

HOW A PUMPKIN GROWS



Pumpkin seeds are planted from May to June. We plant our pumpkins in to fields of rye. The dried up rye plants make a pillow for the pumpkins to eventually lay on. Pumpkin seeds will sprout in about 10 days and then begin to make leaves.



After about 3 weeks, yellow flowers begin to appear. Male flowers will produce pollen. Female blossoms have tiny pumpkins at their base. Bees then transfer pollen from the males to the females. This is called pollination.



Once pollinated, the fruit at the base of female plant will grow in to a small green pumpkin and then turn orange over time as it grows.



Pumpkins require a lot of moisture and sunlight while growing. It takes around 100 days for a pumpkin to grow fully. We use irrigation to keep the pumpkins healthy all summer.



Our pumpkins are harvested in to big bins. Each one holds around 40 pumpkins each. We use forklifts to move the pumpkins out of the field and on to trucks for market.



Finally the pumpkins go to homes and make great Jack-O-Lanterns or pumpkin pies.

PUMPKIN FUN FACTS

- Pumpkins contain potassium and Vitamin A.
- Pumpkins are used for feed for animals.
- Pumpkins flowers are edible.
- Pumpkins originated in Central America.
- Pumpkins are fruit.
- Pumpkins seeds are high in protein and B vitamins.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown was 1,140 pounds.
- Native Americans flattened strips of pumpkins, dried them and made mats.

Tips: Sprinkle cinnamon or nutmeg on the underside of the lid when making Jack-O-Lantern. The candle makes it smell like pumpkin pie.

