



THE T-SHIRTS ARE HERE!! THE HOODIES ARE HERE! THE CAPS ARE HERE!



Stop by Hannaford's Supermarket - Damariscotta, The Beach Plum Company in Newcastle, Main Street Grocery (the old Yellowfront Grocery), or Supplies Unlimited to get your new official 2018 Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta merchandise. You'll find T-shirts (both long and short sleeve), and hoodies featuring Marybeth

Canedy's winning design, which was chosen from among 17 entries that were submitted by 14 artists. Merchandise prices remain the same as in previous years, at \$20 for short sleeve T-shirts, \$25 for long sleeve t-shirts, \$40 for hoodies, \$20 for caps (which features Pumpkinfest's undated logo). To order online, email our volunteer with your items/sizes/shipping address at: merchandise@damariscottapumpkinfest.com.

LATE SEASON GROWING & HARVESTING TIPS

It's hard to believe, what with our recent August heat blast, but cooler weather is just around the corner. Be prepared for it!

Late Season Protection

Cold weather can sometimes come early in the northeast. Your pumpkin can continue to grow right up to the day you cut it free from the vine, only at a much slower rate. These extra few pounds can make a difference when it comes time to weigh your fruit. So extra steps need to be taken to protect your fruit and plant as cooler weather sets in.

(Note: keep sending us your pumpkin weight estimates!)

One thing that can be done to keep your fruit growing is to cover your fruit with a blanket or two when the temperatures at night dip into the 50's. The blanket will help keep the heat of the day in your fruit for a longer period at night, thereby encouraging continued growth.

Another step that can be taken to prolong your season is to protect the plant when the threat of frost looms later in the season. Pumpkin plants have **NO** tolerance for frost and even the a slight frost can leave you waking up to leaves that are black and wilted, ending your season. There are a couple things you can do to protect the plant when the temperature dips down to levels where frost is possible. Although somewhat labor intensive, erect a cover over as much of the plant as possible, keeping the heat of the day inside the enclosure and holding the frost at bay. This entails what amounts to a full-size greenhouse or a big cold frame, requiring quite a bit of material and added cost to your effort. Some growers will even use different types of heaters inside the enclosure to keep the temperature up.

Another, somewhat easier way to protect your plant from frost is to run sprinklers on a timer over the plant at intervals throughout the night. The water acts to warm the plant surface and prevent frost from forming. In either case, there is added effort involved and it is up to the individual grower as to what extent one will go to keep the plant growing late in the season. Orange tree growers use this technique too when threatened with unexpected frosts or freezes.

Harvest

Fruit should be harvested the day before the weigh off. When cutting a fruit from the vine, cut the vine a foot or two either side of the pumpkin stem but not the stem itself. This will maintain the integrity of the fruit and it will last longer when you display your big pumpkin. Some growers will even leave 3 to 4 feet on either side and place the cut ends into milk jugs filled with water to prevent as much weight loss as possible prior to the weigh off. A pumpkin cut from the vine can lose 2 lbs. or more a day in weight from water evaporation.

If the fruit measures more than 100 inches in circumference, you'll need more than two people to lift it onto a pallet. A pumpkin weighing 1,000 pounds or more will take heavy equipment and planning to harvest and transport. There are many different ways get your big pumpkin from the vine to the back of a truck or trailer for transportation. Ingenuity or pure manpower is the key.

Several online businesses such as www.pandpseed.com and www.Amazon.com sell lifting tarps made specifically for lifting heavy loads. These tarps are made of

reinforced material and have hand holes around the edges for lifting. When using these tarps, roll the pumpkin up on its side, taking care not to damage or knock off the stem. Stuff one end of the tarp under the pumpkin and spread out the other end on the ground. Roll the pumpkin back on the other side, onto the end of the tarp spread on the ground and pull the other end of the tarp out flat. Now it is just a matter of muscle to lift the fruit onto a cushioned pallet on the ground or into the back of a truck. A former world record pumpkin of 1385 lbs. was lifted using this method with 16 men.

Some growers use a lifting harness around the fruit and hoist the pumpkin with a tripod and chain fall. Others will dig a hole in front of the stem of the fruit, roll the pumpkin onto it's shoulders so the stem is in the hole, dig another hole for one end of the pallet to sit in so it won't kick or slide and slowly lower the fruit down on top of the pallet. There are many ways to move your fruit and prepare it for transportation. Whatever method is used, exercise extreme caution and think the process through. Nothing can reduce a grower to tears faster than damaging or splitting a fruit during harvest and transportation or even worse, having someone get hurt moving your fruit.

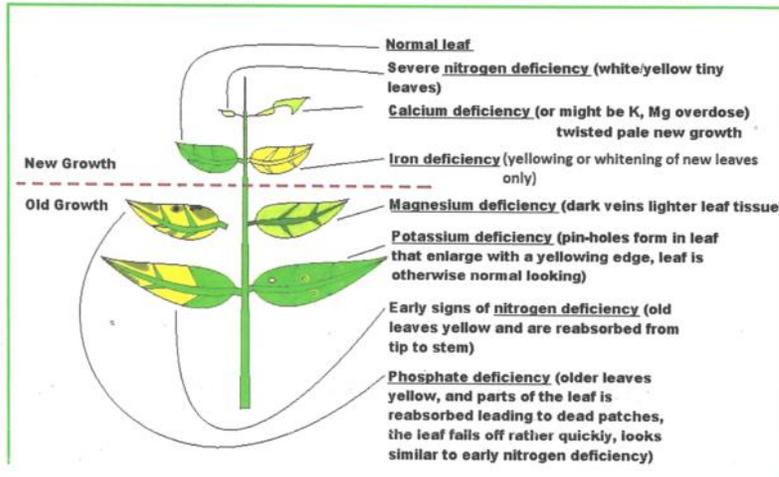
Maine's Pumpkin Trail, Like and follow!

Squashbucklers, fall foliage seekers and artists young and old: make your way to the Mid-coast for Maine's Pumpkin Trail! From Labor Day through October, celebrate the arts, history and giant fruit with the Maine Maritime Museum - Bath, ME, Visit Freeport, Boothbay Railway Village and Damariscotta Pumpkinfest & Regatta. Maine's Pumpkin Trail covers 40 miles of Maine's most charming coastline and features cruises, train rides, giant racing pumpkinboats, parades, street art, flying & smashing pumpkins, and events for the entire family! All aboard for Maine's Pumpkin Trail! <https://www.facebook.com/MainePumpkinTrail/>

Are Your Giant Pumpkin Plant's Leaves Looking Funky?

Check out the following graphic from the Southern New England Giant Pumpkin Growers:

Nutrient Deficiencies. It shows in your Pumpkin Plants Leaves. .
Can you Read your leaves. Get a Tissue Test to be sure.



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