

Pumpkin Charm



Illinois is the home of the PUMPKIN! Illinois farmers grow more pumpkins than anywhere else in the world. Most of the pumpkin processing occurs in Morton, IL, which is known as the “Pumpkin Capital of the World.” Explore how pumpkins grow with this pumpkin charm.

Start off with a small Ziploc baggie. Put the following items inside the baggie:

- Pinch of sand: Pumpkins grow best in a sandy soil.
- Pumpkin seed: You can eat a pumpkin seed or plant it!
- Flower: Pumpkins grow on a vine, but through pollination they start by growing inside the flower.
- Insects: Insects like bees help pass pollen from one pumpkin flower to another. Many insects help gardens grow.
- Blue Bead: Pumpkins need water to grow. Pumpkins are 90% water.
- Green bead: A tiny green pumpkin starts to grow at the base of the flower.
- Yellow bead: Sunlight changes the pumpkin from green to yellow.
- Pumpkin: Sunlight changes the pumpkin from yellow to orange. The orange color means the pumpkin is ready to pick!
- Orange Crinkle Paper: Pumpkins contain pulp and seeds. Plant the seeds in the ground and start the life cycle over again!

Finally, punch a hole above the baggie’s seal. Then, loop a string through the hole and tie it off. Now, you have a pumpkin charm to wear around your neck. Be sure to share everything you know about PUMPKINS!

Book Suggestions

Pumpkin Jack – Will Hubbell (ISBN 080756667)
Pumpkins – Jacqueline Farmer (ISBN 9781570915581)
Pumpkin Circle – George Levenson (ISBN 0439228832)
Too Many Pumpkins – Linda White (ISBN 0823413209)