

GROWING GUIDE

For the Long Island Cheese Pumpkin



1. **SOIL:** Fertile, well-drained soil with a pH of 5.8–6.8 is best.
2. **TRANSPLANTING:** Sow 2 seeds in 1½–2" cell-type containers. Thin to 1–2 plants. Harden plants 4–7 days by moving plants outside if there is no frost danger. Transplant out after danger of frost has passed; (recommended mid—May). Place 24–36" apart.
3. **DIRECT SEEDING:** Sow in late spring (mid-May — beginning of June) when soil is warm — at 70°F (21°C) for LIRSC Seeds. **Note:** seeds will rot in cool wet soil). Sow 2 seeds every 24" at 3/4–1" deep. Thin to 1 plant per spot as the vine is sprawling.
4. **PLANT SPACING:** 36 to 72 inch row spacing in full sun for successful fruiting.
5. **GERMINATION:** 4-7 days.
6. **TIMING:** 98 days to maturity.
7. **HARVEST:** Optimal time to harvest is in the beginning of September when the color is well developed and the rind is hard. Cure for a week off the vine in the sun. Then store for **at least** 2 weeks to concentrate sugars in a cool dry place. The pumpkin will store for many months when properly cured.
8. **INSECT PESTS:** Black plastic mulch and floating row cover can also be used to ward off cucumber beetles (Cucumber beetles can carry bacterial wilt and must be controlled. In addition, squash bugs and vine borers can be a challenge.) which eat young seedlings and spread disease. Remove row cover when flowers open to allow for insect pollination. Squash bug eggs laid on the underside of leaves may be located and crushed.