

**Instructions for Growing a Giant Pumpkin**  
**Class 73, Winter Show, 16 November 2024**

The seeds that you have collected from the Trading Store have been saved from the big orange Pumpkin that Terry grew in 2023. At the Winter Show it weighed in at over 50kg. Keep the seeds dry until you are ready to sow them some time in April or early May. We hope you will have lots of fun growing your tiny seed into a giant pumpkin!

Choose an open, sunny bed for your pumpkin. The plant will need a lot of space and light to develop. Make sure you have prepared the bed well by adding lots of nutrient-rich compost and/or manure, but do not plant your pumpkin out until all danger of frost has passed.

To give your seeds the very best start, sow them 1-2.5cm deep, pointy side down, indoors in a pot (approx 9cm) of damp, but not wet potting compost after they have been soaked for an hour or 2 in tepid water (20-30° C). The best temperatures for germination are 18-21°C. Only water the pot when the surface becomes dry because if the seeds become cold and wet they may rot. Keep them at a temperature of between 20 and 30° and you should see a shoot emerging within 7 days.

Look after the seedling carefully and move to a larger size pot when you see roots appearing through the holes in the bottom of your pot. You can feed your plant with a high-nitrogen liquid feed, which encourages growth of green leaves.

Harden your plant off before planting outside in it's growing bed, which you have kept clear of weeds. Make sure that it is kept well watered and watch for the first yellow flowers to develop.

Keep watching for a female flower that has a swelling developing behind it. This swelling is your baby pumpkin. You may decide to take off any other pumpkins that start to develop so that your plant will put all its energy into one giant pumpkin.

Please have a look at these 2 websites for lots more guidance from the Royal Horticultural Association on growing a giant pumpkin

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Info-Sheet/Grow-a-giant-pumpkin>

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/Pumpkin-crop-sheet>

WHA wishes you lots of fun and success with your pumpkin growing!

