



Pumpkin Planting Time

Plant seeds in spring for fall pumpkins!



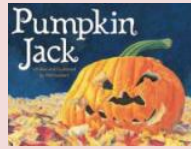
When April arrives in Maryland it is time to start thinking about pumpkins. Those big orange pumpkins we harvest in the fall start as tiny seeds each spring. Pumpkins are not hard to grow, but they take time (about 100 days) and they need a lot of space! Before you begin, check out the [Flip for the Pumpkin AGtivity](#) to review the life cycle of a pumpkin plant.



Recommended Ag Literature:

It's Pumpkin Time
by Zoe Hall

Pumpkin Jack
by Will Hubbell



To watch a video showing how pumpkins grow click [here](#).

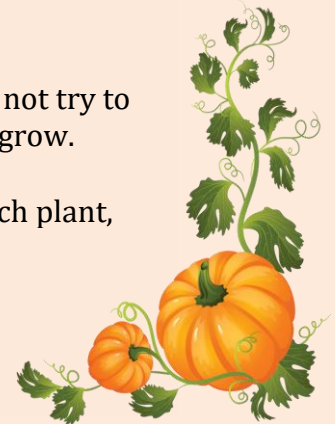
<https://tinyurl.com/y5kbt58c>

To read about growing pumpkins in containers click [here](#).

<https://tinyurl.com/483y7pvy>

Planting Pumpkin Seeds

1. By mid-May, the outside soil has warmed up and the danger of frost has passed. It's the perfect time for planting pumpkin seeds in Maryland.
2. Choose a large sunny spot in your yard. Pumpkins need at least six hours of direct sun each day, and one plant can grow to be 12 feet long!
3. If you are planting directly into the ground, create a small mound of soil. Plant 2 or 3 seeds about ½ inch deep in the mound of soil. Mounds should be 3 – 4 feet apart. Growing pumpkins in containers can be helpful when space is limited.
4. The seeds should germinate (begin to grow) in 7 – 10 days.
5. Keep the strongest seedling in each mound and pinch off the others. Do not try to keep all the seedlings in the mound. They will not have enough room to grow.
6. Remember to water your pumpkin plants. Try to water at the base of each plant, without getting too much water on the leaves and growing pumpkins.
7. If all goes well, the pumpkins should be ready to harvest in August. A second crop can be planted between June 15 and July 1. This crop should be ready to harvest around the time of the first frost.



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