

The 150 CHALLENGE 2024

Invitation: Everyone is invited to join the 150 Square Foot Pumpkin/Squash Challenge in 2024. It takes place from Feb 1st to October 31, 2024. The contest is to grow the heaviest Pumpkin or Squash possible in a patch of a maximum size of 150 square feet (14 square meters). You will be able to grow any Atlantic Giant seed you choose but only one entry per grower, is allowed.

Entry Fee and Prize Structure While everyone is invited there will be a **\$6.00 entry fee** per grower payable at the start of the challenge up until May 30, 2023, via mail (address below) or PayPal. (Ref: pumpconn@msn.com for PayPal) A list of all the contestants will be posted on Facebook and in the 'General Discussion' message board on BigPumpkins.com.

Prizes are listed below:

A custom *150 Challenge* embroidered Patch for all entrants

1st place prize for the heaviest contest pumpkin will be 50% of the collected entry fees

2nd place: 20%

3-5 place: 10% each

Two Random Draw winners (that did not finish in top 5)...\$25 ea.

One Random Draw winner for a 150 pumpkin that wins a GPC Howard Dill award..\$25

Closest to 400 lbs.....\$25

Closest to 550 lbs.....\$25

Closest to 700 lbs.\$25

Mail in address:
Steve Connolly
622 Massapoag Ave
Sharon, MA 02067

How and When to Enter To enter, declare your participation in the Contest by sending an email to pumpconn@msn.com (or a PM on Facebook to Steve Connolly) with your full name, email address or mailing address, and Bigpumpkins.com screen name.

Weigh off Requirements

1) The maximum area is 150 sq. ft. (14 sq. meter). The entire plant including the base of the pumpkin must be totally contained within the stated 150 area at all times. Increasing plant size by going vertical will NOT be permitted. A hydroponically grown pumpkin must be grown on one plane. A question was "do the leaves need to stay inside the contest area? The simple answer is NO. Leaves may hang over the outside of the 150 Sq Ft plot, but all vines and base of the pumpkin, and rooted leave stems must not touch the area outside the 150 SqFt boundary. A leaf that falls down outside the 150 area, is ok because it is not a 'rooted' part of the plant.

2) All weighed pumpkins must in sound condition, and will be weighed in accordance with GPC standards. Weights in kilograms will be converted to pounds.

3) Pumpkin can be weighed at any official weigh-off, on any date during the 150 Challenge, but must be weighed and entered on or before October 31, 2024. **To make it easier for everyone to follow your entry in your Bigpumpkins.com diary, or any Social Media's, you should make "150" a prominent part of each entry.**

Photo Log

4a) **An early photo of the patch** so all can see that each grower is making appropriate effort to grow in a 150 Sq.Ft patch. This photo should be taken early with or without a plant or hoop house. Because conditions can be very different from one growers location to another there is no mandatory posting date, but each grower is expected to make the best effort to be fair and timely.

4b) **The Keeper.** A photo of "keeper" is to be submitted when the pumpkin is up to 30 days old. It is expected that some sort of standard object (for size reference) be in all the pictures.

4c) **Full patch.** A photo once all patch space is occupied. The "150 SqFt" border markers should be visible in photo but its not mandatory.

4d) **Final Weigh-off picture.** A picture of you with your contest entry on the scale showing the weight, will count as the final official picture.

Current Record is 1375 lbs. Good luck this year. Have fun!