



THE ONE PAGE STARTER GUIDE FOR GIANT PUMPKINS

START HERE

GIANT PUMPKIN GROWING TIMES

Giant pumpkins are typically grown between mid/late ~~Oct to mid/Nov~~ **Spring - Oct.** It is best to work backwards from your weigh off / event for more info go to: giantpumpkins.co.nz/timeframe

TOP TIP

Growing known seed will give you an idea of what to expect with your pumpkin

GET GIANT PUMPKIN SEEDS

To grow the biggest pumpkin you need the variety: **Atlantic Giant**

- giantpumpkins.co.nz/shop
- kingseeds.co.nz
- egmontseeds.co.nz
- other growers

TOP TIP

Make sure you have spare pumpkin seeds as backups, or to share with family and friends

FIND A SUITABLE PATCH LOCATION

Attributes that make for a great giant pumpkin patch:

- A sunny location
- Free draining soil
- Dark rich soil
- Easy access
- Protection from the wind

TOP TIP

While giant pumpkins do great in large areas, they can also be grown in smaller areas

PREPARE YOUR PATCH

- Remove all weeds and any grass
- Dig up and aerate soil
- Apply mature compost
- If in a windy location windbreak may need to be setup to protect your seedling

POLLINATION

Approx 50 days after starting pollination can occur

- Pollinate by hand or let nature do it's thing
- Male flowers appear before the female flowers which have the pumpkins at the base of the flower

TOP TIP

Pollinating by hand increases the chances of the pumpkin growing giantpumpkins.co.nz/pollinate

TRANSPLANT YOUR SEEDLING

Your seedling is ready once it has 3 leaves on it weather and date will help dictate when you transplant

- Opposite the middle leaf is the direction the vine will travel

TOP TIP

Frost protection may be required early on giantpumpkins.co.nz/transplanting

PLANT INTO A POT

Once your seed has germinated it is time to get into a pot

- Pointy side down into seed raising mix (1cm deep)
- Water slightly
- Keep in warm sunny spot

TOP TIP

Too much water at this stage could make the seeds rot

SEED STARTING

Helping your giant pumpkin seeds early on increases the chance of germination

For the complete how-to on seed starting go to: giantpumpkins.co.nz/starting

TOP TIP

Prepared seeds germinate faster than non prepared seeds

PICKING THE BEST

Having a pumpkin grow on the main vine is usually best

- Let pumpkins grow until the size of a basketball
- Leave 1 or 2 pumpkins on the plant and remove the rest

TOP TIP

Placing a board or mill fabric covered in sand underneath your pumpkin can help it grow more easily

TAKING CARE OF YOUR PUMPKIN

- Consistent watering helps your pumpkin
- Remove any weeds
- Provide shade for your pumpkin - cover with an old sheet
- Bury vines where the leaf comes out of the vine, this create more roots

TOP TIP

Burying vines will allow the plant to get more nutrients and grow larger

FEED IT

- Seaweed or fish based fertilisers work well for giant pumpkins
- Work out a schedule of when to feed
- Watch it grow each day

WEIGH OFF / COMPETITION

- Get your pumpkin to your local competition
- Estimate your pumpkins weight to see if it can be lifted by people or machinery
- Remember to save seeds to share next year

For more information, tips, updates, photos and more make sure to check out:

www.giantpumpkins.co.nz

End of Season Giant Pumpkin Review



Date _____

Pumpkin _____

What went well this season?

What could have gone better?

Notes
