

December 15, 2017

Pumpkin patches to pack on the pounds

Proud pumpkin growers across Queensland will soon be trying to squash records, with entries opening today for the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) iconic Giant Pumpkin Competition sponsored by Pillow Talk.

The gargantuan gourds will roll onto the Plaza at the Brisbane Showgrounds in May 2018 for judging, with the competition held outside of the August Ekka to take advantage of premium pumpkin growing season.

The Frohloff family has become known as the pump-kings in recent years, with Tony Frohloff winning Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show earlier this year with a 257kg whopper. His Dad, Geoff, came second but still holds the 261.5kg Ekka record set in 2015, while his son Riley won the Youth Class with a 48.5kg entry.

The competition is open to all green thumbs who think they're destined for big things, including farmers and amateur gardeners. Schools are also encouraged to enter, with the competition a fun way to teach students about agriculture and the critical role it plays in our everyday lives.

As an added incentive, there is more than \$2,000 in prize money up for grabs, with \$700 awarded to the Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show.

For those who now have the seed of pumpkin growing planted in their head, free Giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds are available by emailing entries@royalqueenslandshow.com.au.

Entries close 5pm Friday 20 April 2018, but it's best to plant the seeds by the end of December 2017, as the oversized orange vegetables take around four and a half months to mature.

The public is invited to watch the judging and take selfies with the giant pumpkins on Saturday 12 May 2018. The pumpkins will also be displayed in the Agricultural Education Hall at Ekka from 10 - 19 August.

Horticulture dates back to the very first show in 1876, with the Ekka rewarding and recognising growers for producing the best of the best.

To enter the Giant Pumpkin Competition go to www.ekka.com.au/competitions/categories

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