



Giant Pumpkin Tips

LOCATION: Keep in mind, a location that has shelter and receives a fair amount of sunshine will produce the most favourable results.

FLOWERING: Pumpkins have 2 kinds of flowers: male and female. The male comes first, followed by the female, and in order to get an early fruit set for exhibition purposes it is necessary to keep a watchful eye for that first female. You can tell the female because it has a baby pumpkin already formed under the flower.

POLLINATION: to pollinate the female proceed this way. Pick off the fresh male bloom, then trim the corolla or flower leaf off and rub the pollen laden stamen in around the centre of the newly opened fruit bloom.

FRUIT: Pumpkin plants put out several vines. Make sure you concentrate on the two principle vines when blossoms begin to bloom and set fruit. Sometimes it is a great advantage to keep the vine from fruiting as long as possible by picking all fruit blossoms off until the middle of July. This will give time enough to mature a 300lb pumpkin by the first of October . . . there must be a big vine to produce a big pumpkin. One should also consider the fact that each pumpkin giant might have 100 or so leaves and each leaf is responsible for up to 3lbs of weight in your pumpkin.

REMEMBER: Pumpkin plants are thirsty so plenty of water must be applied, especially in a dry time. Also remember that vines put down roots wherever they touch ground. You have to free the vine from the ground near the big fruit or the fast growing globe will tear their root stems.

CAUTION: Pumpkins are sensitive to both heat and the cool dampness. For full development, they need a period of warm weather but not the extreme heat favoured by other vine crops.

INSECT CONTROL: An all-purpose dust that contains rotenone* is perhaps the most effective.

PLEASE NOTE: Most important things to remember are: *SOIL/SUNSHINE/MOISTURE!* Good fertile soil enriched with nutrients gives you plants the kind of environment they like. Sunshine provides the warmth necessary for growth. Water carries food to the growing plants and, is important in itself.

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