

October 31, 2025

Time to get growing as entries open for the Ekka's Giant Pumpkin Competition

Growers are being urged to get their green thumbs ready, with entries opening today on Halloween for the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Giant Pumpkin Competition supported by Pillow Talk.

The 2026 competition marks the return of the iconic Ekka event, following the cancellation of the 2025 judging day due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Entrants can share in more than \$3,400 in prize money, including a \$1,000 bonus for any winning pumpkin tipping the scales at over 350kg. The prestigious Pillow Talk Champion Heaviest Pumpkin of Show title is worth \$850, while first place in each class takes home \$600, second \$400, and third \$300.

Two classes – Open and Youth – will test the growing skills of farmers, gardeners and students. Schools are encouraged to get involved, with the competition curriculum-aligned for Foundation to Grade 10, supporting subjects such as biology and mathematics.

Downlands College in Toowoomba proved students can go large, setting the Ekka record in March 2024 with a monster pumpkin weighing 368.5kg.

Free Giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds are available to order via the Ekka website - just in time for December, the recommended month to start growing your gourd to glory.

Judging will take place at the Brisbane Showgrounds on Saturday 28 March 2026. The competition is held outside the usual August Ekka dates to take advantage of the prime pumpkin-growing season.

Entries close Friday 27 February 2026. To enter, visit the Ekka [website](#).

For the latest updates, follow us on social media @TheEkka



MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Nicole Clifton
Media and Communications Advisor
Ph: 0417 451 775
Email: nclifton@rqa.org.au