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Help-to-buy Scheme is Detached From How we Really Live

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Halloween lanterns, but why not grow and eat pumpkins, too? Here's how to do it.

Don’t you love pumpkins? The idea of a fiery-red, crackling kube of the gourds, overflowing with great-humour and flashy self-importance. Their exaggerated forms are a glorification of our bounty, connecting with the harvest during this October festival.

The custom of carving pumpkins — now so easily schmoozed theses days — was invented by Dutch settlers in 1623. They brought the practice here from the Netherlands, but why not give a go at your own pumpkins in the fall? Here are some suggestions for how to grow and eat pumpkins.

**Growing Pumpkins**

1. **Selecting Varieties:**
   - **Giant:** If you're after a prize-winner, you'll need to choose a variety known as the “Jack-o-Lantern.” These pumpkins are the largest of all, with weights ranging from 200-1000 lbs. They are usually grown for ornamental purposes, but can also be cooked in numerous ways, including making them into pumpkin pie.
   - **Mini:** Smaller varieties are more manageable and easier to grow, making them perfect for beginners. These pumpkins are ideal for baking, roasting, or even carving jack-o-lanterns.

2. **Sowing Seeds:**
   - **Timing:** Sow seeds indoors 6-8 weeks before the last expected frost, or directly into the garden in mid May, and the seedlings should not be disturbed. All fall under the Cucurbita pepo species. All are tender, thriving in a lot of time. There are hundreds of cultivars worldwide, with many names given in honor of their discoverers.

3. **Caring for the Plants:**
   - **Exposure:** Pumpkins need a lot of sun, and should be grown in a warm, sunny location.
   - **Watering:** Water deeply once a week, allowing the soil to dry out before watering again.
   - **Fertilizing:** Use a balanced fertilizer every 4-6 weeks.

4. **Harvesting:**
   - **Ripeness:** Once the fruit has started to turn yellow, it’s time to harvest. Cut the stem at the base of the pumpkin to prevent it from rotting.
   - **Storage:** Store uncut pumpkins in a cool, dry place for up to three months.

**Eating Pumpkins**

1. **Baking:** The simplest way to prepare pumpkins is to bake them whole. Cut the pumpkin in half, scoop out the seeds and stringy bits, and roast for between one and two hours, until the flesh is soft. These can be cooked in numerous ways, including pumpkin pie, pumpkin soup, and pumpkin seeds.

2. **Roasting:** Pumpkins can also be roasted, which brings out their natural sweetness and makes them tender.

3. **Squash:** Certain varieties of pumpkins are known as squash, and are typically grown for their edible flesh rather than their seeds.

**Did You Know?**

- **Pumpkin weights are traditionally cultivated in Japan, where the fruit is known as ‘Kabocha.’**
- **In this country, seed must be sown in charge by local authorities, and non-members.**
- **The scheme also ignores the fact that multiple new households, who do not exist in any numbers to justify it.**
- **Grow HQ’s family fun day includes pumpkin picking, a quiz, and lunch in the cafe.**
- **Jane digs . . .**

**Templates for making a ‘Trendy Trumpet’ can be found online.**

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**Help to buy scheme is detached from the home we really live on.**

The government’s help-to-buy scheme, announced in Budget 2014, was rightly critiqued by many people. Various ministers nodded at a little i’s listening, but often had little time for or interest in their latest initiatives.

In research carried out by Eryndiné and the property market analysts, it was found that only a small number of buyers were interested in the help-to-buy scheme. In most cases, the buyers were more interested in the potential for future home improvements.

Two other things flow from the result when the proposal was announced. First, the silence from small banks was daunting, which was strange given the already crowded personal space for small banks.

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**Have some fun with the Joyful Orange Giant**

The monster versions can be turned into Halloween lanterns, but why not grow and eat pumpkins, too? Here’s how to do it.