

Pumpkin

Cucurbita spp. · *Cucurbit* family

DIFFICULTY Easy
TYPE Annual vine, sown or seedling
MATURITY 90–120 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Deep, less freq.



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



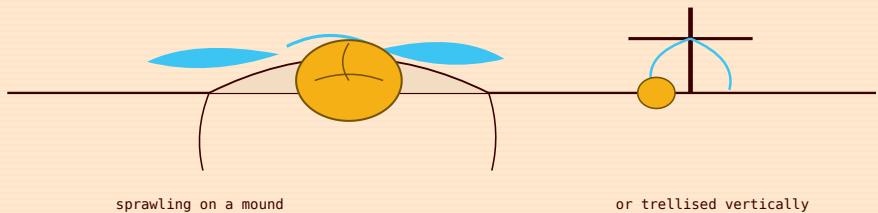
SPACING
1–2m mounds



DEPTH
2–3cm

01 Mound planting

Sow into a raised mound of rich soil so roots stay warm and well-drained. Vines sprawl 3–5m, or train them vertically up a sturdy trellis to save space.



02 Planting

METHOD	Sow 3–4 seeds per mound, thin to the strongest 2 seedlings.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained — heavy feeders. Dig in aged compost or manure first.
TIMING	Sow after frost risk passes and soil has warmed.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

04 Problems

- **Powdery mildew** — white coating in humid weather; improve airflow.
- **Pumpkin beetle** — chews leaves and fruit; hand-pick or net young plants.
- **Vine borer** — tunnels stems, causing sudden wilt; check the stem base.
- **Blossom end rot** — irregular watering; keep moisture consistent.

03 Growing care

- Water deeply at the base, avoiding wet leaves to reduce mildew.
- Mulch heavily around sprawling vines to retain moisture and suppress weeds.
- Hand-pollinate if bee activity is low — flowers are male or female.
- Support heavy fruit with a sling if trellising vertically.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Skin hardens and dulls, stem browns and shrivels, foliage dies back.
METHOD	Cut with secateurs, leaving 5–10cm of stem — never carry by the stem.
CURING	Cure in the sun or a warm spot 1–2 weeks to harden skin and sweeten flesh.
STORAGE	Cool, dry, ventilated. Keeps 3–6 months depending on variety.
PRESERVING	See Fermenting (fermented pickles) or Root Cellaring (storing winter squash and pumpkin) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.
RECIPES	Try our Roasted Pumpkin Soup — a way to use a glut.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Corn Beans Nasturtium	Potato	Rotate cucurbits on a 3-year cycle to limit soil-borne disease build-up.
Marigold		