Tracey Peake: [00:00](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=0.42) Hello and welcome to NC state's audio abstract. I'm your host Tracey Peake. The rare Titan Arum is also known as the corpse flower because it can smell like rotting flesh. Brandon Huber, a horticultural graduate student here at State, received a corm or dormant stem from a Titan Arum back in 2007 and brought it with him when he came to NC state. The plant, which Brandon has named Remus Lupin in honor of its NC state Wolfpack connection first bloomed in 2016 and it looks like it may be getting ready to bloom again by August 1st of this year. We're going to speak with Brandon today about all things corpse flower. Welcome Brandon.

Brandon Huber: [00:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=38.69) Hi Tracey. Thanks for having me here today.

Tracey Peake: [00:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=41.18) Tell me about the corpse flower. What is this thing and where do they normally grow?

Brandon Huber: [00:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=45.86) So the course flower is a member of the aroid family or the Araceae family. And if we think common plants in the aroid family, we can think of peace lilies or the Spathiphyllum, um, calla lilies or anthuriums. A lot of these aroid plants are common house plants. However, this one in particular is the world's largest in florescence, known for its flowering size, anywhere from four to the world record being 12 foot tall.

Tracey Peake: [01:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=76.16) So you would not actually have this as a house plant most likely?

Brandon Huber: [01:20](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=80.03) No, not typically. Not because it relies on very warm, humid conditions and you know, consistently warm, humid conditions is critical to its success.

Tracey Peake: [01:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=90.92) Okay. Where does this plant grow in the wild?

Brandon Huber: [01:34](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=94.19) So the Amorphophallus titanium is found in Indonesia, um, and the Amorphophallus genera is very diverse, having species from across, um, much of Asia. However, this one tends to be in a more very tropical region.

Tracey Peake: [01:52](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=112.37) And apparently it does not bloom very often. Like with lilies, you know, the flowers we were sort of comparing it to that we would be familiar with here. They bloom annually. How often does this plant bloom?

Brandon Huber: [02:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=125.09) Yes, so the first bloom from , typically these plants are grown from seed, um, as they don't, offset or produce pups. They're very, uh, solitary in nature. They do produce seed when they flower and lots of seed. But, uh, typically a seedling will take seven to even 15 years for the first flower to even be, you know, for the first flower to occur.

Tracey Peake: [02:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=150.35) Okay. And then thereafter, does it bloom yearly or does it wait? What's the dormant period?

Brandon Huber: [02:35](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=155.241) Right. So I think the, the lower limit is usually three years for a rebloom but typically it's more like seven, three to seven where they would say on average. Um, the interesting thing is a lot of times even in nature, these plants will flower, produce seed and then die after their flowering. So it's, you know, after pollination that, um, they tend to spend all their energy on flowering and fruiting that they actually have no energy left to regenerate and continue as a plant. And continue its cycle, but it produces all that seed and leaves those behind.

Tracey Peake: [03:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=196.07) How long when they do bloom does that bloom typically last?

Brandon Huber: [03:18](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=198.79) Yeah, the bloom only lasts two to three days, typically, depending on the conditions. Uh, you know, the blooming period while the, the bloom development is usually over a two month span, um, where it grows very rapidly as it approaches its, uh, bloom time.

Tracey Peake: [03:38](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=218.35) Why do these plants smell so terribly?

Brandon Huber: [03:41](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=221.56) So they're, they're very interesting and they, they, unlike a typical flower, they're, they're actually pollinated by flies and carrion beetles, which is very unusual.

Tracey Peake: [03:50](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=230.14) Right. So things that would be drawn to like a smell of decay, I guess.

Brandon Huber: [03:53](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=233.67) Right, right. And they also produce heat. They're actually, they fall into this rare, a group of plants that are thermogenic, meaning they actually produce heat and when they flower to help draw in these pollinators to kind of simulate this like a dead animal or something. Yeah.

Tracey Peake: [04:10](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=250.93) That's really interesting.

Brandon Huber: [04:12](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=252.04) Yeah. So we actually took thermal images last time it bloomed that you could see it heating up around the, receptive portion of the flower is where it wants to be pollinated. That's where it was glowing, you know, 15 degrees warmer than the, than the outside surface around it.

Tracey Peake: [04:30](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=270.49) If you're close to the plant, would you be able to maybe detect a change in temperature? If you got a little closer to it?

Brandon Huber: [04:36](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=276.25) If you actually touched it, you would probably feel some warmth. The plant is categorized by this giant spadex, which is a spike that sticks up. And the spathe is this outer kind of, um, hooded structure that's kind of creates this like, you know, Jack in the pulpit, like flower, which, you know, being in the same family, it is categorized by that spathe and spadex, but down in the bottom of the spadex there, where the pollen pollen is dropped and also the receptive portion that would produce seeds and that's where the heat is released. So if you were to reach down in there, you would feel if you'd probably sent some heat from there.

Tracey Peake: [05:15](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=315.16) That's really amazing. How did you come by I mean a bulb, a corm, what do we call these little seedlings?

Brandon Huber: [05:21](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=321.61) Yeah, so it's a corm. Um, this is basically their storage. Their dormancy being a tropical plant in the tropical climate, this plant kind of just takes little rests. Um, maybe it's a dry season that, you know, they go dormant for a little bit or they just rest and rejuvenate their foliage. But this corm serves as a storage unit to help them get through, um, times when they're taking a rest or, uh, or especially when they're flowering. So this corm needs to develop over time to get large enough to support a flower because the flower is basically eating up a lot of this stored energy and not producing much to the plant. So in order for the plant to sustain itself through its reproductive stage. It basically develops into this massive tuber. Um, you know, in our case, our tuber weighs 120 pounds and it's just this massive storage unit to help it get through flowering and fruiting. And, and even with that flowering fruiting, some plants, like I mentioned prior, they actually die after that process because they've eaten up all of that energy, even as big of a tuber as they can develop.

Tracey Peake: [06:33](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=393.47) So when you got this thing, um, I'm sure it did not weigh 120 pounds. Somebody did not say, hey, Brandon here have this seed. It weighs 120 pounds. Bring a hand truck.

Brandon Huber: [06:42](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=402.62) Yeah. It was this just like little one pound bulb that was maybe not even a pound, a small little bulb. And uh, from there that it kind of grew, um, you know, just grew. Uh, it was tripling and quadrupling its mass per growing cycle. And it was, it was just, you know, a growing cycle for Amorphophallus titanum can be upwards of two, two years. So this is, you know, if we think about a plant growing for two years straight, that's a lot of potential for, uh, the tube or the corm to get a lot larger. Yeah.

Tracey Peake: [07:16](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=436.07) So when it was growing like this, as the bulb or plant, the corm got bigger and bigger and bigger. Was it sending up shoots during this time? How was that? What does that look like?

Brandon Huber: [07:27](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=447.5) So, yeah, they're, they're very strange. And they send up one leaf, they send up this giant compound leaf. So this, it looks like a tree, you know, tree like a big tree trunk coming up out of the ground and has these really symmetrical leaflets that, that form and create this, uh, this tree like plant. Um, and as the bulb gets bigger and bigger, this leaf canopy gets larger. But, but in a growing cycle, it only sends up one leaf. So this, you have this one leaf come up and it'll just sit there and, and just be green for up to two years as it's just photosynthesizing and generating energy, uh, to, to, to build that tuber up larger and then outta nowhere the tuber, the petiole will, will start to shrink to turn yellow and it'll just fall over and it'll actually go dormant and it'll rest for a month or two and sometimes even more - a couple months. And when it's ready to grow again, it will, it will send up again, just another leaf. So it'll do this for about, you know, like I said, seven to 15 years until finally it has enough energy to flower and in that occurrence, instead of sending a leaf up, it sends a flower up instead. Up until that shoot comes up about a foot it's very hard to tell if it's a flower or if it's yet another leaf.

Tracey Peake: [08:49](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=529.67) Yeah. I was going to ask, how can you predict, because you could look at it and when we were talking about this you were saying, well you know, it looks like it may bloom sort of the first weekend in August. Well that's a pretty specific time frame for a flower to bloom and I was wondering how you could tell - like how you know.

Brandon Huber: [09:06](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=546.64) So based on its bloom record last time I, I have very detailed records like daily in some cases, especially in the later stages of how quick it's grown per day and how that relates to the final opening bloom time. And also I've looked at, and last time it bloomed in 2016 I based these estimates from other growers, flower records, and I was able to predict it pretty, uh, accurately. Um, and now that I have data from this same plant from 2016, I feel, uh, even more confident that we're able to pinpoint it even better.

Tracey Peake: [09:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=585.09) Once you see that it's not just putting up a leaf this time.

Brandon Huber: [09:47](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=587.881) Yeah, exactly. Yeah. Yeah. So we have kind of like, I kind of plotted out and I plotted out against last time's growth period, a curve. And just to give you an example, these plants are growing incredibly fast when they are blooming right now we're growing at five inches a day.

Tracey Peake: [10:04](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=604.41) Wow.

Brandon Huber: [10:05](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=605.13) Yeah. So every 24 hours it's gaining another five inches. And this is a, this is the, this is kind of the peak, uh, growth rate that, uh, that we'll see out of this thing. And, and that helps me, you know, when that growth starts to taper off, we know that it's getting ready to open. And then, you know, they'll sit about one or two days and not grow anymore. And then we know it's about to open. That flower will darken and color up and, and it'll, it'll open up.

Tracey Peake: [10:31](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=631.63) It'll open up. Okay. So how tall is your, how tall is little Remus? Lupin now?

Brandon Huber: [10:37](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=637.54) It stands at 55 inches. Well at 55 inches tall today.

Tracey Peake: [10:42](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=642.3) Okay. So almost five feet, yeah. All right. Wow. How many of these Titan Arum are in greenhouses across the u s do you know, or can you ballpark that? Are there a lot of people who have these flowers or are they pretty rare?

Brandon Huber: [10:58](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=658.41) They're pretty rare. They're starting to, uh, they're starting to be around a lot more. Uh, I would say that when Lupin bloomed last time, it was in the upper 200s I recall as far as the documented blooming in a conservatory in cultivation. Uh, I feel that, you know, for a long time these plants were very unknown and, and challenging to grow, but as more and more people grew them and learned and, and even killed some, you know, and learned what not to do and grow in these that they were able to kind of perfect and really know how to grow these things well and to get so that people can succeed in growing them.

Tracey Peake: [11:39](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=699.6) So what is the most challenging thing about growing one of these?

Brandon Huber: [11:43](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=703.71) I would say, you know, I think they're, they are heavy feeders, meaning that they, they, they do like a lot of fertilizer. So I say, well, for one thing you really need to encourage that bulb growth by feeding them well. Um, we typically use a slow release fertilizer, like, uh, a granular fertilizer in addition to a liquid feed. And this really helps to build that bulb. I see some, you know, with some Amorphophallus um, you know, if they're not developing their bulb, larger each season, it's because maybe they were a little starved for nutrients or it could be light. I would say that's the most stressful time in growing them is during their dormancy period. You know, when that bulb is going in and out of it's sleeping period is a very fine line of moisture that needs to be added or, or provided to the plant to prevent it from rotting. And you know, for us, we actually take the tuber out of the pot where we can get it some air flow and, and are very careful in amount of water we provided during the dormancy.

Tracey Peake: [12:46](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=766.96) So how bad does it smell? Like what does it smell like? You've been up close and personal - I have not.

Brandon Huber: [12:54](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=774.39) Yeah. So you know, as much as they smell like roadkill or they say they smell like roadkill, which is kinda true. Uh, but the flower, you know, knowing that it's coming from this plant kind of, you know, it's not as bad to me. Um, I feel that some people find it to be just, you know, nauseating. Uh, however, maybe because I'm used to these flowers blooming and knowing that it's a flower, I'm kind of less, I guess, repulsed by it because it's, it's not a dead animal. It's a flower. And I'd say that the peak flowering smell, uh, is about 24 hours. And sometimes, and actually in our greenhouse last time with the fans running, it really wasn't that bad. You had to get up close to it and really smell it to really pick up that strong smell or be downwind from it.

Tracey Peake: [13:45](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=825.81) What is the coolest thing about the corpse flower?

Brandon Huber: [13:50](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=830.31) Yeah, I would have to say the growth rate. I mean, when these plants are, so these plants are either doing nothing or they're doing a lot, you know, they're, well, they're always doing a lot, but in growing and you know, photosynthesizing but you know, when they're growing and developing these flowers, when you're just consistently logging three, four, five, six inches a day growth, it's incredible. I mean, you can, you know, in a time lapse it creates a really nice time lapse video. Um, just, you can almost watch the thing develop. And so the growth rate is definitely one. And another thing that always amazes me with this plant is its ability to attract people and, and even non horticultural people. And you know, I remember in 2016, uh, many people saying that and they were non plant people and they said, you know, we crossed this off for our bucket list. We've always wanted to see this our whole life, you know, and I think that that's, you know, it's a way of, you know, bringing people together and people by the thousands together in here to see this plant. And people would travel from pretty far distances just to see it. And it's, it's really, it's really incredible.

Tracey Peake: [15:01](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=901.61) That's great. Yeah, I'm definitely going to make a point to stop by and take a whiff for myself when it blooms this go around. Well thank you so much for being here, Brandon.

Brandon Huber: [15:11](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=911.08) No problem. It's been a pleasure.

Tracey Peake: [15:12](https://www.temi.com/editor/t/l4XiCNToruBP4itROXO8fK70c3PiHtgvDFCdhnPyYLoA2nA3QrSw6uFcudBwheMQ3kr9BO8GQL-7aGKbo9Ut1FBOsA8?loadFrom=SharedLink&ts=912.35) We've been speaking with Brandon Huber, a horticultural graduate student here at NC state. Thanks for listening to audio abstract. I'm Tracy.