

Performance of pumpkin varieties for Southern Illinois

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PUMPKINS





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





A wide-angle photograph of a vast pumpkin patch. The field is filled with numerous pumpkins of various sizes and colors, ranging from bright orange to some with greenish-yellow hues. The pumpkins are scattered across a field of dry, brownish grass and some remaining green leaves. In the background, there are trees and a building under a cloudy, overcast sky. A blue text box with yellow text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

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

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



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

Large-sized pumpkins

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





Knuckle head

12" ht x 10" width

12-16 lbs

Slightly elongated

Has warts all over skin surface

Goose bumps

8" ht x 8" width

8-12 lbs

Round

warts over skin surface





Knucklehead



'Cotton Candy'

- fruit size 8" dia. x 10" height
- fruit averages between 5 - 12 lbs.
- white, slight ribbing
- full vine

Pumpkin cultivar yields- 2010.

Cultivar	Yield							
	SmnoA	SmwtA	MednoA	MedwtA	LrgnoA	LrgwtA	XlrgnoA	XlrgwtA
Appalachian	270	2,688	1,286	20,006	933	18,917	104	2,794
Camaro	529	4,925	1,338	20,115	498	10,041	0	0
Dependable	249	1,879	436	6,901	840	17,978	436	11,957
Magic Lantern	1867	17,285	1,348	19,067	166	3,223	0	0
Magic Wand	643	6,038	1,659	24,311	539	11,243	62	1,666
Solid Gold	218	2,057	622	9,204	217	4,711	0	0

Pumpkin cultivar yields continued- 2010.

Cultivar	Yield				Avg. wt.	Avg dia.
	%Sm	%Med	%Lrg	%Xlrg		
Appalachian	10	51	35	4	17.0	10.3
Camaro	23	55	22	0	14.8	10.3
Dependable	14	22	42	22	19.6	10.6
Magic Lantern	58	38	4	0	11.5	9.4
Magic Wand	22	64	13	2	14.5	10.3
Solid Gold	19	60	22	0	15.2	9.8

Pumpkin Cultivar Selection

A few other things to consider:

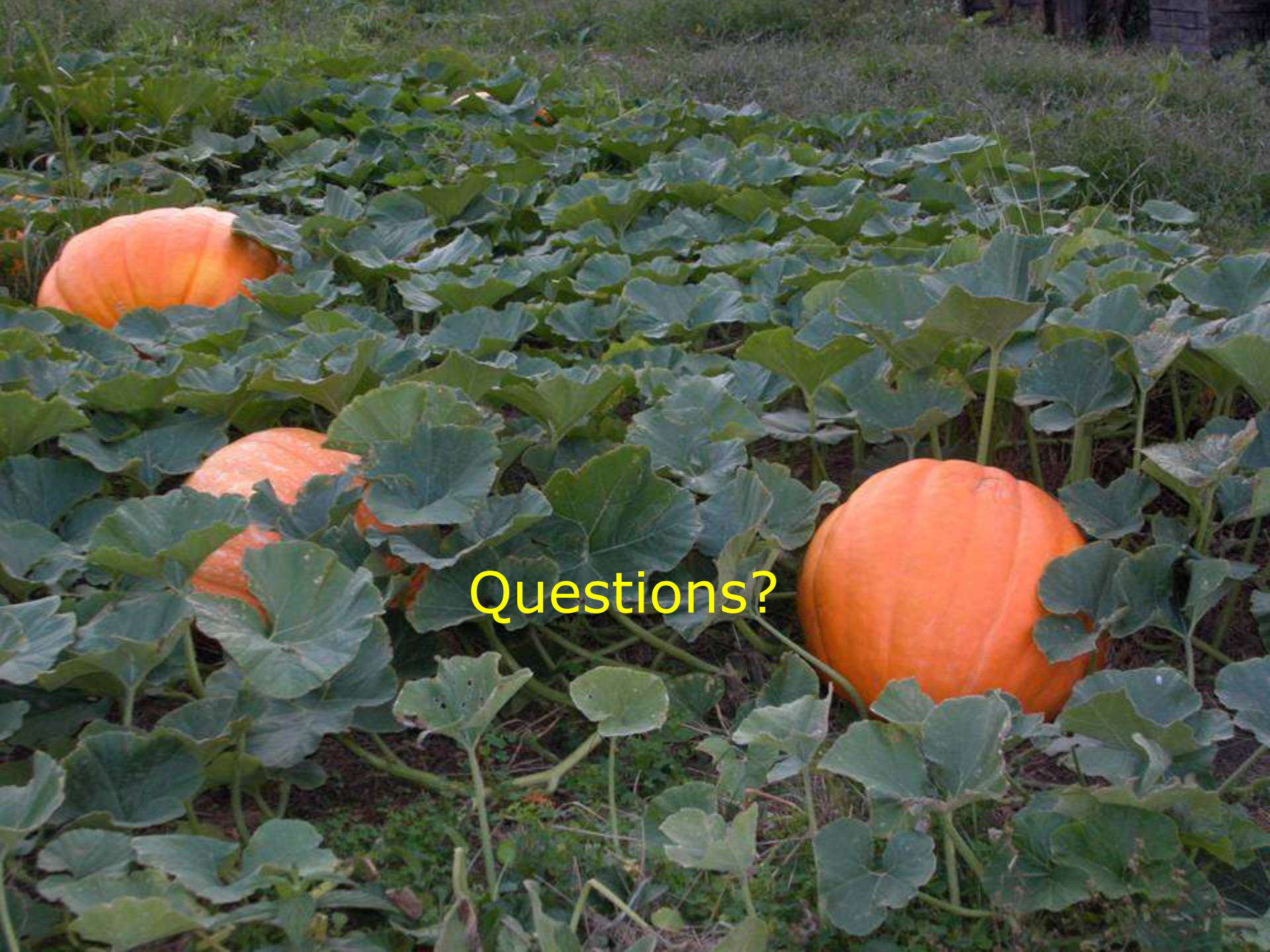
- 1) Has the cultivar generally performed well in your region (Midwest Vegetable Production Guide, Extension specialists, etc. will help)
- 2) Disease resistance package
- 3) Plant size at maturity bush, semi-vine or vine, as this will determine plant spacing requirements
- 4) Seed costs
- 5) Availability



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?