

Living, Growing, and Totally Spooky ... continued from page D12

How else can we be scared in our own backyards this Halloween?

- Trees can be frightening. Get up close to check out the bark of a eucalypts tree or recline under a pepper tree swaying in the wind. Let your imagination run wild. Do you see skeletons, witches, ghosts or faces of the walking dead?
- Investigate the babies of a spider plant or be spooked by a hanging snake plant.
- Admire the beautiful blooms and intoxicating fragrance of the sweetly named Angel Trumpet but don't be tempted to taste it. As a member of the Nightshade family, it is highly toxic, even deadly. Wear gloves!
- Why is the fox by the fountain in the backyard? Or is the fox a shape shifter?
- Are the coyotes howling at the moon or an evil eye wandering in the darkness?
- Do you hear the hooting of the owls and the cawing of the crows? They too are hunting ... and not for humans.

And, finally, a gardener's Halloween quiz. (Answers at the bottom)

- What is a vampire's favorite flower?
- What is a werewolf's favorite legume?

Carve your pumpkins, light the jack-o'-lanterns, weave your webs, and dress up the skeletons you have been hiding in the closet. Nature provides the imagination for your supernatural trick-or-treat decor.

Happy Halloween to all the witches, warlords, pirates, princesses, paupers, pumpkins and pilgrims!



A Hansel and Gretel path to the deadly Angel Trumpet Bush



An argiope spider weaves its web to catch its prey.



Recline under a pepper tree – boo!