

Do It Yourself Garden Projects

BLACK GOLD®

10 Best-Tasting Pumpkins and Winter Squash You Can Grow

When picking a winter squash or pumpkin to start in spring, I think of fall pumpkin pie, soup, muffins, and butternut ravioli instead of good looks. If a squash looks pretty, even better, but taste comes first. Varieties with sweet, complex flavor and smooth texture have made the list.



JESSIE KEITH

Sun Gro Horticulture Gardening Expert



1: Most pumpkins and winter squash take over 100 days to start bearing fruit after planting, which is why they are late-season fruits. But they are well worth the wait. Put them up for winter and enjoy them through spring. Here are 10 of our favorite pumpkins and winter squash for superb taste. Many are also award-winning.



2: Buttercup squashes are squat and blocky. Bonbon is an extra delicious variety with smooth, deep orange meat that is high yielding and award-winning.



3: This small-fruited butternut has smooth, sweet flesh with rich flavor. It stores well for up to three months. Squashes are borne on short, disease-resistant vines.



4: Here's a cute, classic, bright orange pumpkin with big flavor. When cooked, it is smooth and sweet for exceptional pie, cake, muffins and soup. Its short vines are powdery mildew resistant.



5: Delicata-type squashes all have superior flavor, but Honey Boat is said to be the best. Its flesh is drier, but very sweet and flavorful. The squashes are thin-skinned, so they have a short storage life.



6: Grown on tidy, semi-bush plants, 'Honeybear' has small fruits that are super sweet and tasty.



7: Here's a medium-sized pumpkin that serves three purposes in one. It makes perfect Jack-o-lanterns, great pies, and its hulls seeds are delicious when roasted.



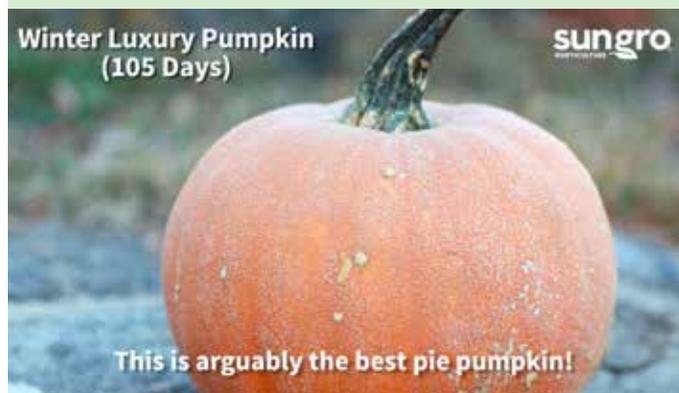
8: Sunshine has bright red skin and deepest orange flesh that is perfectly smooth and ideal for pies, cakes, and mashing. It grows on short vines.



9: Sweet dumpling is another squat little acorn squash that is very sweet as well as beautiful. Use it for decorating before eating.



10: This is the perfect pie pumpkin for smooth texture and excellent flavor. The pale orange fruits have light netting and are very thin skinned. This is not a good keeper, so eat or process the squash within the first month or so after harvest.



11: Winter squashes need to be started in spring for fall harvest. Be sure to plant them outdoors after the threat of frost has passed and soil has warmed to 70 degrees F. They need all-day sun and require lots of space.



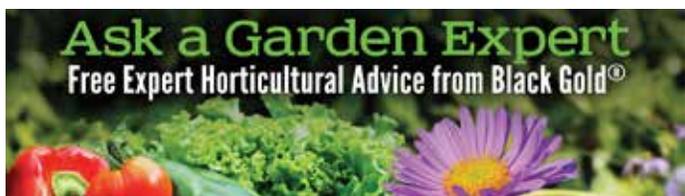
12: I plant mine in small mounds amended with lots of organic matter, like Black Gold Garden Compost Blend and Garden Soil. This encourages deep rooting but also provides plenty of drainage.



13: If you love your pie, then any one of these varieties will give you the flavor you want!



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