

Love the
Food
You Eat!

Growing Pumpkins

Growing Pumpkins is fun for the whole family! It's easy to grow your own Jack-o-Lanterns—if you have enough space. Choose varieties bred for flavor if you want to make pies. Pumpkin varieties include low and trailing types to climbing/vine varieties.



When & How to Plant:

Direct Seed- Pumpkins will not germinate in cold soil. Wait to plant until soil reaches at least 65 degrees—preferably 70 degrees or more. Seeds germinate best at 95 degrees. Days to emergence: 5-10—should germinate in less than a week with soil temperature of 70 degrees and adequate moisture.

Direct seed 1 to 1 1/2 inches deep into hills (which warm and drain earlier in the season) or rows. Sow 4 to 5 seeds per hill. Space hills about 4 to 8 feet apart, depending on the size of the vine. When the plants are 2-3 inches tall, thin to 2-3 plants per hill by snipping off unwanted plants without disturbing the roots of the remaining ones. In rows, sow seeds 6 to 12 inches apart in rows 6 to 10 feet apart. Snip off plants to thin to one plant every 18 to 36 inches.

Preferred Sunlight: Full Sun.

Preferred Soil Conditions: Prefers well-drained, fertile, loose soil high in organic matter. Plentiful and consistent moisture is needed from the time plants emerge until fruits begin to fill out.

Maintenance and Care: Black plastic or mulch can speed growth, especially in cool, short season areas. At the end of the season, remove or till in vines to reduce mildew. Use row covers to protect plants early in the season and to prevent insect problems. Remove before flowering to allow pollination by insects or when hot weather arrives. Mulching plants helps retain moisture and suppress weeds. Mounding soil around the base of the plants can discourage squash borers from laying eggs.



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Family Fun!

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Some varieties recommended for New York include:

Mini:

Baby Boo
Jack-be-Little
Munchkin

Small:

Baby Bear
Baby Pam
Lil' Ironsides
Lumina
Small Sugar
Snackjack

Medium to Large

Autumn Gold
Gold Rush
Howden
Howdy Doody
Jackpot
Magic Lantern
Racer
Rocket
Spooktacular
Tom Fox

Large

Atlantic Giant
Big Max
Prizewinner

Source:

**Cornell University, Home Gardening, Vegetable Growing Guides.
For a complete Growing Guide and additional information visit.**

www.gardening.cornell.edu



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