



# Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta

## Fresh From the Patch...

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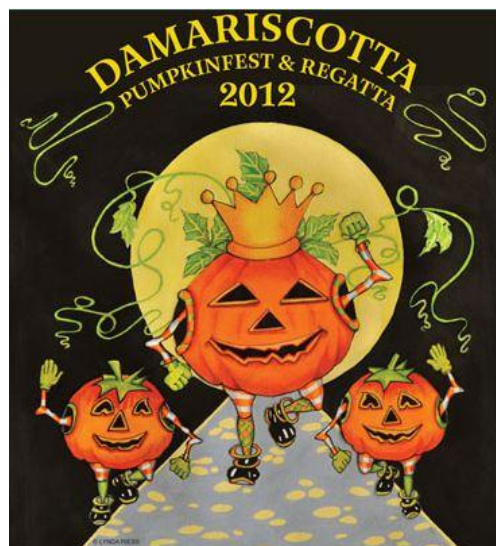
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## The Latest Dirt...



The colorful design of pumpkins celebrating the fun of Pumpkinfest by artist Lynda Riess has been selected to decorate the 2012 official Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta t-shirt. Lynda Riess lives in New Harbor, Maine and has worked both in England and the US. Her work has been published by more than thirty publishers, exhibited in galleries internationally including London, New York and Paris and has been exhibited worldwide by the British Association of Illustrators.

Lynda is delighted her work has been selected as she has loved the whimsy of Pumpkinfest: "It is wonderful to see so many in the community joining in this celebration as it grows more popular over the years. I had so much fun producing this design which I hope captures the joy and magic of Pumpkinfest".

Lynda Riess has donated her designs to Skidompha Library and the Lincoln Theater, Damariscotta. She works from her studio overlooking Pumpkin Cove, with her dog, Grace, at her feet. Grace doesn't know much about art, but knows what she likes (treats and chewies, mostly).

T-shirts and ball caps will be available from August 1, 2012, onward at the following Damariscotta retailers & sponsors, or email

[merchandise@damariscottapumpkinfest.com](mailto:merchandise@damariscottapumpkinfest.com)

- Supplies Unlimited at 47 School Street @ Main Street (Business Highway 1),
- Pinkham's Plantation at 431 Biscay Road,
- Romeo's Pizza at 436 Main Street,
- Rising Tide Community Market at 323 Main Street, and
- Hannaford Supermarket & Pharmacy at 469 Main Street.

All the official Pumpkinfest merchandise will be available downtown & at the remote event venues during Pumpkinfest as well. Please click [here](#) for a printable event schedule of Pumpkinfest.

#### **GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:**

If you are associated with a local non-profit and would like to hand out literature to the thousands of Damariscotta Pumpkinfest visitors during Columbus Day weekend, please contact our Non-Profits Committee chairman, Pam

Gormley at [pgormley@MSLN.net](mailto:pgormley@MSLN.net). An InfoZone area will again be available this year. You might also check to see if any of your organization members and friends are among the volunteer giant pumpkin growers. They are encouraged to take pledges for their pumpkins, half of which can be given back to the non-profit organization of their choice! Why not make it yours?!?

## 'WATERPROOF' PADDLERS & BOATERS WANTED FOR THE PUMPKINBOAT REGATTA !

ever wondered what it would be like to paddle or motor a 600# gourd ? this just might be your year to find out !! at least three teams, each composed of five competitors (3 primary + 2 alternate paddlers/boaters) are needed; how about creating your own 'pumpkinboat regatta team' from where you work, or go to school, or play ? boats and safety gear will be provided, or you can furnish your own ... if interested in participating up close and personal in the pumpkinboat regatta on Sunday morning, October 7, email Ken Smith at [regatta@damariscottapumpkinfest.com](mailto:regatta@damariscottapumpkinfest.com) and we will get your nautical career underway...

also needed are a couple of dozen loaned outboard motors, both 3-5 HP and 5-7 HP for the various motorized heats of the pumpkinfest's regatta .....the loan of an outboard motor would be very much appreciated!! Please contact Ken Smith at [regatta@damariscottapumpkinfest.com](mailto:regatta@damariscottapumpkinfest.com) and we will add your name to the list of generous volunteers and participants in the regatta !

### CALLING ALL PUMPKIN ARTISTS AND SCULPTORS:

Nancy MacKinnon, pumpkin artists committee chairman, would love to hear from any of you who are intrigued with the idea of sculpting or painting or decorating a main street pumpkin (contact her directly at: [GOWETHAFLO@aol.com](mailto:GOWETHAFLO@aol.com)) ... the giant pumpkins will be delivered downtown Thursday evening, October 4th on pallets, and will be available for carving immediately thereafter ... remember that these are giant pumpkins which, even hollowed-out, offer 'thickness' which can be sculpted for shading, depth and other artistic methods...

## Calling All Pumpkinheads...

**Volunteering** for Pumpkinfest is not only tons of fun, but it feels great to get involved in the wonderful community in which we live. There are many levels of participation, that cover a variety of different interests. Join us to find your niche and become a member of the Pumpkinfest family. For more information on volunteer opportunities available please email [jen@damariscottapumpkinfest.com](mailto:jen@damariscottapumpkinfest.com) .

## How Does Your Pumpkin Grow?

**Here's the Dirt on how to make your plant flourish during the next month, according to our expert grower Bill Clark...**

- Pumpkin plants do not like extreme heat and will not tolerate the cold. Therefore you need to do everything you can to keep the plant happy. Running a sprinkler for just a few minutes in the heat of the day will help prevent your plant from becoming stressed.

- In order to grow a big pumpkin, your plant needs to be kept as stress free as possible. Excessive heat is an enemy in that temperatures above 85 degrees will cause your plant to wilt, slowing down the energy process and thereby fruit growth. Frequent, short intervals of misting water over the leaves cools the plant by evaporational cooling and helps combat stress on those hot days. Sprinkler systems with a fine spray work well if nobody will be home to do it by hand, as the plant needs to be cooled every couple hours on those hot summer days.

- At this stage it is important to feed your young plantlets generously for the next month or so and bury the vines so that they start growing roots all along the vines, acting like a huge feeding system.

- As your vine grows, it will sprout what are known as secondary vines off of the main vine. These secondaries are where the plant gets much of its energy and should be nurtured as the main vine is. However, off these secondaries will grow more vines known as tertiary vines or sucker vines. These vines rob the plant of valuable nutrients and should be pinched off before they appear.

- Your plant can cover up more than 1000 square feet if left to grow unbridled so things need to be done so your plant doesn't become a 'jungle' of vines running every which way. Establishing a growing pattern for your plant is first. There are several growing patterns that growers use but the most widely used pattern is the so-called 'Christmas Tree'. Think of your plant as a christmas tree, where the main vine is the trunk and the secondaries are branches. Train your vines so that the main vine runs generally straight out from the stump and the secondaries grow perpendicular to the main

Growing Tips:

- Pumpkins produce both male and female flowers, males having longer stems and females having a shorter stem with a bulb or baby pumpkin under the blossom. The males will be the first to show and will be followed by the appearance of females a week or so after. Once the males start showing, they will come fast and furious for the next month or so. This is the signal that the time is near to pollinate. The ideal position to set a pumpkin is at least 10 feet from the stump along the main vine. When each female first appears, try to make a small outward curve in your vine 2 feet either side of the female so that the female or baby pumpkin is on the outside of this curve. This is to prevent stem stress later on as your fruit grows to huge sizes and can actually press on the vine and pop your fruit off, ruining your season. Make the curve slowly and carefully over the course of a few days so as to not snap the vine. To preserve the genetics of your pumpkin and to increase your odds of a successful fruit set, you need to hand pollinate your female flowers. When the female is ready to open, the blossom will be about 3 inches long and get an orange hue. The same goes for the male flowers. This means the flower will open the next morning and precautions need to be taken. First insure you will have 3 male flowers available for the next morning. The evening before, take a gallon zip lock bag and carefully cover the female and the 3 males, sealing the bottom to the stem. Try to inflate the bag so the petals don't touch the plastic. Tie-wraps placed gently around the top of each blossom works well also. Early the next morning, between 6 and 8am the flowers will open. Have a piece of yarn about 8" long with you, you'll need it later. Cut the males off the plant first, keeping them covered and watching out for aggressive bees. One by one remove the bag or tie-wrap from the males and carefully peel away the petals to the stem, trying not to jar or shake the flower as you do. You will see the stamen left on the stem, covered in pollen. Don't touch them or rub them on anything. Go to your covered female after it opens and carefully remove the bag or tie-wrap. Using the 3 males as a paintbrush, one at a time, carefully 'paint' and roll the pollen from the males over the segments in the center of the female flower, making sure the pollen covers as much of the segments as you can. Next, gently pull the petals of the female back up together, closing it off like it was before it opened and tie it closed with the yarn. Congratulations, you just hand pollinated your first pumpkin.

Weather patterns are a crucial element in growing a champion pumpkin which makes it critical to be informed of what's ahead. A great resource to do this is:

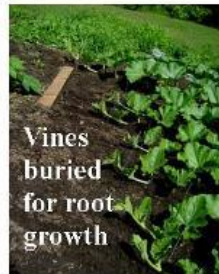
<http://radar.weather.gov/radar.php?rid=GYX&product=N0R&overlay=11101111&loop=yes>



Plant Properly Pruned



Vines Staked To Earth



Vines buried for root growth



Female Round Bulb at Base



Female covered overnight by stocking Cap



Male - No round bulb at base (tied shut night before pollination)



Removing male blossom petals creating a paintbrush covered with pollen to pollinate



Male Paintbrush ready for Pollination



Female leaves being opened for pollen paintbrush



Pollinating by brushing pollen on interior center



Hold stocking cap before covering pollinated blossom



Stocking Cap on Female Overnight after Pollination



Shade Female 24 hours after Pollination

**The Great Pumpkins' Favorite Picks...**

## Event Re-Caps....



This year's plantlet giveaway brought sunny skies and hundreds of excited pumpkin growers! Over 600 plants were given out that day and another 150 since then!

And of course Togus was there to supervise, as usual!



## 4th of July Round Pound and Yarmouth Clam Festival Parades!

Our famous pumpkin mascot joined several Pumpkinfest volunteers to show off the Pumpkinfest float in both of these popular summer parades!

## The Pumpkin Store...

Purchasing merchandise from our Pumpkinfest collection is an excellent way to help promote and support the Event and Maine Artists alike. Not to mention the added benefit of sporting really cool gear!

Commemorative Caps, T-shirts & Pins are now available for purchase, as well as our NEW 2012 Tee's...be one of the first in town to sport the new



design fresh off the press! For more information on how to purchase any of these great items please email [merchandise@damariscottapumpkinfest.com](mailto:merchandise@damariscottapumpkinfest.com)

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## Charter Sponsors...

And Last But Certainly Not Least...  
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