

# PUMPED UP FOR PUMPKINS

the *virtual* pumpkin project



## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

- Quantity:** The most pumpkins grown
- Quality:** The best looking pumpkins
- Yield:** The greatest total weight of the pumpkins
- Profitability:** The maximum virtual money made for pumpkins

## VIRTUAL BUDGET

- Upfront Cost:** Pumpkin variety, Irrigation, Mulch, Fertilizer
- Remaining Balances:** Pick a plot, left over balance \$120-\$290
- Pest & Disease Management:** Pollination, Organic Pesticide, Beneficials, Organic Fungicide
- Weed & Irrigation:** Labor, Irrigation
- Other:** Farm Advisor, micronutrients, fertilizer boost, harvest crew

## LOAN AND CROP INSURANCE

- Loans:** Available if you run out of money, charged a 20% interest rate, payback based on profitability
- Crop Insurance:** A \$50 service fee covers damage from gophers, coyotes, floods

## MULCH

- Plastic Reflective Mulch:** Repels insects, weed control, prevents pumpkin rot, conserves water
- Straw Mulch:** Soft bed for pumpkins, keeps pumpkins clean, retains soil moisture, prevents pumpkin rot, reduces weeds
- No Mulch:** No cost, might require weed control, might need extra water

## CULTIVARS

- Jack O' Lantern:** Medium size, round shape, 18-24 pounds, 3-5 pumpkins per vine
- Howden Pumpkin:** Ribbed texture, elongated shape, bright orange, 15-18 pounds, 4-6 pumpkins per plant
- F-1 Harvest Jack:** Medium size, round shape, dark orange, 22-28 pounds, 2-5 pumpkins per vine

## IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

- Zone 1:** Closest to the main water line and water valve
- Zone 2:** Close to the main water line and closer to the water valve
- Zone 3:** Far from the main line and water valve
- Zone 4:** Farthest from the main water line and water valve

## FERTILIZER

- All plots received 13 pounds of Countdown 4-3-2 when beds were prepared.
- UAN-32:** Very potent fertilizer that is applied through fertigation
- CAN-17:** Not as potent but contains a secret ingredient- Calcium



Mulch:	Cost	Farm Services	Cost
No mulch	\$ -	Plot weeding	\$ 40.00
Straw	\$ 60.00	Pollinating	\$ 40.00
Reflective mulch	\$ 100.00	Extra irrigations	\$ 50.00
<b>Cultivar:</b>		Fertilizer Boost	\$ 50.00
Howden	\$ 30.00	Organic pesticide A	\$ 15.00
Jack o Lantern	\$ 40.00	Organic Pesticide B	\$ 10.00
F-1 Harvest Jack	\$ 60.00	Conventional Pest.	\$ 50.00
<b>Primary fertilizer:</b>		Benefic. Insect	\$ 10.00
UN32	\$ 70.00	Micronutrient A	\$ 25.00
CaN-17	\$ 100.00	Micronutrient B	\$ 20.00
<b>Irrigation District:</b>		Micronutrient C	\$ 15.00
Zone 1	\$ 150.00	Farm advisor call	\$ 10.00
Zone 2	\$ 140.00	Harvest Crew	\$ 40.00
Zone 3	\$ 110.00	Other	TBD
Zone 4	\$ 100.00		