



The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America

Gardening Education and Excellence in Horticulture since 1932

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www.gardenersofamerica.club

YOUTH GARDENING GENERAL RULES FOR THE NATIONAL CONTEST

“BIG PUMPKIN”

1. Any club, club member or member-at-large can sponsor youth (up to/including age 18) for the contest. The youth do not have to be in a club.
2. To be in this contest, **all seeds must come from national**. Call Sheryl in the TGOA office (515) 278-0295 to order and purchase the seeds for a small fee. Seeds will be sent in bulk so that approximately 12 pumpkin seeds can be given freely per contestant.
3. Gardeners should package the seeds in small envelopes or small zip-bags for distribution, keeping a list of who is receiving them.
4. Once the youths have received their seeds, they can begin working on their record and result form. At least **three photographs are required**, one of the youth preparing for or planting the seeds, one during the growing phase and one with harvesting the finished product or end of the season. The web is full of information and ideas for growing pumpkins.
5. Each club or sponsoring member may set up their contest and follow the progress any way they wish. (The following are just suggestions to get you thinking. This could be by mentoring, advising, instructing, helping, etc. You could put together a “how to” list covering planting and caring for the seeds, soil and water requirements, light and temperature requirements, etc. Compile a list of recipes for humans and/or animals.
6. Clubs may end the contest whenever and however they choose. Set your date and time for the pumpkins to be brought in for weighing and judging. Invite parents to this meeting of recognition, celebration and/or rewards. Be sure the youths get a chance to talk about this experience and answer questions.
7. By November 15, TGOA Youth Garden Chair Cheri Kessen must have the name, age, address, email, record and result form and the three photographs from all entering this contest. Please send it to Cheri Kessen, 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 4784 or ckessen2001@yahoo.com