

Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Plantlet Giveaway

Sunday May 19, 2013

You are invited to adopt a pumpkin seedling and grow a giant pumpkin that will become one of the stars of Pumpkinfest. Come to Pinkham's Plantation, 431 on Biscay Road in Damariscotta on Sunday, May 19 and pick up a free pumpkin plantlet at the Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Plant Giveaway. Bring your own five-gallon container to get free super-enriched compost to give your seedling a healthy start.

Pumpkinfest's Expert Panelists, Bill Clark, Curt Crosby, Tom Lishness, Edwin Pierpont, and Buzz Pinkham—all of whom are past Maine State Atlantic Giant Pumpkin champion growers—will be onsite to answer your questions and provide tips for growing a record-setting giant pumpkin.

Over 600 free Atlantic Giant Pumpkin seedlings will be available—seedlings that have been grown using seeds taken from last year's giants. Third graders from the Great Salt Bay School, Pumpkinfest's youngest squashbuckler volunteers, will plant the pumpkin seeds the week of May 9 while they learn all about pumpkin growing.

Pumpkins grown from these plants will become the granddaddies of the pumpkin patch, and are featured during Pumpkinfest as pumpkin boats in the regatta, ammunition in the hurl/catapult/drop, and turned into works of art and displayed on Main Street, Damariscotta/Newcastle during October.

The ambitious goal of Pumpkinfest is to collectively grow 500 pumpkins weighing a minimum of 100 pounds each for a total of 50,000 pounds of squash! Help meet this goal and ensure an ample supply of the giant squash for Pumpkinfest by picking up your free Atlantic Giant Pumpkin plantlet at the Pumpkinfest Giveaway on Sunday, May 19. Remember to bring a container to collect five gallons of super-enriched compost to give your plantlet a good start.

Aside from the recognition of growing one of the super squash that graces the Twin Villages during Pumpkinfest, you might wonder what's in it for pumpkin growers. Simple, a chance to grow a pumpkin large enough to take home a share of the \$10,000 total purse from the official GPC Weigh-Off!

While registering for your free plantlet, be sure to find out about participating in the "Pumpkin Pledge Program." Volunteer growers have the opportunity to obtain pledge-sponsors for their pumpkin from friends and family throughout the growing season to support their favorite non-profit organization. Pledges may be based on either a specified amount per pound for the pumpkin (for example, a penny a pound) or a flat rate (for example, \$5 total per pumpkin). The

Damariscotta Pumpkinfest, through its Pumpkin Pledge Program, has contributed over \$5,000 to local non-profits since 2009 thanks to our volunteer growers.

Pumpkinfest & Regatta is a 501(C)(3) organization whose mission is to promote education to citizens of all ages regarding the specific agricultural science required to grow giant pumpkins, and to provide local non-profit organizations with opportunities for dissemination of information on their activities and fundraising. For more information, visit www.damariscottapumpkinfest.com or follow us at www.facebook.com/damariscottapumpkinfest.com, or twitter, www.twitter.com/squashbuckler. Pumpkinfest is pleased to again have *Down East Magazine* as the official magazine sponsor for the festival.