**Concept of Monster Plants**

Modern society has forced necromancers to develop creative methods for raising their minions. Magic ritual no longer being a widely accepted practice, necromancers have had to supply their own bodies to create monsters.

Because creating adult humans from scratch with magic is highly impractical, creating a human body starting from a fertilized egg cell is much preferred as it requires the least amount of magical power and resources. The problem with this is providing nutrients to the zygote. The easiest solution necromancers have found is grafting them to plants, which will autonomously supply nutrients and keep supplemental maintenance low.

Cyclosporin is applied to their unison, usually before the seed sprouts, to help reinforce the connection and prevent rejection. The respective rituals will be performed on the developing bodies for whichever type of monster the necromancer wishes to produce. Different plants are better suited for different monsters. Because no plant will ever cover the full extent of a body’s needs, their growth still requires nutrients and other resources from outside sources.

* **Monster:** Zombie
* **Plant:** starfish cactus (Stapelia grandiflora)
* **Concept:** Although predatory plants would provide a great source of nitrogen for the zombie, keeping the attracted, disease-carrying insects alive and returning is better to increase the zombie’s biohazard potential. Using a succulent like Stapelia also keeps the zombie’s fluids high, increasing the likelihood of disease transmission even further. It is recommended to grow zombies on predatory species for personal servants and to use starfish cacti only for remote biowarfare.
* **Monster:** Wendigo
* **Plant:** Watkins’s strangler fig (Ficus watkinsiana)
* **Concept:** Due to the Wendigo’s ravenous nature, the strangler fig is a logical choice as it provides a natural cell for the beast. Growth of the creature should be slowed until the fig has formed a sturdy cage around a wide trunk and the fig’s host plant has been removed.
* **Monster:** Jiangshi
* **Plant:** guadua bamboo (Guadua angustifolia)
* **Concept:** Bamboo is used to keep the jiangshi upright. Without support, its weight can cause its posture to bend over time, loosening its tissue. It is important to keep a jiangshi’s body stiff because they do not have enough strength to stay upright by themselves. Their hopping movements are imperative to their use as ambush units in necromantic war.
* **Monster:** Mummy
* **Plant:** (Syntrichia caninervis)
* **Concept:** Plants that simply drain the body of water are not enough to maintain a mummy’s desiccation. Tarps can be placed above or on the body, but this deprives the plant of sunlight and does not account for air humidity that would inevitably reach the body. The species of moss, Syntrichia caninervis, solves the issue by absorbing moisture directly from the air. A selectively bred caninervis imbued with some minor magical properties can carry the effect further and absorb moisture so quickly that moisture absorption by the mummy is practically eliminated.
* **Monster:** Wraith
* **Plant:** Indian pipe flower (Monotropa uniflora)
* **Concept:** Wraiths are particularly tricky to care for because of their metaphysical property of being only able to absorb spiteful energy. One of the only plants capable of achieving anything to this sort of effect would be the Indian pipe flower. This plant species is devoid of chlorophyll and steals its energy from mushrooms which have themselves stolen energy from nearby trees. The wraith apparently perceives enough “spitefulness” in the nature and behavior of the plant that it accepts its nutrients as if they were the emotions it craves. Even so, extra resources must be applied to mushrooms growing with the plant to supply enough energy for the wraith. The plant’s preference for shade over sun and its shape also keep the wraith emotionally soothed, as any sunlight or general exposure agitates these types of spirits.