Ekka
ROYAL QUEENSLAND SHOW
Presented By: BOQ

# MEDIA RELEASE

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# A giant challenge awaits as entries open for Ekka's iconic pumpkin competition

It might be Halloween eve, but the real monsters will soon be growing in Queensland paddocks, schools and backyards, with entries now open for the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Giant Pumpkin Competition presented by Pillow Talk.

The competition offers more than $3,400 in prize money, with a bonus $1,000 up for grabs for any winning entry weighing more than 350kg.

Featuring two classes - Open and Youth (for individuals or school groups aged 18 years and under) - the competition gives growers of all ages the chance to showcase their supersized gourds.

Dating back to the first Ekka in 1876, the Giant Pumpkin Competition is one of the Show's most iconic and anticipated agricultural competitions, attracting a record number of entries last year.

For schools, the competition offers more than just prize money. It provides a hands-on learning experience across science, mathematics, sustainability and agriculture, with students exploring plant growth, measurement, data collection, environmental factors and problem-solving.

Queensland schools have already proven they can think big, with Toowoomba's Downlands College holding the competition record after growing a monster 368.5kg pumpkin in 2024, smashing the previous record of 261.5kg set in 2015.

After months of nurturing their giant gourds, competitors will bring their pumpkins to the Brisbane Showgrounds on Saturday 20 March 2027 for judging. Held outside the traditional August Ekka dates, the competition takes advantage of Queensland's optimal pumpkin-growing season.

Keen growers and schools can get started by requesting free giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds through the Ekka website.

Entries close Saturday 13 March 2027. To enter or request free seeds, click here.

**The 2027 Ekka will be held from August 7-15. Follow us on socials.**


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