

Giant Pumpkin Growing Guide

Foster & District Show
25th February 2023
Entry \$2 paid on seed pickup

Soil Preparation

- Each seedling will grow into a large vine, select a site that has enough room without competing for water and nutrients with other plants.
- Choose an area that is well drained, is in a sunny location and doesn't get too much wind.
- Nourish the soil by turning through some manure.

When to Plant

- It is best to plant your Atlantic Giant Pumpkin seeds in October 2022.

Planting

- Atlantic Giant Pumpkin seeds are larger than normal pumpkin seeds, therefore require soaking for 1-2 hours in lukewarm water before sowing.
- Sow two seeds, pointy end down into a pot of good seed raising mix and then transfer into the ground. Alternatively sow your seeds directly into the ground.
- Do not overwater until the seeds have germinated (3-7 days), keep the soil moist. Too much water may lead to seed rot.

Growing Time

- Your pumpkin will continue to grow throughout the next 4 months.
- Fertilise and water regularly, being careful not to overwater to avoid rot.
- Your pumpkin should grow 3.5-5.5 kg per day, that's a lot of growing! Feed weekly with liquid manure or compost.
- It will take 70-90 days before any fruit appears on the vine.
- Only 1-3 fruit should be left on the vine to reduce competition for nutrients.
- Your pumpkin will not have reached its full potential by the Foster Show date, this will be taken into consideration for the judging process



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Pollination

- Pollination is an important factor in growing Atlantic Giant Pumpkins.
- This can be done by finding a female flower on the main vine as far away from the base of the plant as possible.
- Hand pollinate by removing some male flowers and using them to dab the pollen onto the centre of the newly-opened female flowers.
- This is best done in the early morning.

Maturity

- Your pumpkin has reached its maturity when the skin hardens off and begins to look rough. The colour may begin to fade.
- Your pumpkin will only last 2 months once it is cut off the vine - only cut the pumpkin off the vine once it is ready for competition.

Seeds available from:

Renee Thompson – 0407 348 641
Den Gilheany – 0425 728 525