

Growing Giants in Small Spaces

Giant Pumpkins are an incredible sight in the Fall. Making them grow is just as amazing, and seeing them burst through their canopy leaves in July/August usually attracts a bit of curiosity from the neighbors, or passersby who might be lucky enough to have a vantage point of your garden from the road.

These big fruit we grow need a lot of sun, water, attention and nutrition to reach their

size, but one myth we can debunk is the amount of growing area required for them to reach the “Huge” form they can ultimately reach. You may have heard that they need about 1000 sq ft plots to grow BIG. That’s a lot of space, for one pumpkin. But now, due to the efforts of numerous growers over the last 6 years, we can prove that thought process can be changed. Giants can grow in small spaces!



A very accommodating space the most people have in their back yards is about 150 Sq Ft. Pumpkins grown outdoors in this space are resulting in fruits up to 1375 pounds. A patch for example adding up to that area could be 6x25 ft, or maybe about 12 x 13 ft. Your choice. There are lots of options that add up to this smaller size of growing space. The pumpkin still needs lots of care though just like their counterparts grown in 1000 sq ft.

But with well composted 12-18” deep, loamy soil and lots of sun the potential is there to achieve 1000 or maybe even 1300 lb results. Just remember you still need to do all the basic tasks for the Giant Pumpkin Seedling to grow, like digging a starter hole, and back filling it with a few WOW Starter packs, Mycorrhizae, Azos and maybe even Rootshield, for a healthy and strong root system. As the Main Vine starts to in this small allotted space carefully bury the above noted essentials and the main vine to optimize the plants (and Pumpkins) growing potential. It will be a little snug so carefully manage trim and dead end your vines as they reach to boundaries of your patch. This will provide space for airflow under the canopy of leaves. Don’t let the vines grow over each other, that just wastes energy and reduces the pumpkins size potential. One thing that’s very important in this space is to plan ahead and leave a space for your pumpkin that could need 4ft x 4ft.

Keep the pumpkin fertilized, watered so the soil is damp and do what’s needed for potential disease, bug or mold damage, so it grows healthy late into the season. And with the pumpkin shaded during the hot sunny part of the growing season we now know from experience that your resultant fruit, can reach the weights noted above. Best of luck.