



GIANT PUMPKIN PLANTING GUIDE

Spring has "sprung" here in our N.E. Tennessee Mountains and that's a sure sign that gardeners all around the region are preparing their soil for "planting time"! And, now that the Mountain City Council has officially approved our city's "2nd Annual Pumpkin Fest", it's time to get crackin' on those GIANT pumpkin's you'll want to grow and submit for the LOCAL GIANT PUMPKIN CONTEST on Tuesday, October 13, 2009!

Last years Local Giant Pumpkin Contest winner was Ed Cook of Mountain City, whose GIANT pumpkin weighed in at 409 lbs. and was featured in the Main Street Parade aboard a flat-bed truck accompanied by Ed Cook himself! So, in preparation for this year's Contest, Ed has graciously agreed to give us some planting prep tips.

Seed Ordering: Hands down, the best giant pumpkin seeds in the world can be ordered from Howard Dill Enterprises, RR#1, Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada B0N2T0. Howard's son Danny Dill runs the place. Telephone: (902) 798-2728, Fax: (902) 798-0842. email: howarddill@yahoo.com

Ground Prep: For each seed you plant - dig a large 4 ft. X 4 ft. hole having a depth of 12 to 16 inches. It is strongly recommended that you allow approximately 900 square feet growing area for each plant.

Soil Prep: You will need composted cow manure, horse manure or a combination of both. Stir the manure into the soil in the hole, then mix in 4 or 5 lbs of rock or colloidal phosphate. Giant pumpkins prefer these to be mixed into the soil with the manure. Garden Barn, 423-727-0144 located on South Shady Street (Rt. 421 South) carries these items.

Once your soil is prepared let it sit and wait until May 10th or after the last frost before you plant the seeds in your prepared beds.

For any questions contact Kyle Little 423-727-4911 or Ed Cook 423-727-8700. Both have graciously consented to offer their expertise to anyone wishing to contact them.

DATES FOR THE "MOUNTAIN CITY 2ND ANNUAL PUMPKIN FEST" ARE
TUESDAY 10/13/09 THRU SATURDAY 10/17/09.