

PONDEROSA

F1 Hybrid Grey Pumpkin

OUTSTANDING QUALITIES

- ◆ IDEALLY SUITED FOR COOL SEASON PRODUCTION
- ◆ MEDIUM MATURING
- ◆ STORES VERY WELL
- ◆ LARGE ATTRACTIVE FRUIT
- ◆ HIGH YIELD POTENTIAL



Ponderosa is a medium maturing grey-skinned hybrid pumpkin with an excellent yield potential. Vines are indeterminate, vigorous and very productive and the leaves provide good cover to the fruit. The fruit are an attractive light grey colour and are larger than Crown Prince, very uniform and weigh in the region of 7 - 9 kg; however fruit of over 11 kg have been regularly recorded. The fruit ribbing is distinct and the rind is very thin. Flesh is thick and deep orange in colour. Due to the fruit size, **Ponderosa** lends itself to cool season production.

SPECIAL VARIETAL REQUIREMENTS

- In very hot weather it may be necessary to harvest as soon as the crop is fully mature to avoid cracking and sunburn which causes the rind to turn pink

CHARACTERISTIC*	PONDEROSA
KIND	F1 hybrid pumpkin (<i>Cucurbita maxima</i> Duchesne.)
TYPE	Grey-skinned pumpkin
MATURITY	Medium (100 - 115 days from direct sowing)
SEASON	Widely adapted for production after danger of frost has passed
PLANT TYPE	Indeterminate vine
FRUIT SHAPE	Medium deep
FRUIT SIZE	Large, 7 - 9 kg
FRUIT RIBBING	Medium
FRUIT FLESH	Thick and even, firm texture
FLESH COLOUR	Deep orange
RIND COLOUR	Light grey
SEED CAVITY	Medium
STORAGE ABILITY	Excellent, up to 6 months if harvested correctly
UNIFORMITY	Excellent
PLANT SPACING GUIDE	1.6 – 2.5 m between rows, for in-row spacing see page 2
POPULATION GUIDE	5 000 - 6 000 final stand per ha
AVERAGE SEED COUNT	3 800 - 4 300 per kg
MARKETS / END USE	Fresh market, pre-packing and processing
SPECIAL FEATURE	Extra large fruit suitable for cool season production

* Characteristics given are affected by production methods such as soil type, nutrition, planting population, planting date and climatic conditions. Please read disclaimer.

 WARNING: VARIETY PROTECTED UNDER **PLANT BREEDERS RIGHTS**. UNAUTHORIZED MULTIPLICATION AND/OR MARKETING OF SEED PROHIBITED.

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Resistance: is the ability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest or pathogen and/or the damage they cause when compared to susceptible plant varieties under similar environmental conditions and pest or pathogen pressure. Resistant varieties may exhibit some disease symptoms or damage under heavy pest or pathogen pressure (HR = High resistance, IR = Intermediate resistance).

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GENERAL TIPS FOR PUMPKIN PRODUCTION

Climatic requirements

The important factors regarding climatic requirements for pumpkins and squashes are soil temperature, air temperature and humidity.

Soil temperatures

Pumpkin and squash are warm-season crops and perform best when soil and air temperatures are above 15 °C. Above 15 °C, seedlings should emerge within seven days. Seed germinates poorly below 13 °C and requires two to three weeks to emerge. No germination takes place at temperatures below 10 °C. Seed may decay before germination if planted in cold, wet soils.

The optimum soil temperature for root development is 20 °C. In comparison with other cucurbits, pumpkin seed are more resistant to the injurious effects of low temperatures. Black plastic on raised beds will speed soil warming and can dramatically increase early and total yields. Seed or transplants can be planted through the plastic by hand or with machinery designed for direct seeding through plastic.

Air temperature

Vegetative growth, flowering and fruit-set are greatly affected by temperature. Cucurbits are sensitive to frost and are injured at temperatures below 0 °C. Almost no growth takes place at temperatures below 15 °C, but rapid growth takes place at temperatures between 18 and 27 °C. Plants generally grow more luxuriantly at higher temperatures.

Relatively low temperatures and short daylight periods promote the formation of more female flowers in relation to male flowers. As the temperature and day light period increase, the process is reversed. At extremely high temperatures only male flowers may be formed.

Temperatures have an important effect on dehiscence of the pollen sac. This applies especially to the minimum temperature, as pollen will still be released above the optimum temperature, but not below the minimum temperature.

The length of the growing season is determined by temperature. This fact must be kept in mind when plantings are planned. Early plantings are subjected to relatively low temperatures at the beginning of the

growth period, while late plantings, on the other hand, are subjected to relatively low night temperatures at the end of the growth period. Under these conditions the period of the crop on the land is extended. The length of the growing season for pumpkins from planting to harvesting can be between 85 and 120 days, depending on the variety and growth conditions.

Humidity

Pumpkins prefer long periods of warm dry weather. Areas with a high humidity during the growing season can be troubled with fungus diseases especially if the moist period occurs at the end of the growing season.

Pumpkins, cucumbers and squashes are less sensitive to these diseases than watermelons and muskmelons. In these areas production is dependent on a highly efficient spraying programme. A long rainy period just before or during harvesting can cause the fruit to rot, especially on the heavier types of soil.

Plantings must be planned in such a way that flowering does not occur during periods when cool, cloudy or moist weather is expected. Bees do not work under such conditions with the result that pollination and fruit-set will be poor.

Plant spacing guide: Distance between plants in the row:

Between row spacing	Plant population (plants/ha)	
	5000	6000
1.6 m	125 cm	104 cm
2.00 m	100 cm	80 cm
2.50 m	80 cm	65 cm

Susceptibility definition:

Susceptibility (S) is the inability of a plant variety to restrict the growth and development of a specified pest or pathogen.

Tolerance definition:

Tolerance (T) is the ability of a plant variety to endure **abiotic stress** without serious consequences for growth, appearance and yield. Vegetable companies will continue to use tolerance for abiotic stress.

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