

May 7, 2016

Triple crown for Minden giant pumpkin maestro

Minden's Geoff Frohloff remains king of the veggie patch, with his 202kg pumpkin leading him to his third consecutive win at the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Giant Pumpkin Competition in Ipswich this morning.

His pumpkin tipped the scales at just under a quarter of tonne, squashing second place by 18kg to take out the title of Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show.

Mr Frohloff said even though his pumpkin didn't pack on as many pounds as last year's 261.5kg whopper, he's still thrilled to secure his third win in a row.

"We're had pretty poor growing conditions this year, it was too hot and humid, plus I lost half the vine to disease," he said.

"Winning three years in a row feels pretty good, a real feather in my cap, it's a big honour."

The man known as the maestro of giant pumpkin growing says the secret to success is to grow them in brand new soil with fertilisers, organic material and lots of water.

"They need lots of tender loving care and attention, you should treat them like you're looking after a baby," he said.

Geoff also took out third place with a 168kg monster, while second place was awarded to Toowoomba's Jim Baxter with a smashing 184kg entry.

RNA Chief Executive Brendan Christou congratulated Mr Frohloff on his winning streak.

"The giant pumpkin competition is one of the show's most iconic events and Geoff deserves to be recognised and rewarded for his three years of success," he said.

"The Ekka is all about celebrating and showcasing agriculture and this competition certainly does that.

"Horticulture dates back to the first show held in 1876 and pumpkins have always played an important role in competitions and displays during the show."

The Giant Pumpkin Competition, sponsored by Pillow Talk, signals the countdown to Ekka with gates opening in just 90 days.

These heavyweights of the veggie patch will be on display at this year's Ekka as part of the Agricultural Hall Exhibit.

For more information head to www.ekka.com.au

2016 ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW – GIANT PUMPKIN COMPETITION RESULTS

Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show – Geoff Frohloff – 202kg

Class 1 – Open

1st Geoff Frohloff – 202kg
2nd Jim Baxter – 184kg
3rd Geoff Frohloff – 168 kg

Class 3 – Youth

1ST – Thomas Haag - 23.5kg

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