

2020 150 Square Feet Pumpkin Contest

Giant Pumpkin growers all want to grow the biggest pumpkin and we each have our limitations. Ever wonder how your skills measure up to other growers if there was a level playing field? Well this will be your chance to compete, have some fun and even learn a few things along the way that will help you grow in the future.

Invitation

Everyone is invited to join the 2020 150 Square Feet Pumpkin Contest take place from Feb. 9th to October 31st (Halloween) 2020. The contest is to grow the heaviest pumpkin possible in a patch of a maximum of 150 square feet (14 square meters). Growing any part of the plant on a vertical structure is not permitted. You will be able to grow any Atlantic Giant pumpkin seed you choose but only one plant per grower is allowed for this contest.

Entry Fee and Prize Structure

While everyone is invited there will be a \$2.00 entry fee per grower payable at the start of the Contest. A list of all the contestants will be posted in the 'General Discussion' message board on BigPumpkins.com. All entry fees collected will be returned to the contestants as prize monies. First prize for the heaviest contest pumpkin will be 50% of the collected entry fees. The next heaviest pumpkin, second place, will be 30% of the entry fees. The third place pumpkin will receive the remaining 20% of the entry fees. In the case of ties (equal contest weights) the place monies for those places will be combined and equally divided among the tying entries. For example, it is possible for there to be 4 growers all with the same top weight. In that case all place monies for places 1, 2, and 3 will be combined and divided equally among the 4 contestants and there would be no remaining monies for the next heaviest pumpkins. Any un-awarded entry fees will be donated to BigPumpkins.com

How and When to Enter

You may accept the invitation and declare your participation in the Contest by sending an email to bnot1962@gmail.com with your full name and Bigpumpkins.com screen name. Instructions for the payment of the entry fee will be provide by return confirmation email. This year both mailed and paypal entries will be accepted. The last day for email entry will be 15 April 2020 and entry fee must be received by 29 April 2020. A complete list of entries by 'screen name' will be posted in the 'General Discussion' message board on BigPumpkins.com no later than 30 April 2020.

Weigh off Requirements

All pumpkins will be weighed in accordance with the GPC standards. Weights in Kilograms will be converted to pounds where 1 Kilogram = 2.2 pounds. For the purpose of this contest only, all weights will be rounded down to the nearest one half pound. For example, 124.4 becomes 124.0, 124.5 is 124.5, 124.9 will become 124.5.

RULES

- 1) Everyone is honest by definition and this must be fun!
- 2) You may grow any Atlantic Giant pumpkin seed of your choice.
- 3) The maximum area is 150 sq. ft. (14 sq. meter). The entire plant including the pumpkin must be totally contained within the stated 150(14) area at all times. Increasing plant size by going vertical will NOT be permitted. A question was 'do the leaves need to stay inside the contest area? The simple answer is NO, leaves may hang over the outside but the vines and pumpkin must not touch the area outside the contest area. A leaf that falls down outside is ok because it is not a 'rooted' part of the plant. The area of the pumpkin that supports its weight must clearly remain inside the contest area.
- 4) All pumpkins will be weighed in accordance with GPC standards. Weights in Kilograms will be converted to pounds where 1 Kilogram = 2.2 pounds. For the purpose of this contest only, all contest weights will be rounded down to the nearest one half pound. For example, 124.4 becomes 124.0, 124.5 is 124.5, 124.9 will become 124.5 (GPC weights will be accepted subject to the same rounding.)
- 5) No minimum age for the pumpkins or contestants.
- 6) Pumpkin can be weighed on any date during the Contest but must be weighed on or before 31 October 2020. The contest period may be concluded at any prior date if all contestants have their pumpkins weighed or they withdraw from competition.
- 7) **Photos are required**, the type and timing are listed below. Each photo should contain the contest standard reference object. The standard contest reference object will be a 12 FL OZ (355ml) beverage can. To make it easier for everyone to follow your 150 Contest entry in your Bigpumpkins.com diary you should make "150" a prominent part of each entry.
 - a. An **early photo of the patch** so all can see that each grower is making appropriate effort to keep to 150(14). This photo should be taken early with or without a plant or hoop house but does not need to be posted until after everyone has plants set out. Because conditions can be very different from one grower's location to another there is no mandatory posting date BUT each grower is expected to make the best effort to be fair and timely. (Remember rule #1) Growers are not required to add special fencing nor permanent objects to their patch to mark out the 150 area. Normal items like temporary walking boards, maybe a natural physical barrier, other plants or even a line in the soil is acceptable. These 'markers' do not need to remain for the duration of the growing season as we will be able to look at the earlier photo to see where they once were. Photoshop type markings on this picture are acceptable.
 - b. **Post hoop house photo**. This photo should be taken when the hoop house is removed and submitted within the week. For those who may be growing in a green house without a hoop house a photo should be taken and submitted when the main vine is 6 to 8 feet (2 to 2 ½ meters) long.
 - c. **Full patch**. A photo once the entire patch space is occupied. Best effort, this is fun. You do not need to replace earlier temporary markers.

d. The keeper. It is expected that the standard contest size reference object be in all the pictures especially with the keeper. First required keeper photo should be when it is 10 to 20 days and submitted no later than day 30. Yes you can sandbag but need to show something by day 30 after pollination. Disasters happen (splits, aborts etc.). Should some natural disaster happen to your selected fruit after the 30 day photo that requires a new pollination you must immediately post a picture of the disaster, followed by pictures as required to show the new pollination and its progress at least weekly for the first 30 days. Repeat this process as many times as necessary for any succeeding disaster. Yes this sounds like a penalty and yes we will all have more fun at your expense but it will be fun. It could be worse.

e. Final weigh off picture. A picture of your contest entry on the scale showing the weight will count as the final official picture. If logistics at your weigh off don't permit a picture of the pumpkin on the scale with the weight then make the best effort to 'document' the weight with photos. Remember Rule #1.

f. More pictures are always welcome to keep everyone interested and have fun.

8) When in doubt, remember rule #1 and contact bnot1962@gmail.com with questions you may have.

Current Contest Record

The current World Record for the 150 square foot Contest is held by Mr. John Butler of Canada with 1175.6 pounds !

Some might say there is no second place in giant pumpkins but they would be very wrong. Mr. Joe Jutras of Rhode Island was 'second' in 2019 but He holds the World Record for Green Squash in the 150 sq ft Contest with 1109 pounds.

Both of these gentlemen are the first to prove you can grow a 1k pumpkin(or squash) in only 150 sq ft.

(The 150 sq ft Contest is color blind to Atlantic Giant Fruit so a pound is a pound no matter the color)