

Pumpkin Seed Harvesting

Growing and Harvesting Pumpkins

NDSU Extension – Cavalier County

Tips and Tricks

Needs warm soil to germinate.

Water around the base of the stem to reduce the possibility of leaf diseases.

Let picked pumpkins sit in a cool dry place for at least 20 days before removing seeds.



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Planting Pumpkin

Be sure to follow the planting instructions on either the original seed packets or the seed envelopes checked out from the Cavalier County library.

In-Season Considerations

When seedlings are 1-2 inches tall, thin to 2-3 seedlings per hill to reduce overcrowding and encourage healthier pumpkins. Keep different varieties at least ½ mile away to avoid cross pollination.

Harvesting Pumpkins

- Once mature, leave at least one pumpkin on the vine until a slight color change on the rind (skin) occurs.
- Pick the pumpkin once that has happened and let it sit in a cool, dark place for at least 20 days so seeds continue to ripen.
- Cut the pumpkin in half, scoop out the seeds, and clean the pulp off of them.
- Wash in a colander or strainer to remove any remaining pulp. Soak seeds for a few hours if needed, to loosen the remaining pulp.
- Lay seeds on a tray in a single layer to dry thoroughly.
- Once dry, place only the seeds into the envelope.
- A suggested minimum return amount is 1 teaspoon.

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