

Pumpkins

Cucurbita pepo



Orange Pumpkin



Cinderella Pumpkin

General Information

- Edible plant
- Sun Exposure: Full sun
- Water needs: Moderate to high
- Temperature: Does best in hot temperatures, and cannot tolerate cold. Make sure to plant when soil temperatures reach at least 70 °F. The plant does best at soil temperatures up to 95 °F.
- Harvesting: Harvest around 75-100 days after planting. Pumpkins take a long time to grow, so be patient. You will know the fruit is mature when it reaches a deep, full color. When harvesting, use a sharp knife or shears, and be sure to cut a good 3-4 inches above the fruit. Leaving an ample segment of vine attached to the fruit increases its shelf life.
- Harvest season: Late summer to fall

Planting Guide

- Planting Season: Mid to late-spring. The pumpkin does not do well at all in cold temperatures, so wait to plant until it warms up.
- Location: Somewhere with full sun. Make sure soil is well-draining and rich.
- Spacing: Space plants 4 to 8 feet apart from each other.

- **Soil and Fertilizer:** Mix compost and aged manure into the soil at the planting area, and ideally add a layer of mulch to the top of the soil to conserve moisture and help control weeds.

Care Guide

- **Irrigation:** Pumpkins need a good amount of water to thrive. The plants should get at least 1 inch of water per week, with additional watering as needed (especially during dry spells).
- **Pruning:** Remove dead and wilted stems and weeds surrounding the plant to keep things tidy and healthy. You can also prune any wild vines to keep the plant under control and optimize the plant's energy for fruit production. However, when handling the plant it is important to remember that the vines are delicate, so be careful not to damage the stem, as this can decrease the quality of the fruit.
- **Pollination:** Growing flowers in your garden can help encourage the presence of pollinators, which are key to the success of pumpkin plants. Without pollinators, the pumpkin flowers will never become fertilized and grow fruit. Edible flowers such as nasturtium are a good option.
- **Additional Fertilizer:** Pumpkins require a lot of extra fertilizer to produce a good yield. Regular treatments of manure or compost will boost growth and production. In early stages of growth you can add nitrogen-rich fertilizer. Once you notice the plant's first bloom, switch to a phosphorus-heavy fertilizer.
- **Pests:** Squash bugs and cucumber beetles are the most common pumpkin pests. Squash bugs dig into the stem and feed on the sap, which weakens the plant and decreases production rates. You can protect the plants using row covers or fleece, but you should continue to check for eggs on the stems and scrape off any you find. These bugs are most active in the early summer, so keep a look out during this time.
- **Disease:** Most diseases can be avoided by staggering planting of varieties of the family. Pumpkin is a Curbit, so avoid planting in areas where other Curbits were recently grown. Otherwise, making sure to properly space your plants and keep everything tidy, which also helps to prevent the spread of diseases.

Varieties

- Unless otherwise stated below, consider all varieties of pumpkins to have the same care instructions as above.
- Varieties of pumpkin we grow:
 - Cinderella pumpkin
 - Wyatt's Wonder pumpkin

Sources:

<https://plantvillage.psu.edu/topics/pumpkin/infos>

<https://www.almanac.com/plant/pumpkins>