Performance of pumpkin varieties for Southern Illinois

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Pumpkin Cultivar Selection

There are numerous pumpkin cultivars from which to select

- Which ones are the best for me?
Pumpkin Cultivar Selection

Must determine the size or sizes for your market – very small, small, medium, or large (or combination)

So…..know your market and what size the market needs
Pumpkin Cultivar Selection

Specialty types vs. typical jack-o-lantern types

Many specialty types becoming increasingly popular
World of Color

Jarrahdale Blue
However, jack-o-lantern types are still the most important types grown
Jack-o-lantern types: Color variation from light orange to dark orange
Lots of pumpkin cultivars available

But which are best for Southern Illinois?

Overview of several widely used cultivars and then results from one of our pumpkin studies conducted in 2010
Magic Lantern
Magic Lantern

- Variety of choice for many growers
- Attractive, classy appearance
- Powdery mildew resistance
- Nice uniformity-consistent fruit weights and yields
- Okay handle and shape
- High yield potential
- Averages about 12 in. in diameter???
- Fruit weight between 16 to 25 lb???
‘Magic Lantern’
Howden......lots of size differences
‘Autumn Gold’
- high fruit number per acre
- consistent size, but small (~8 lbs)
- turns orange early in the growing season
Another group is the “pie” types. These are widely used in various ways for fall decor and are highly popular with those that market to school groups.
Cannonball
Good yields
Attractive dark orange color
Heavy fruits
Large handle
Firmly rooted handle
Consistent size
IR to PM
5 lb avg.
round dark orange

Touch of Autumn
Fruit about 6" dia. x 5" height
Fruit average 2 - 3 pounds
Semi Bush
High yielding
Excellent handles

Ironman
Hard shell, stores for months
Strong handle
Easy paint
Nice orange color
mostly round to globe,
IR to PM
4 lb average

Pie pumpkins
**Pik-a-Pie**
6“ dia. x 5” height
Fruit avg. 5-6 lbs
Dark green, large handle
High yields

**Hybrid Pam**
5-7 lbs.
Round
Slight Ribs
Restricted, Compact Vine
High yielding
Long, deep green handles

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**Pie pumpkins**
Small pie pumpkin - FIELD TRIP F1 (HMX 6687)

Distinctive long handle
Flat and ribby
Very uniform in shape and size
Intermediate resistance to PM
5-7 lbs
Rounded and flat
Small pie pumpkin – GARGOYLE

Hard shell pumpkin
Early maturity
Distinctive occasional warts
Large handle
Intermediate resistance to PM
3-5 lb average
Rockafellow
Fruit average 2.5 to 3 lbs
Elongated oval shape
Very smooth, hard rind
Semi-bush type

Prankster
3 lbs
Round shape
Shallow ribbing
Semi-bush type
Excellent stems and PM tolerance
Can be painted
Currently, there is lots of interest in growing large-sized pumpkins (about 20 to 30 lbs) especially for local markets. This allows these markets to set themselves apart from retail stores that typically carry the 12 to 18 lb jack-o-lantern types.
‘Appalachian’
- can often reach over 20 lbs
- somewhat elongated
- dark-orange
- large sturdy handles
- uniform size
Large-sized pumpkins

Aladdin
25-45 lbs
12” dia./15” height
IR to PM
Dark orange

Gladiator
15 to 25 lbs
12” dia./15” ht
IR to PM

Full Moon
25 - 30 lb.
White w/flat blisters
Full vine
Gold Medal
25-35 lbs average
Early

Super-Herc
25-35 lb
18” dia./26” height
Large and strong handle

Trojan
20-30 lbs
17” dia. x 15” height

Large-sized pumpkins
WARLOCK F1 (HMX 6685)

Unique rough skin
Suitable for roadside and shipping market
Large handle
Intermediate resistance to Powdery mildew
Tall fruit with excellent post-harvest ability
20-30 lb
dark orange
Carveable, semi-hardshell type
Good heat set variety
**MAGIC WAND F1 (HMX 6686)**

Newest addition to Magic lantern Class

Attractive round to slightly flat shape

Large, firmly rooted handle

Intermediate resistance to Powdery Mildew

Heavy ribbing

Very uniform in shape and size

Fruit diameter averages 13 in

Fruit weight ranges 15-25 lb

Fruit shape round slightly flat

Exterior color dark orange
Camaro

Very solid, heavy
20-25 lbs
Medium orange, slight ribbing
Vigorous plant growth with strongest resistance to PM
Medium orange fruit is dense and readily makes weight.
Fruit are about 11" in dia.
Dependable
Consistent performer in southern Illinois, 105 Days.
Dependable has shown consistent performance in growers' fields. It produces round to slightly tall fruit that have a bright orange color, good uniformity, medium ribs and weigh between 24-28 lbs. Dependable is has moderate to intermediate resistance to powdery mildew.
Unique Pumpkin Varieties
Goose bumps
8” ht x 8” width
8-12 lbs
Round
warts over skin surface

Knuckle head
12” ht x 10” width
12-16 lbs
Slightly elongated
Has warts all over skin surface
‘Cotton Candy’
- fruit size 8” dia. x 10“ height
- fruit averages between 5 - 12 lbs.
- white, slight ribbing
- full vine
## Pumpkin cultivar yields - 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>SmnoA</th>
<th>SmwtA</th>
<th>MednoA</th>
<th>MedwtA</th>
<th>LrgnoA</th>
<th>LrgwtA</th>
<th>XlrgnoA</th>
<th>XlrgwtA</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>2,688</td>
<td>1,286</td>
<td>20,006</td>
<td>933</td>
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<td>Camaro</td>
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<td>4,925</td>
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<td>498</td>
<td>10,041</td>
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<td>Dependable</td>
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<td>1,879</td>
<td>436</td>
<td>6,901</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>17,978</td>
<td>436</td>
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<td>Magic Lantern</td>
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<td>17,285</td>
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<td>Solid Gold</td>
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<td>9,204</td>
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<td>4,711</td>
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## Pumpkin cultivar yields continued - 2010.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Cultivar</th>
<th>%Sm</th>
<th>%Med</th>
<th>%Lrg</th>
<th>%Xlrg</th>
<th>Avg. wt.</th>
<th>Avg dia.</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>51</td>
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<tr>
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<td>64</td>
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<td>2</td>
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<td>Solid Gold</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>9.8</td>
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</table>
Pumpkin Cultivar Selection

A few other things to consider:

1) Has the cultivar generally performed well in your region (Midwest Vegetable Production Guide, Extension specialists, etc. will help)

2) Disease resistance package

3) Plant size at maturity bush, semi-vine or vine, as this will determine plant spacing requirements

4) Seed costs

5) Availability
Dependable—one of the best for southern Illinois
For Southern Illinois-

- Heat set ability of pumpkins is very important.
  - ‘Appalachian’ (heat set)
  - ‘Gladiator’ (poor heat set)
  - Aladdin (good heat set)
  - Dependable (good heat set)
  - ‘Magic Lantern’ (good heat set)
Questions?