

## Growing Pumpkins and Gourds

### PUMPKINS

This is the time of year when we notice the pumpkins and wish we had grown our own. Plan now for next year, and make sure you don't miss out on having your very own jack-o-lantern to carve from your own garden.

Plant pumpkins when the soil is warm. If you want them to mature just before Halloween, plant seeds June 5-15.

Be sure to check the "days until maturity" for each variety to make sure this time line will work; it may vary a bit.

Pumpkins need lots of growing room. They are usually planted in hills, 5 - 6 feet apart in rows 10 to 15 feet apart.

They like very well-drained soil where there will be no standing water. Give them plenty of sun to avoid disease problems, especially powdery mildew.

Pumpkins are also very sensitive to any kind of weed control, so make sure to plant them in a spot where you haven't used any herbicides for a couple years.

When spraying your yard, make sure you don't allow any drift to fall onto your plants; this would cause them to curl up almost instantly.

Keep pumpkin vines free of weeds by shallow cultivation. These vines have shallow root systems, which benefit from deep watering, so irrigate during extended dry periods.

Stay on the look-out for cucumber beetles and squash bugs, which can cause damage to the pumpkins and spread disease.

Harvest pumpkins when the rind or skin has become tough. This generally occurs when the skin is a deep solid orange.

Cut vines carefully from the plant with pruning shears or loppers. Leave 3 - 4" of the vine attached to the pumpkin for a handle; they tend to keep better with the stem still attached.

Pumpkins can handle a frost, but any temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit can be damaging to the fruit.

Once picked, it is best to store them in an area that is between 50 - 55 degrees, where they can stay for a couple months.

### GOURDS

Gourds are another fun plant to grow for fall decorations. Just count back the days of maturity to make sure they are ready for fall.

As with pumpkins, give them plenty of room to grow and lots of sunshine. Gourds can last for months after harvest. Spray gourds with clear shellac to give them a shiny appearance and extended shelf-life.

Next year plan ahead and plant pumpkins and gourds to harvest for fall decorations. ❁

### What to do in October

- Plant trees, shrubs, Dutch bulbs and hardy mums
- Apply fertilome Weed Out for dandelions and other broadleaf weeds
- Plant grass seed by about October 20th
- During late October to early November, fertilize your established trees, shrubs and evergreens
- Pick out some pumpkins and gourds to decorate for fall
- Enjoy the beauty of fall, and come to Blueville for Fall Field Days, Oct. 10th!

Blueville Nursery's annual

## Fall Field Days

Saturday, October 10



# Nancy's Notebook

## Great time for Broadleaf Weed Control

First of all, the best way you can prevent weeds in your lawn is to grow a dense turf. A healthy, thick lawn chokes out invading weeds.

A good fertilizing program, proper mowing techniques and regular, deep irrigation all contribute to a healthy turf.

October is an optimal time of year to apply weed controls, because broadleaf weeds are actively growing.

Used properly, broadleaf weed killers are highly effective, but it is important to apply at the right time and in the right way.

For example, the granules of Fertilome Weed Out, which are applied with a spreader, must stick to the leaves of the weeds to be effective. This requires moisture.

The perfect time to apply is in early morning when there's a heavy dew or after a rain or you have just irrigated.

You do not want the product to be washed off for at least 24 hours; 48 hours is better.

If you choose not to fertilize,

there are liquid broadleaf controls, applied with a hose-end sprayer, that do not require a wet lawn.

Some people are still concerned with crabgrass, but as soon as we get some good freezes it will die back. Crabgrass is an annual, but it will leave seed, so make sure you apply Fertilome Crabgrass preventer in the spring.

Also, DO NOT apply weed control to any newly seeded lawns.

Hope to see you at Fall Field Days! It is sure to be a great time! ❁

## BUY 3 TREES, WE PLANT 'EM FREE

...SALE

Saturdays; October 31,  
November 7 & 14

Buy three container trees at the Garden Store and we will plant them for free.

Standard charges apply for additional trees and planting.

## BIG OL' TREE SALE

Saturdays, October 3 & 17

### Trees available

Burgundy Belle Maple • Autumn Blaze Maple • Urbanite Ash  
Chanticlear Pear • Fall Fiesta Sugar Maple • Assorted Crabapples

### Discounts

Buy 1 = 20% off    Buy 3 = 30% off  
Buy 2 = 25% off    Buy 4 = 40% off

### Original Prices

3" = \$375  
4" = \$475  
5" = \$575  
6" = \$675

Supply limited! Prices do not include planting. Warranty replacement may be a smaller tree. MYKE warranty does not apply.

