

31 October 2021

## Good gourd! Growers vine for smashing pumpkin success

Tis the season of the pumpkin and to ensure Queensland's pump-kings can grow their gargantuan gourd the RNA is launching its 2022 Ekka Giant Pumpkin Competition on the year's greatest celebration of the pumpkin – Halloween.

Entries to the iconic Ekka Giant Pumpkin Competition supported by Pillow Talk open today, offering the heavyweights of the vegie patch their chance to shine.

Offering more than \$3,400 in prize money, the 2022 competition will feature two classes testing the growing skills of farmers, gardeners and students to see who can harvest the heaviest giant pumpkin.

The Open Class, which is for exhibitors 19 years and over who have grown a pumpkin of at least 70 kilograms, will offer a \$600 first prize; a \$400 second prize and a \$300 third prize.

Those entrants with pumpkins over 80 kilograms will be in the running for a \$850 prize for the winner of the coveted Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show.

The Youth Class is open to individuals or school groups 18 years and under who have grown a pumpkin of at least 25 kilograms.

The kids can cash in too with the winning Youth entries in the running for a \$600 first prize, \$400 second prize and \$300 third prize.

It's best to plan and begin growing your competition-squashing pumpkin in November 2021 to ensure it has enough time to grow. The vegetable takes around four and half months to mature.

Growers can request their FREE Giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds and an information pack by emailing [education@royalqueenslandshow.com.au](mailto:education@royalqueenslandshow.com.au).

The competition is curriculum-aligned for Years 1, 9 and 10, planting the seed of knowledge about the importance of agriculture.

However, everyone from farmers and gardeners to students are welcome to enter. For the first time school groups can grow their gourd off school premises, giving them the opportunity to tend to their entry during the Christmas school holidays.

Judging will take place in the Royal International Convention Centre at the Brisbane Showgrounds on 12 February 2022, with the competition held outside of the August Ekka dates to take advantage of the premium pumpkin growing season.

Entries close 9 February 2022. For more information and to enter go to [www.ekka.com.au/competitions](http://www.ekka.com.au/competitions).



ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW

# MEDIA RELEASE

The Giant Pumpkin Competition record is currently held by giant pumpkin veteran Geoff Frohloff with his 2015 entry crushing the competition, weighing in at 261.5kg.

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