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FREE LEARNING SHEET

# How to Plant Pumpkin Seeds



A South Florida growing guide for kids and their grown-ups

## When to plant in South Florida

**Jan–Feb**
Spring planting

**Aug–Sep**
Fall planting

Tip: Seminole pumpkins and calabaza are made for Florida heat and are easy to grow.

## What you'll need

- ✓ Pumpkin seeds (saved or from a seed packet)
- ✓ A sunny spot with at least 6 hours of sun
- ✓ Garden soil or compost
- ✓ A small shovel, or your hands!
- ✓ Water and a plant marker

## Let's plant!

1. **Pick a sunny spot.** Pumpkins need at least 6 hours of direct sun every day.
2. **Build little hills of soil.** Make each mound about 3 feet from the next one. Pumpkin vines need lots of room to run!
3. **Plant 2 or 3 seeds in each hill,** about 1 inch deep. That's about as deep as the first bend of your finger. Cover them with soil.
4. **Water gently.** Keep the soil moist but not soggy. Water at the bottom of the plant, not on the leaves, to keep it healthy.
5. **Watch for sprouts** in a week or two. When the seedlings have a few leaves, keep the strongest one in each hill.
6. **Look for yellow flowers.** Bees visit the flowers, and that helps tiny green pumpkins start to grow.
7. **Harvest time!** From seed to pumpkin takes about 95 to 120 days. Pick your pumpkin when it's orange, the skin is hard and the stem turns brown.

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Planting dates: City of Fort Lauderdale. Growing tips: UF/IFAS Extension.

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# My Pumpkin Growing Journal

Name: _____ Date I planted: _____

| Day | Date | What I see | Height (inches) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Day 1 | | Seeds planted! | 0 |
| Day 7 | | | |
| Day 14 | | | |
| Day 30 | | | |
| Day 60 | | | |
| Day 90 | | | |

**Draw: my seed**

**Draw: my sprout**

**Draw: a flower**

**Draw: my pumpkin**

## Pumpkin math

1. You plant 3 seeds in each of 4 hills. How many seeds?

2. Your pumpkin needs about 100 days. If you plant on September 1, what month could you pick it?

3. Your vine grew 2 inches a day for 5 days. How many inches?

## Label detective

Find these on your seed packet:

Days to harvest: _____

Planting depth: _____

Space between plants: _____

Answers: 1) 12 seeds 2) December 3) 10 inches

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