

# One Page Guide to Growing Giant Pumpkins

**Get some seeds**  
**Date:** Anytime before 1<sup>st</sup> October  
 Variety required: Atlantic Giant  
 Sources:

- [www.kingseeds.co.nz](http://www.kingseeds.co.nz)
- [www.egmontseeds.co.nz](http://www.egmontseeds.co.nz)
- Giant pumpkin growers

**Pro tip** – Pumpkins get a lot of traits from the parent pumpkins they have come from.

**Find a suitable patch location**  
**Date:** Anytime before 1<sup>st</sup> October  
 Requirements:

- Nice sunny spot
- Good access
- As much room as you can spare

**Pro tip** – Don't let the word "giant" put you off, even small gardens can produce great results.

**Prepare your patch**  
**Date:** Anytime before 1<sup>st</sup> October  
 Things to do:

- Remove grass and weeds
- Dig up and aerate the soil
- Apply well matured compost/manure

**Pro tip** – Removing as many weeds now saves a lot of weeding later on.

**Prepared patch**



**Transplant seedlings**  
**Date:** October 20<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

- Transplant once 3 full leaves are present
- Plant into mound of earth
- Opposite the middle leaf is the direction the vine will grow

**Pro tip** – Use an emery board type fingernail file to file the seed.

**Plant your seeds**  
**Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

- Pointy side down into a pot of potting mix
- Water slightly
- Keep in warm sunny spot

**Pro tip** – Make sure not to over water your seeds, they can easily rot.

**Prepared seed**



**Pro tip** – Filing the seed allows water easier access into the seed to start the growing process.

**Seed starting**  
**Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>

- File edge of seed – not tip
- Put between wet paper towel, place in plastic bag.
- Put in hot water cupboard for 48hours

**Pro tip** – Use an emery board type fingernail file to file the seed.

**Pollination**  
**Date:** 50ish days after transplant

- Pollinate by hand or let it occur naturally
- Let pumpkins grow until basketball size to "set"
- Remove unwanted pumpkins to leave 1 or 2


**Pro tip** – Pollinating by hand isn't necessary but it does increase the odds of a pumpkin growing.

**Take care of pumpkin**  
**Date:** From transplant to mid March

- Water 3 times per week
- Remove any weeds
- Provide shade for the pumpkin

**Pro tip** – Powdery mildew can be decreased by not watering the leaves too much in the evenings.

**Watch it grow**



Please note this is only a brief guide to growing giant pumpkins. For more information please check out [www.giantpumpkins.co.nz](http://www.giantpumpkins.co.nz) and always remember to have FUN

**Take to local competition**

