

TO BRING FORTH HIS TRANSFORMATION.

BATS SOARED OVERHEAD,

JET BLACK IN THEIR FLIGHT,

AS **THE COUNT** MET HIS FATE

WITH THE MORNING'S FIRST LIGHT.

THUS NOW GROWS IN THE GARDEN

BENEATH THE OLD MAGNOLIA,

COUNT DRACULA TRANSFORMED

INTO A BLOOD RED CELOSIA!!!



Celosia 'Dracula' (above) is a new, seed-grown, crested celosia on the market from PanAmerican Seed. Each plant produces a single, blood red inflorescence atop a cloak of dark green leaves. These color tones darken when plants are grown in full sun. Our container-grown, trial plants put on a fearsome display.



Coming in 2017 from Proven Winners are *Ipomoea* (sweet potato) varieties Sweet Caroline Bewitched **After Midnight™** (top) with dark, shark-tooth lobed leaves; Sweet Caroline Bewitched **Green with Envy™** (lower left) with bright green leaves; and Sweet Caroline Sweetheart **Jet Black™** (lower right) with dark, tell-tale heart-shaped leaves. Our trial plants thrived in heat and full sun.