

The 150 CHALLENGE

Invitation: Everyone is invited to join the 150 Square Foot Pumpkin/Squash Challenge in 2023. It takes place from Jan 1st to October 31st (Halloween) 2023. The contest is to grow the heaviest Pumpkin or Squash possible in a patch of a maximum size of 150 square feet (14 square meters). You will be able to grow any Atlantic Giant seed you choose but only one entry per grower, is allowed.

Entry Fee and Prize Structure While everyone is invited there will be a \$5.00 entry fee per grower payable at the start of the challenge up until May 30, 2023, via mail (address below) or PayPal. (Ref: pumpconn@msn.com for PayPal) A list of all the contestants will be posted in the 'General Discussion' message board on BigPumpkins.com.

1st place prize for the heaviest contest pumpkin will be 50% of the collected entry fees

2nd place, 20%

3rd, 4th and 5th place 10% each

Two Random Draw winners (that did not finish in top 5)....\$25 ea.

Closest to 500 lbs.....\$25

Closest to 600 lbs.\$25

Closest to 700 lbs.\$25

Mail in address:
Steve Connolly
622 Massapoag Ave
Sharon, MA 02067

How and When to Enter To enter, declare your participation in the Contest by sending an email to pumpconn@msn.com with your full name, mailing address, and Bigpumpkins.com screen name. Instructions for the payment of the entry fee will be provided by return confirmation email. Growers who are South of the Equator, are welcome to join, best for you to sign up in February.

Weigh off Requirements

1) The maximum area is 150 sq. ft. (14 sq. meter). The entire plant including the base of the pumpkin must be totally contained within the stated 150 area at all times. Increasing plant size by going vertical will NOT be permitted. A hydroponically grown pumpkin must be grown on one plane. A question was "do the leaves need to stay inside the contest area? The simple answer is NO. Leaves and pumpkin may hang over the outside of the 150 Sq Ft plot, but the vines and base of the pumpkin, and rooted leave stems must not touch the area outside the 150 SqFt boundary. A leaf that falls down outside the 150 area, is ok because it is not a 'rooted' part of the plant.

2) All pumpkins will be weighed in accordance with GPC standards. Weights in Kilograms will be converted to pounds. For this contest, weights will be rounded down to the nearest one half pound. (GPC weights will be accepted subject to the same rounding).

3) Pumpkin can be weighed at any official weigh-off, on any date during the Contest but must be weighed and entered on or before October 31, 2023. **To make it easier for everyone to follow your 150 Contest entry in your Bigpumpkins.com diary or any Social Media's, you should make "150" a prominent part of each entry.**

PHOTO LOG

4a) **An early photo of the patch** so all can see that each grower is making appropriate effort to grow in a 150 Sq.Ft patch. This photo should be taken early with or without a plant or hoop house. Because conditions can be very different from one growers location to another there is no mandatory posting date, BUT each grower is expected to make the best effort to be fair and timely.

4b) **The Keeper.** A photo of "keeper" is to be submitted when the pumpkin is up to 30 days old. It is expected that some sort of standard object (for size reference) be in all the pictures.

4c) **Full patch.** A photo once all patch space is occupied. The "150 SqFt" border markers should be visible in photo but its not mandatory.

4d) **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.

Current Record is 1375 lbs. Good luck this year. Have fun!