

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Soil Fertility
- Cover crops
- Planting Date
- Equipment
- Variety Selection
- Common Diseases
- Common Insects
- Marketing Options





SOIL SAMPLING

- Pumpkins need a pH of 5.8 to 6.6 for optimum growth
- A routine soil test package includes plant-available levels of P, K, Ca, Mg, Zn, Mn, Cu, Fe, B, plus soil pH and estimated CEC, along with fertilizer and lime recommendations for the specified crop
- https://www.soiltest.vt.edu/fees-and-forms.html



RECOMMENDED COVER CROPS

- Small grains (Rye or Wheat)
- Corn Stubble



 Cover Crops retain moisture in the soil, reduce weed pressure, and help keep soil off fruit preventing decay



PLANTING DATES AND FERTILIZATION

- Planting date will depend on Market, but most are planted late May and first two weeks of June
- Soil needs to be 60 degrees F if not corn maggot injury can occur
- Plant in Single rows 30 to 40 inches apart with 8 to 12 feet between rows
- Fertilizer
 - 80-150-150 broadcast
 - 40-75-75 banded or in row





EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Tractor
 - Needs enough horsepower to pull your selected planter and sprayer
- Planter
 - No till corn planter
- Irrigation
 - Traveling Reel
 - Over Head
 - Drip
- Sprayer
 - Orchard blast gives best coverage, but others can be used
 - Will also need a pesticide applicator license
- Transport Vehicle to deliver pumpkins



VARIETY SELECTION

HTTPS://EXTENSION.PSU.EDU/PUMPKIN-PRODUCTION

*HYBRID VARIETY, POWDERY.

PVP = PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION; PMT = POWDERY MILDEW TOLERANT; PMR = POWDERY MILDEW RESISTANT; ZYMV = ZUCCHINI YELLOW MOSAIC VIRUS RESISTANT; PR = PHYTOPHORA RESISTANT; WMV = WATERMELON MOSAIC VIRUS RESISTANT

Recommended pumpkin cultivars		
Variety	Days to maturity	Fruit size (lb)
Apprentice* (hard-shell type)	90	<1
Munchkin	100	<1
Baby Boo (PVP, small, white fruit)	95	<1
Rockafellow*	95	2.5-3
Baby Pam (excellent for pies)	100	3-4
Snowball* (white)	90	1-2
Mystic Plus (PMT)	90	5-7
Hybrid Pam	95	5-7
Ironman (PMT, hard-shelled)	115	3-4
Magician* (PMR, ZYMV)	98	8-16
Magic Lantern*	100	16-24
Apollo (PM)	100	18-32
Cotton Candy (white)	110	5-12
Sorcerer*	115	18-25
New Moon (white)	85	35-45
Hannibal*	95	18-25
Apogee (PMR)	95	40-50
Gladiator* (PMT)	100	20-30
Aladdin* (PMT)	100	20-30
Solid Gold*	100	25-28
Growers Giant*	100	50-200
Monstar Smash	120	50-150
Prizewinner*	120	100-300

SEED TREATMENTS

- Standard Thiram
- Premium FarMore FI400 3 fungicides + insecticide
 - Mefenoxam, azoxystrobin, fludioxonil, and thiamethoxam



COMMON DISEASE'S

Powdery Mildew



Plectosorium- Dr. Ridout



Anthracnose



Lesions of anthracnose of pumpkin are slightly sunken and exhibit concentric rings caused by the dark fungus growing on the pumpkin

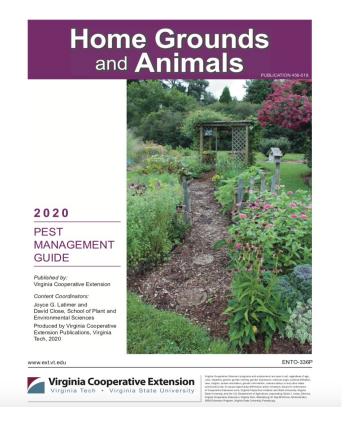
https://ag.purdue.edu/arge/swpap/Documents/Anthracnose%20of%20Pumpkin.pdf

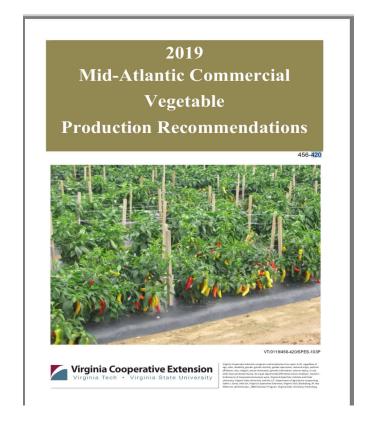
Downy Mildew- Dr. Rideout

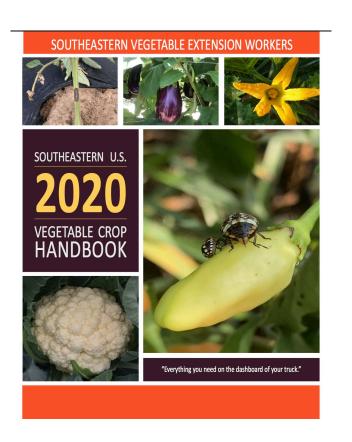




PRODUCTION GUIDES



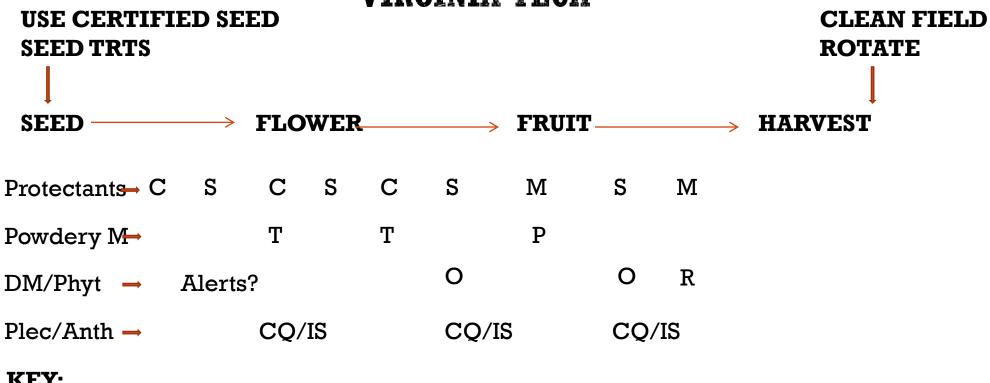




https://www.pubs.ext.vt.edu/456/456-018/456-018.html



PUMPKIN DISEASE PROGRAM STEVE RIDEOUT & DAVID LANGSTON VIRGINIA TECH



KEY:

Protectants→ C=chlorothalonil, S=sulfur, M=mancozeb

Powdery M→ T=Torino, P=Proline, Quintec

DM/Phyt → O=Orondis; R=Ranman/Revus, Presidio, Previcur, Zampro

Plec/Anth → CQ=Cabrio or Quadris; IS=Inspire Super

Applications of a copper containing material may be warranted if bacterial diseases present



COMMON PUMPKIN INSECTS

Need a regular Scouting Schedule to determine when to spray



Cucumber beetles



Aphids



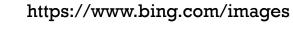
squash vine borer



Seed Corn Maggot



Pickle Worm





MARKETING

- Wholesale
 - Need to line up buyer in advance
 - Need more labor for harvesting
- Agritourism / U-pick
 - Need to advertise to draw in potential customers
 - Must be willing for producers to come on your property / operation
 - Insurance
 - Less labor to harvest
- Farmers Markets / Roadside Stand
 - Need to determine location and sale dates
 - Requires more labor than a u-pick





