

YARD & GARDEN REPORT

October 12, 2016

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The Secret to Making Pumpkin Pie

Pumpkin is definitely the flavor of the month. For breakfast this morning, a local diner offered a cup of pumpkin spice latte with pumpkin pancakes and pumpkin oatmeal. For dessert, you could enjoy pumpkin cupcakes or a slice of pumpkin cheesecake!

This pumpkin mania goes back to our love for pumpkin pie. Gardeners often ask, “What is the best pumpkin variety for cooking?” You might be surprised.

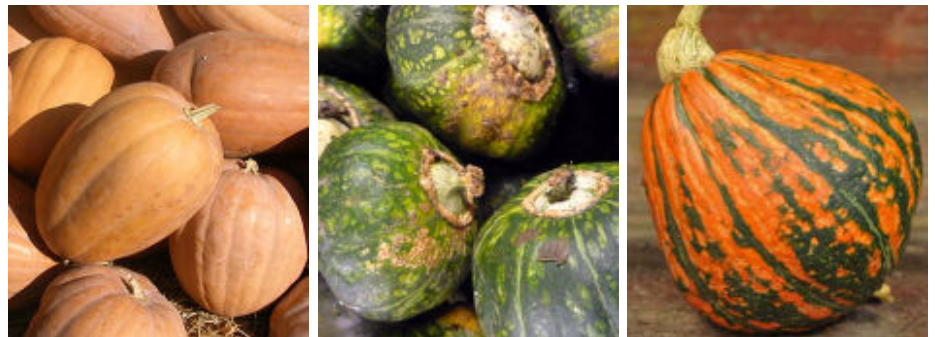
Most of America’s pumpkin pies are made using Libby’s canned pumpkin puree. Their canned pumpkin is actually **butternut squash** (*Cucurbita moschata*).

Thousands of acres of ‘Libby’s Select Dickinson’ butternut squash are grown near their processing plant in Illinois. The original ‘Dickinson’ squash is available from Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds (Fig. 2).

What’s the difference between a squash and a pumpkin? The terms can be used interchangeably.

The key point: If you want a delicious tasting pumpkin treat, use a **squash** and not a jack-o’-lantern for the recipe. The flesh of a typical Halloween pumpkin (*C. pepo*) is relatively thin, stringy and watery.

Many gardeners who grow squash believe that buttercup (*C. maxima*) is most flavorful. We can be proud that buttercup squash was introduced to the world by the North Dakota Agricultural College in 1931. ‘Burgess’ is a popular cultivar and



Figs. 1–4. America’s pumpkin pie is made with 100% butternut squash. Some of the finest tasting squash are ‘Dickinson’, ‘Uncle David’s Dakota Dessert’ and ‘Lakota’.

‘Uncle David’s Dakota Dessert Squash’ (Fig. 3) is very flavorful. ‘Uncle David’s Dakota Dessert’ is offered by Prairie Road Organic Seed and Fedco (please Google any of the cultivars mentioned herein for additional seed sources).

Squash is part of our state’s heritage (the Three Sisters Garden). Our native tribes sliced squash, skewered it through willow sticks and dried it in the sun. Squash was vital for their survival during winter. It feels good to grow something that

fed our people for centuries. ‘Lakota’ is a delicious squash (Fig. 4).

Best wishes for a wonderful autumn. Enjoy your pumpkin—or should I say **squash**—pie!

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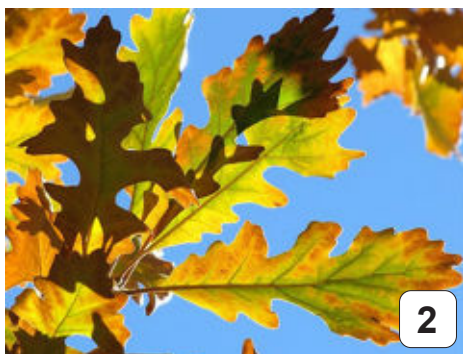
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Dakota Fall Colors

Before the end of each day, the skies light up with the radiant colors of a sunset. Likewise, before the end of the growing season, the trees light up with the radiant colors of fall. Can you name these trees, all native to North Dakota? The answers are on page 4.

- _____ Ash, Green
- _____ Aspen, Quaking
- _____ Birch, Paper
- _____ Elm, American
- _____ Hawthorn

- _____ Ironwood
- _____ Linden
- _____ Oak, Bur
- _____ Serviceberry
- _____ Sumac



Timely Topics in North Dakota Yards and Gardens

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS



Plant garlic now

Divide cloves and set 4–6 inches apart. Cover with 2 inches of soil. Irrigate. Cover with 4 inches of straw in November. Hardneck varieties are most hardy.



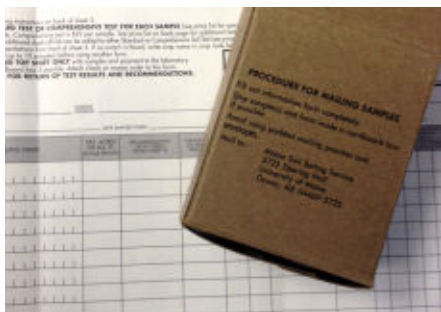
Storing winter squash

Leave at least one inch of stem attached. Wipe but don't wash fruit. Except for acorns, cure in a warm (80°F) spot for 10 days to toughen skin. Store on pallets at 55°F and 60% RH.



Thrips on cabbage

Tiny pests scrape leaves, creating silvery or tan lesions. Imidacloprid can be sprayed when thrips invade, often after alfalfa or small grains are cut. Overhead watering dislodges thrips.



Expanding the garden?

Spray glyphosate (Roundup) on the turf or weedy area ASAP. Cultivate the land in two weeks and you will be ready for spring. Do a soil test now and make needed improvements.



Clean under fruit trees

Rake and remove fallen leaves and fruits in the orchard. This litter can be a source of diseases and insect pests next year. Look out for wasps when picking up fallen fruits in autumn.



Storing apples

Apples store best in a cool (near 32°F), humid (90% RH), dark place. A refrigerator is best, but a cool root cellar or garage is acceptable. If refrigerated, store in perforated plastic bags to increase humidity.

FLOWERS



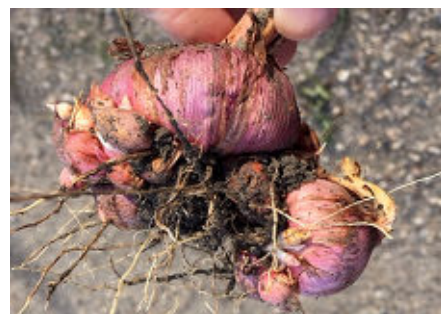
Jumbo amaryllis

Plan ahead for holiday magic! Most cultivars take about 8 weeks to bloom. Treat yourself to a giant bulb from a garden center or order online. Big bulbs will produce more flowers and are more likely to bloom in future years.



Clean up perennials after frost

Foliage may be kept to trap snow or to add winter interest. Remove diseased foliage. Mulch after the soil freezes (mid-November). Mulching too early can attract rodents and prevent hardening.



Dig and store gladiolus

Shake off dirt; cut stems. Store in a warm, airy spot (garage) for 2–3 weeks. Discard old, shrivelled corm and keep new ones (at least 1/2 inch diameter). Small corms won't bloom next year. Keep cool (40°F) in labeled paper bags.

Timely Topics in North Dakota Yards and Gardens

TREES AND SHRUBS



Fall needle drop

Old needles (located near the trunk) are supposed to turn brown and drop. As long as young needles (located near the tips of branches) are healthy, the tree is full of life.



Wrap young trees

Place white guards (*left photo*) or wrap Kraft paper around trunks. This prevents cracking (*right photo*) caused by the scalding rays of the winter sun. Linden, maple, mountainash and fruit trees are very sensitive.



Rutting deer

Bucks rub antlers on trees to remove velvet and attract females. Young trees are most susceptible. Fencing is most effective, but tree guards and repellent sprays can help. Damaged trees become stunted; often removed.

LAWNS



Seeding and sodding the lawn

Do not sow grass seed now. The seedlings will not have enough time to get established. Sod can be laid until the ground freezes.



Spraying weeds

Thistle and other perennial weeds can be treated after a heavy frost if the leaves appear to be not damaged. The weeds must be alive and active for the herbicide to be absorbed. Don't wait!



Raking leaves

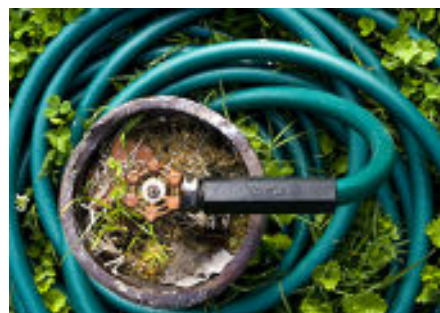
Shred leaves with your mower. The lawn will not suffocate from the mulched leaves as long as you can see the grass blades after mowing. Thick layers of leaves must be raked.

MISCELLANEOUS



Boxelder bugs swarming

Caulk and seal crevices near doors, windows and foundation. Spray bugs with detergent (5 tbsp per gallon of water). Repeat as needed. Sweep intruders and toss outside.



Garden hose

Hoses may crack if left outdoors over winter. Drain hoses and bring indoors. Warm hoses to room temperature before coiling for storage.

- Fall Colors Matching Answers**
1. Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*);
 2. Oak, Bur (*Quercus macrocarpa*);
 3. Sumac (*Rhus glabra*);
 4. Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.);
 5. Birch, Paper (*Betula papyrifera*);
 6. Linden (*Tilia americana*);
 7. Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*);
 8. Elm, American (*Ulmus americana*);
 9. Ash, Green (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*);
 10. Aspen, Quaking (*Populus tremuloides*).

Weather Almanac for September 27–October 11, 2016

Site	HARD FROST^{1,2} (28°F)		TEMPERATURE² Sep 27–Oct 11				RAINFALL² Sep 27–Oct 11 2016				GROWING DEGREE DAYS^{2,5} Sep 27–Oct 11 2016			
	2016	Norm	Avg	Norm	Max	Min	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm	Total	Norm
	Bottineau	09/14	10/01	48	48	76	26	1.53	0.62	16.96	15.62	78	76	2117
Bowman	10/06	10/01	52	49	85	23	0.30	0.75	12.92	13.75	108	88	2421	2225
Carrington	10/07	10/03	50	50	80	26	0.22	0.88	15.82	17.76	93	90	2272	2302
Crosby	09/13	10/01	49	46	79	29	0.54	0.59	15.66	13.43	85	70	2157	1978
Dickinson	Not yet	09/25	51	48	79	29	0.81	0.69	13.49	14.98	95	95	2422	2213
Fargo	10/09	10/07	53	51	79	26	0.94	1.19	17.48	19.51	114	88	2685	2451
Grafton	Not yet	10/12	52	49	78	31	0.64	1.05	27.33	18.58	94	80	2344	2148
Grand Forks	Not yet	10/02	52	49	78	29	1.49	1.03	23.75	18.08	98	77	2441	2193
Hazen	Not yet	N/A ⁶	50	51	79	30	0.57	0.72	16.55	15.05	91	112	2376	2441
Hillsboro	10/09	10/09	51	50	79	27	1.40	1.20	19.40	18.84	101	79	2464	2311
Jamestown	10/08	10/03	49	49	79	25	0.14	0.96	22.97	17.47	85	79	2296	2270
Langdon	10/08	09/29	49	46	75	25	0.27	0.85	24.43	17.33	77	56	2006	1822
Mandan	10/06	10/03	51	50	77	25	0.27	0.74	17.47	16.04	98	89	2427	2293
Minot	10/07	10/05	48	48	77	27	1.12	0.73	16.22	16.02	79	68	2244	2078
Mott	10/06	N/A	50	49	81	26	0.73	0.74	14.16	14.77	93	99	2305	2312
Rugby	10/08	N/A	49	48	78	28	1.16	0.74	16.86	17.45	87	79	2269	2127
Wahpeton	10/09	N/A	52	53	79	27	1.16	1.40	19.62	19.81	108	94	2609	2564
Watford City	Not yet	09/28	50	49	84	30	0.55	0.50	13.71	12.98	88	91	2407	2219
Williston	10/11	10/04	50	52	80	28	0.39	0.54	13.07	12.80	89	108	2393	2509
Wishek	10/07	10/03	49	49	79	25	0.03	0.97	20.93	18.74	80	77	2226	2090

DAYLENGTH (Oct 12, McClusky, center of ND)³

Sunrise: 7:56AM | Daylength: 11h 4m
 Sunset: 7:00PM | Change since Sep 27: -51m

LONG-TERM OUTLOOKS⁴

Oct. 17–21: Temp.: Above Normal; Precip.: Above Normal
 Oct. 19–25: Temp.: Normal; Precip.: Above Normal

^{1,2,3,4} Sources: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network, www.sunrisesunset.com, and National Weather Service, respectively.

⁵ GDDs for garden vegetables are not available. GDD data in this table are for corn, which responds to temperature as most vegetables grown in gardens. Data begin May 1 with base minimum and maximum temperatures of 50 and 86°F., respectively.

⁶ N/A = not available.

Credits

Boboltz, S. 2014. Here's why your pumpkin pie probably has no pumpkin in it at all. Huffington Post. Accessed online.

Long Island Seed Project. 2007. www.liseed.org.

Meyer, M.H. Storing tender bulbs and bulble structures. Accessed online. Univ. of Minnesota Extension: Twin Cities.

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forester401, .../401forester/4786992319/; Steven Severinghaus, .../horsepunchkid/8088916413/; forester401, .../401forester/5037129644/; Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ. Fort Wayne; Marilylle Soveran, .../86953562@N00/5043899693/; Nelson Stauffer, .../11065470@N03/4009413593/; **VEGETABLES AND FRUITS:** Provence | Garlic Market, .../fxp/1170887606/; Matt, .../gomattolson/4039210951/; Kelsey Sheldon, NDSU; Kate, .../blueberryfiles/11818771983/; Nathan Feir, .../vanmorbo/1580524725/; wongaboo, .../27146806@N00/15228654692/; **FLOWERS:** tutincommon, .../10647023@N04/12258217293/; Jody Roberts, .../jroberts72/23490177292/; Anton Braun; **TREES AND SHRUBS:** Tom Kalb, NDSU (3); scott spaeth .../44531407@N03/5050031421/; David Mooter, Prairie Silvics, Inc., Bugwood.org; **LAWNS:** Jason Alley, .../jasonalley/8274252431/; Thistle Garden, .../63026284@N05/8687240201/; Auntie P, .../auntiep/73344461/; **MISCELLANEOUS:** Martin LaBar, .../martinlabar/4325120192/; Ray Sadler, .../srsphoto/

1057301635/.

Written by Tom Kalb, who thanks his colleague Kelsey Sheldon for her contributions.

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