

# Spooky plants for Goth gardens

By Jessica Damiano  
Associated Press

**T**hink you're ready for Halloween? Like me, you might have a pumpkin on the porch, a scarecrow by the lamppost and enough candy to guarantee leftovers, but do you have any spooky plants in your garden?

Probably not. And that's too bad. We tend to think about spring by planting plenty of tulips, daffodils, hyacinths, crocuses and pansies. Summer is well planned, too, with blooming perennials, fruits, vegetables and hanging baskets brimming with annuals. So why is it that when we think of Halloween — the day that likely sees more visitors on our doorsteps than any other on the calendar — all that comes to mind are mums, sedums and whatever perennials are kind enough to stick around?

There are plenty of seasonally appropriate near-black and gothic plants to delight those little ghosts and goblins — and ourselves. And we don't need to overhaul the whole garden: Tucking just a few of these living decorations into beds or containers will do the trick. And that'll be a treat for everyone.

## Pumpkin on a stick (*Solanum integrifolium*)

These low-maintenance, seasonally perfect plants are actually not pumpkins at all. They're ornamental eggplants, grown over summer and harvested in fall, when their fruits, which grow along their stems, turn orange. They're best started from seed indoors in late winter or early spring and moved into the garden whenever tomatoes and eggplants are set out in your region. Place cut stems in a water-filled vase, where they'll hold up to two to four weeks, or clip off individual "pumpkins" to fill a bowl for a lovely autumn centerpiece. For a longer-lasting decoration, remove leaves and hang stems upside down in a cool, dry spot with good air circulation until fruits shrivel and deepen in color.



JUSTINE DAMIANO / AP



STURGIS MCKEEVER / AP

## Ghost plant (*Monotropa uniflora*)

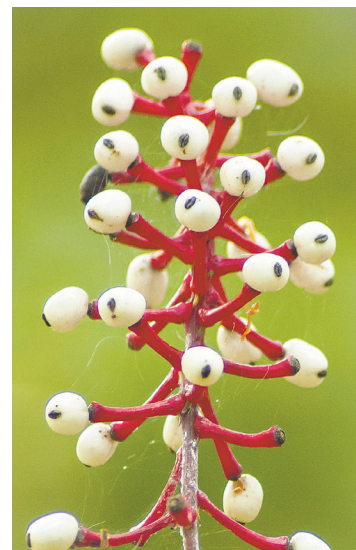
Also known as "Indian pipe," this eerie North American and Asian native thrives in deeply shaded forests and can grow in complete darkness. The plant doesn't produce any chlorophyll, which makes other plants green, so its stems are ghoulishly white. Leave them in the ground, though, because if you pick them, they will turn black.



D. ALLAN DRUMMOND / AP

## Bat flower (*Tacca chantrieri*)

A member of the yam family, this subtropical plant also looks like something it's not: an orchid. Grown as a houseplant in regions that don't experience frosts and freezes, its flowers resemble bats in flight. And just like vampires, they don't like direct sun. The picture above shows the plant growing in Papaikou, Hawaii.



MTCUBACENTER.ORG / AP

## Doll's eye plant (*Actaea pachypoda*)

Also known as white baneberry, this creepy plant's red stems bear white berries with deep purple "pupils" in their centers, so it looks like it's watching your every move. But it gets even scarier: If you touch this toxic North American native, your skin may blister. Have a taste, and you might die. Proceed with caution. (Better yet, maybe skip this one.)

## Dress the garden in black

Although there aren't any truly black plants, many deep purple ones will fit the bill. Consider black mondo grass; Black Knight, Primo Black Pearl, Grand Black or Obsidian coral bells; Chocoholic or James Compton snakeroot; Black Lace elderberry; Onyx and Pearls, Blackbeard or Midnight Masquerade beardtongue; and Black Delight viola.



COURTESY PHOTO BY LISA K. CHO

Susan Cho posed for a photograph with tattoo artist Steven Lam and her daughter Lisa.

## TATTOO

Continued from D1

Her daughter, Lisa K. Cho, a photographer and documentarian, said her mother asked her to do a photo essay on getting tattooed to encourage others to be more proactive about taking safety precautions for their health and welfare. Knowing how much her mom hates having her picture taken made her realize the importance of the request.

"I knew how much she wanted to help others. I feel that this photo story represents the loving kindness that I've always seen from both my parents. ... helping other people, whether it's people they know or strangers," she said.

For the photo shoot, Lisa Cho used her favorite film camera, a 53-year-old Yashica 635 with Kodak Portra 800. She particularly likes the elegant quality of the film and how the vintage camera produces a softer, cinematic result.

The entire experience at the Working Class Tattoo Parlor in Kaimuki turned into a day of bonding they will never forget, thanks to tattoo artist Steven Lam. The women knew about him through their son and brother David Cho.

"We'd never met Steven but we heard about him forever. It was beautiful. ... It was really soul nurturing," Lisa Cho said.

Lam treated them like family as they talked about their lives and discussed details about the tattoo design and location on Susan Cho's forearm, as her daughter shot photos from different angles. As a fellow artist, Lisa Cho understood his need to make a real connection with his clients, which is often reflected in the quality of the final product.

Susan Cho said he made her feel very relaxed, and the actual needlework lasted only five minutes. Although she was afraid it would hurt, "it wasn't too bad."

While people may hesitate to get a tattoo in fear of the pain, she recommends numbing the area with the type of cream used when she got her eyebrows done, a process that hurt a lot more than the tattoo. She was also impressed by Lam's standards of cleanliness through each step of the procedure.

Most people have thought her tattoo was a great idea, and many said they're going to talk to their parents about getting one, Susan Cho said; her daughter's friends on Instagram had the same reaction.

"I feel so much better that I finally have this now. It makes me feel better knowing that my family can find me," she said.

## TODAY'S PUZZLE ANSWERS

### DOUBLE TAKE



### KEN KEN

1-	4	2	3+	1
	3	4	1	2
4+	1	3	2	4
3+	2	1	4	3

5-	2	3	6	4	1
	1	6	4	5	3
	3	4	5	2	1
6-	4	5	2	1	6
7-	6	3	1	4	2
8-	2	1	6	3	5

### UP & DOWN WORDS

- RED
- ROSE
- GARDEN
- HOSE
- DOWN
- UNDER
- PAR
- ROSE
- GARDEN
- HOSE
- DOWN
- UNDER
- PAR
- FIVE

### SEVEN LITTLE WORDS

- MUSTARD
- PEPPER
- UNSAVVY
- DIVULGE
- FISHY
- SUGARCOATED
- OLEANDER

### SUDOKU HIGH FIVE

7	5	1	3	9	2	4	6	8
3	6	2	8	4	1	5	9	7
9	4	8	5	6	7	3	2	1
8	7	4	1	2	6	9	3	5
5	1	6	4	3	9	7	8	2
2	9	3	7	5	8	6	1	4
1	3	9	2	7	4	8	5	6
4	8	5	6	1	3	2	7	9
6	2	7	9	8	5	1	4	3
	6	3	5	8	2	7	9	4
	7	9	2	4	1	6	5	8
	4	1	8	5	3	9	7	2
3	2	6	9	1	7	5	8	4
7	4	8	5	3	6	9	2	1
1	9	5	2	4	8	3	6	7
2	6	7	3	9	5	1	4	8
8	1	9	6	7	4	2	3	5
4	5	3	1	8	2	7	9	6
6	3	1	4	5	9	8	7	2
5	7	2	8	6	3	4	1	9
9	8	4	7	2	1	6	5	3
5	8	2	4	3	9	7	1	6
4	1	6	5	7	2	9	3	8
9	7	3	6	1	8	2	4	5
6	4	9	3	5	7	8	2	1
7	2	8	9	6	1	4	5	3
3	5	1	2	8	4	6	9	7
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6	2	7	9	8	5	1	4	3
	6	3	5	8	2	7	9	4
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	4	1	8	5	3	9	7	2
3	2	6	9	1	7	5	8	4
7	4	8	5	3	6	9	2	1
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4	5	3	1	8	2	7	9	6
6	3	1	4	5	9	8	7	2
5	7	2	8	6	3	4	1	9
9	8	4	7	2	1	6	5	3

### UNIVERSAL MONSTER SUDOKU

A	5	7	B	F	0	E	C	8	D	9	1	4	6	3	2
D	8	1	3	A	6	9	4	B	2	F	5	7	C	E	0
C	2	4	E	B	1	8	5	3	0	6	7	9	A	D	F
6	F	0	9	7	3	2	D	E	A	C	4	8	B	5	1
0	D	8	7	3	2	C	1	6	4	A	E	5	9	F	B
3	A	F	4	E	7	B	0	C	8	5	9	D	1	2	6
2	C	5	6	9	4	D	F	7	1	B	0	3	8	A	E
E	9	B	1	6	8	5	A	D	F	2	3	0	7	C	4
4	E	9	8	C	B	6	3	F	5	7	D	2	0	1	A
B	1	6	F	2	D	A	7	9	E	0	8	C	3	4	5
5	3	D	C	0	F	4	8	A	6	1	2	B	E	9	7
7	0	2	A	5	9	1	E	4	B	3	C	F	D	6	8
F	4	3	5	D	A	7	B	0	C	E	6	1	2	8	9
8	6	C	0	1	E	F	9	2	3	4	B	A	5	7	D
9	B	A	2	8	5	3	6	1	7	D	F	E	4	0	C
1	7	E	D	4	C	0	2	5	9	8	A	6	F	B	3

### UNIVERSAL CROSSWORD

A	S	P	B	R	A	G	S	T	A	T	P	A	S	S	U	P			
M	I	S	G	A	U	G	E	P	U	M	A	D	O	T	T	E	D		
F	L	A	O	B	E	R	T	P	A	N	E	L	A	I	L	E	R	O	N
M	O	L	L	Y	A	N	O	E	X	C	E	L	S	A	V	A	N	T	
	M	A	G	I	A	N	T	I	L	E	O	N	E						
B	R	O	G	A	N	D	S	T	A	N	D	I	S	N	T	N	O	T	
A	H	S	P	A	R	T	I	I	A	K	A	A	S	A	H	I			
S	E	T	H	D	A	Y	L	E	N	O	R	U	N	T	I	E	R		
H	A	S	A	F	I	T	K	E	Y	S	L	O	P	U	L	N	A		
	Y	U	L	L	I	N	E	A	I	T	S	A	B	I	R	D			
N	S	A	S	E	C	O	N	D	B	O	S	T	I	E	R	N	Y	E	
A	P	R	E	S	M	O	I	S	A	D	I	E	T	O	P				
G	O	A	D	M	I	N	T	L	I	B	R	A	N	D	E	E	P		
S	U	R	E	C	A	N	B	U	L	B	B	E	L	A	X	L	E		
A	S	A	N	A	B	A	T	L	E	E	L	E	E	U	S	A			
T	E	T	T	L	D	R	E	L	E	C	T	O	R	C	A	B	A	L	
	A	C	U	R	A	I	S	L	A	T	O	B	E						
A	C	C	O	M	O	N	Y	N	E	W	S	A	T	F	C	A	R	T	E
L	E	M	O	N	D	E	L	O	B	S	T	E	R	B	I	C	A	R	B
O	N	O	R	D	E	R	L	O	O	K	S	A	R	D	I	N	I	A	
T	A	K	E	O	N	E	D	N	A	T	U	B	E	T	O	Y			

### NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

O	D	E	S	M	O	B	S	T	A	R	D	O	M	B	O	S	C	
P	I	R	I	P	I	R	I	A	S	T	A	I	R	E	A	L	T	A
E	V	I	D	E	N	C	E	Y	E	S	I	C	A	N	U	D	O	N
C	A	K	E	S	T	A	N	D	M	E	L	D	S	F	O	O		
	B	O	S	S	A	I	S	L	E	B	E	T	A	A	P			
E	D	G	E	S	M	I	T	T	E	N	S	Z	I	P	S	B	Y	
M	E	L	T	F	R	O	S	T	E	D	T	I	P	R	E	H	A	B
B	R	A	S	L	A	D	Y</											