

# Autumn Sanctuary

Whether you're hunting for pumpkins or the perfect throw pillow, Garden Works in Ridgeland, Mississippi, offers an assortment of fall finds.

**B**aby Boo' and 'Jack Be Little' are names that fit them to a T. These monikers don't describe the physical attributes of a cartoon character, but rather the types of pumpkins found at Garden Works in Ridgeland, Mississippi.

## Seasonal Sightings

"The children get a 'Jack Be Little' to keep their hands busy," says Allen Martinson, co-owner of the sunny store. These delightful mini pumpkins make fun, free toys for children browsing the shop with their parents. "We pour tons of effort into our fall look around here," adds Allen. "It's really the best time for people to visit."

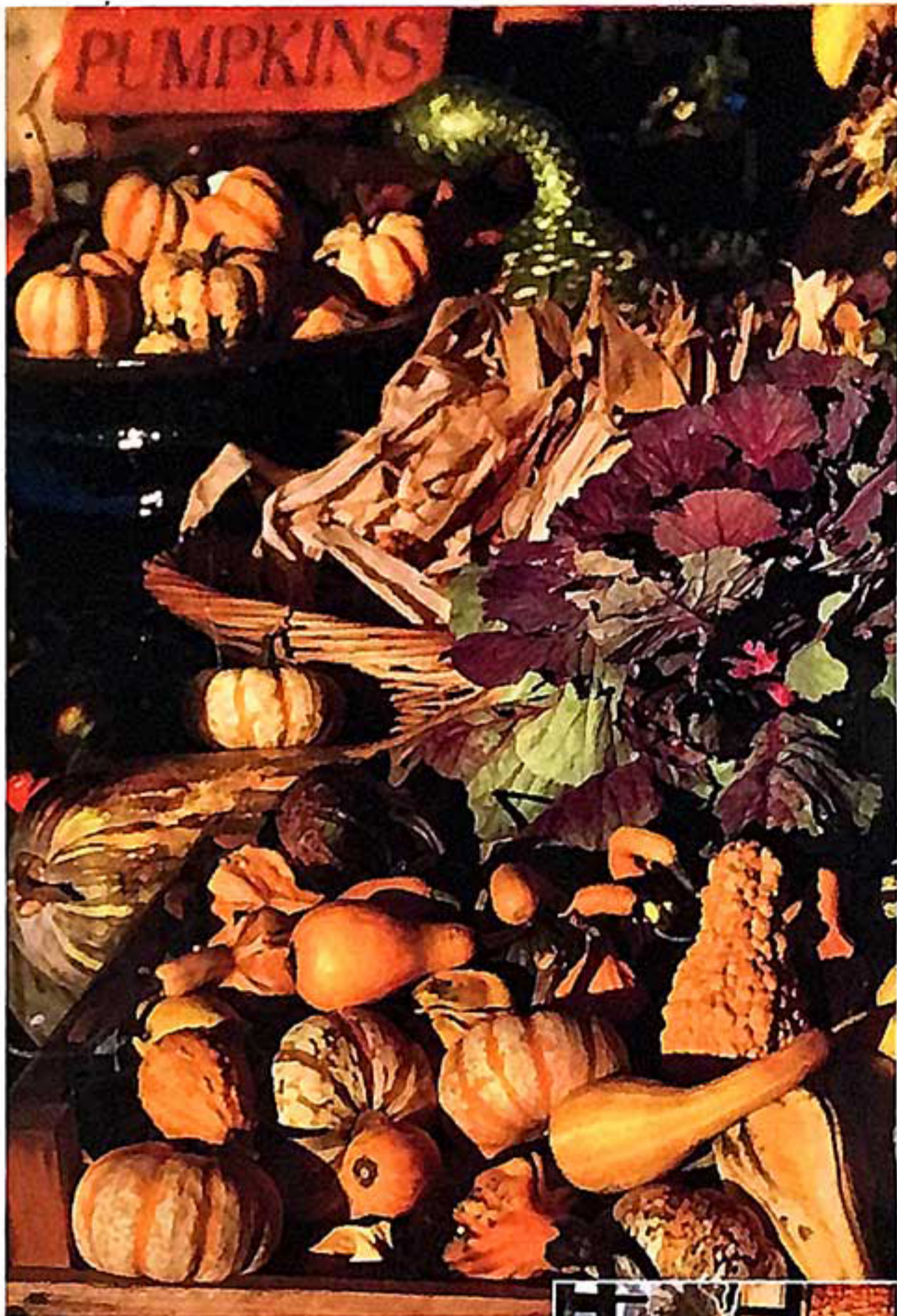
Scarecrow-like figures, jack-o'-lanterns, wagons full of mums, Blue Hubbard squash from the Tennessee mountains, and 300-pound pumpkins make striking displays. Ornamental gourds and bales of hay lie about as well.

Allen admits the family's seeds of success were planted firmly by his father, Billy Martinson, a landscape designer. The store, situated on U.S. 51, 10 miles north of Jackson, has shown guests what fall smells and looks like since the eighties. Eighteen greenhouses are full of more than 300 types of perennials, annuals, herbs, and plants. But plants are not the only items for sale here.

## Fall for Furniture

Garden Works contains art for both the interior and exterior of your home. Allen's wife, Mimi, provides stylish home decor, including pretty lamps, candleholders, wall sconces, and light fixtures, in a separate portion of the store.

Wares from around the globe make up part of the shop's eclectic collection as well. Tibetan furniture, Vietnamese pottery, and other Asian-themed pieces quickly attract the eyes of shoppers.



above: Garden Works revels in the autumn spirit; its owners say fall is the best time to see the store. right: The home decor side of the business carries everything from ottomans to leather couches and tables.

Mimi also offers a line of home decor and accessories crafted from old wood. Prices for these signature items start at \$400 for a bedside table to \$10,000 for a wall-size entertainment center. "People really build their homes around this line," says Allen. Shutters from a retro country store become part of a new door or table. Old glass windows from worn buildings transform into accents for new sideboards or other pieces. It just goes to show that flowers aren't the only things flourishing in this garden.

FARRAH AUSTIN

**Garden Works:** 650 U.S. 51 North, Ridgeland, MS 39157; (601) 856-3078 or [www.gardenworksms.com](http://www.gardenworksms.com). **Hours:** 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 12:30-4:30 p.m. Sunday.



Tiny 'Jack Be Little' pumpkins make big fun for children.

PHOTOGRAPHS: MARY MARGARET CHAMBLISS