

5 sites & ten videos about

# Pumpkins

Is a pumpkin a fruit or a vegetable? How big can a pumpkin grow? Let's find out!

## 1. Veggie or fruit?

The History Channel <http://bitly.com/1660I3o> says pumpkins are vegetables, as noteworthy members of the gourd family. Their cousins include cucumbers, melons, cantaloupes and watermelons. They are native to Central America and Mexico, but now grow on six continents.

## 2. What country first turned pumpkins into scary jack-o-lanterns?

A. Mexico B. Ireland C. USA

The University of Illinois <http://bitly.com/181EqQe> says that the Irish and Scottish carved the first jack-o-lanterns out of turnips; but then they started using pumpkins imported from America.

## 3. Can a pumpkin weigh more than a New Jersey Governer?

Yes. At <http://bitly.com/18WXKOi> you'll learn about a guy in New Hampshire who grew one that weighted one ton, or 2000 pounds. If you want to grow a giant one yourself, you might want to visit a site like <http://www.howarddill.com/> but the seeds can cost \$50 each.



## 4. How far can you throw a pumpkin?

At <http://www.punkinchunkin.com/> you can learn about this crazy new sport where people build special machines that can launch their pumpkins into the air.



## 5. Which types of pumpkins are best for carving?

At Pumpkin Masters <http://bitly.com/160lCCt> you'll learn how to pick out the perfect pumpkin for carving. They say you should find one that sits up easily, doesn't have any dark mold spots and is lighter-colored and softer.

*Have a Safe Halloween!* <http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/>

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Thanks to Megan Billitti for this month's column.

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## STUFF TO DO

**1. Roast some pumpkin seeds.** Here's how! A site called "All Recipes" provides instructions: <http://bitly.com/1cc1JI6>

**2. Carve a strange looking pumpkin!** At Better Home & Gardens you can learn how to make a pumpkin stencil <http://bitly.com/1frECgr>



## Pumpkin videos

Here's are videos for this month

[http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBVHzUUEKwnsRvdPDA3y9dWgbv\\_zBiHR](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcBVHzUUEKwnsRvdPDA3y9dWgbv_zBiHR)

