

# Gourmet Vegetables

# Giant Pumpkin

## Feed the Family



### DESCRIPTION

Giant pumpkins are great for competitions and for people who want to set records! The record weight is approximately 754 kilograms/1662lbs. Pumpkin vines love to spread out and they have huge bushy green leaves. This doesn't mean that you can't grow anything next to it, but be aware that they are a sprawling vine and you don't want to plant anything too near that will get caught in their undergrowth.

**Big Max.** Good for pumpkin competitions! Can weigh up to 45kg/100lbs, if given plenty of moisture, fertilizer and space. Known to measure up to 178cm/70in. in circumference. H46-61cm/18-24 in. Days to Maturity: 111 to 120 days.

**Dills Giant.** Good for pumpkin competitions! This is the big fellow for folks who want to set records or get hernias. The record weight is 754kg/1662lbs, if given plenty of moisture, fertilizer and space. 120 days to maturity.

**Atlantic Giant.** This pumpkin is open pollinated and has smooth orange skin with orange/yellow flesh. Fruits can weigh over 180kg/397lbs. Less flavor than regular pumpkins.

**Howden.** The original Jack O'Lantern pumpkins. Great for pumpkin competitions and have strong handles for making Jack-O-Lanterns! Can weigh up to 7kg/15lbs, if given plenty

of moisture, fertilizer and Space. 115 days to maturity.

**Orange Smoothie.** An extremely productive pumpkin with a smooth surface for painting or carving. The fruit average from four to eight pounds and grow on an early, semi-bush plant.

**Spirit.** This vigorous All-American Selections winner matures earlier than most varieties.

**Flat Boer Ford.** This variety is a stackable pumpkin weighing 10 to 16 pounds. The white color on this pumpkin stays white and does not bleach out or yellow over time. White Flat Boer Ford has bright orange flesh and a sweet taste.



### USES

Pumpkins are fast growing and are great for cooking and carving. Mashed, steamed, roasted or stewed, they're a delicious addition to any meal.



Pumpkin seeds grow best in little mounds about 1m /3ft in diameter. You can put multiple seeds in each mound but it's important to thin the vines out as they grow. For the best big result, grow one pumpkin per vine. Plant the seed about 2.5 cm/1in deep. A seedling will take about 5-10 days to appear. Thin the patch out as they grow and only keep the strongest plants, as this variety needs lots of space. Choose a sunny spot that gets at least 6 hours of sunlight per day. Likes water and lots of fertilizer.



### CULTIVATION

The first sign that a pumpkin is ready for picking is the leaves of the vine will begin to look tired and tattered. The second is that the fruit will have turned a deep orange color, like a fiery sunset orange. When you cut the fruit from the vine, leave about 13cm/5 in of stem attached to the fruit. Allow it to ripen in the sun for 10 days after picking.



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