Original-source
Growing
Research

Top-Performing Pumpkins for the Market Garden

Hensley's SEED CO. – DENVER · COLORADO –

May 18, 2021

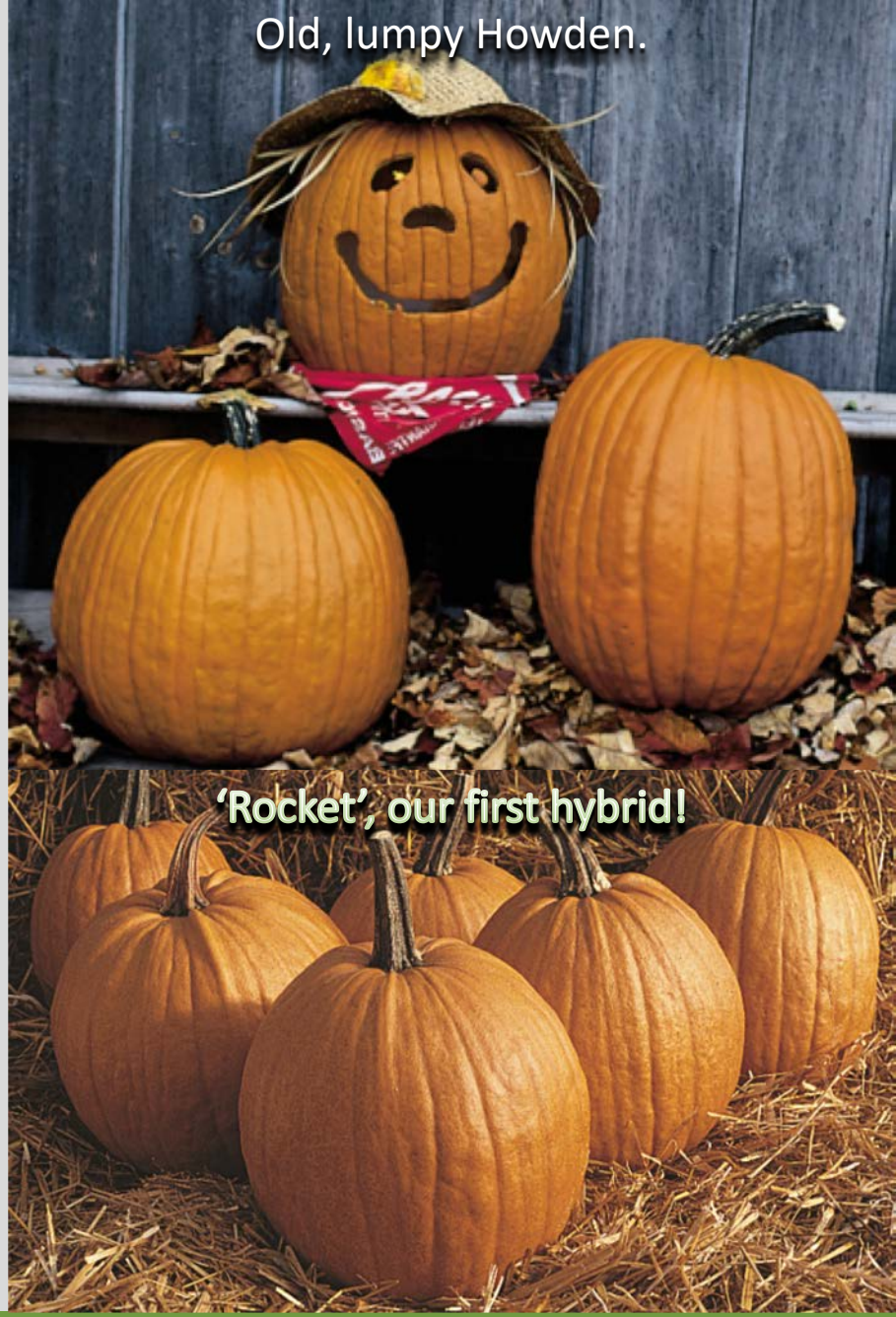


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A Little History:

Pumpkin Breeding at the original source

- **1985** Product Line (1st year for pumpkins):
  - New England Pie
  - Young's Beauty
  - Connecticut Field
- **1987** – 'Autumn Gold' becomes first hybrid pumpkin in the seed catalog.
- 1995 - 'Rocket' – First source-bred hybrid introduced.
- **1998** – 'Racer' introduced – 85-day maturity!
- 2005 – 'Charisma PMR' – First source-bred pumpkin with powdery mildew resistance.
- **2011** – 'Polar Bear' introduced.
- 2015 – The original source names a new pumpkin and squash breeder.



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Breeding priorities: Pumpkin variety characteristics

- Bred in a tough environment with minimal inputs = adaptable and tolerant.
- Early maturity for reliable yield in cooler climates, or with late seedings. Nothing over 100 days relative maturity.
- Rich color.
- Strong, clean handles (and size isn't everything!).
- Robust PMR genetics.
- Range of sizes to meet any market.
- Note – Not adding 'PMR' to the name anymore.



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Breeding process: original-source pumpkin research

Original-source Breeding Nursery in USDA zone 5b



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‘Racer’ and ‘Racer Plus’

Winning the Race Against Powdery Mildew!

‘Racer’ F1

- Very fast maturing (85 days) – Outraces PM!
- Very high yielding with uniform size
- Low cull rate
- 12-16 lb.
- Strong handle
- Flat-round shape
- Also available Organic!

‘Racer Plus’

- VERY similar to Racer (shape, color, handle, yield, uniformity)
- Runs ~ 2lb. larger on average
- Improved PM resistance



Applications:

- Short-season climates
- Excellent rain-gap option
- Wholesale, U-pick – Kid-friendly size
- Potential labor savings at harvest time
- Could be an option if *Phytopthora* is a problem – crop can be harvested mature before disease takes it all down.

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‘Renegade PMR’ F1

- 13-18 lb. size class
- 40-50 bin count
- A superior pumpkin for wholesale bin sales:
  - Reliable, predictable size and shape
  - Exceptional uniformity
  - Very low cull rate
  - Very stout handle that doesn’t get too long for the bin.
  - Tough shell
- Very rich color!
- Excellent PM resistance
- Compares favorably to Magician (Harris) and Gold Standard (Rupp) in mid-size category.



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‘Cargo PMR’ F1

- Slightly upright stature, great for carving faces!
- 20-25 lb.
- 30-40 bin count
- Excellent PM resistance
- Mid-early maturity at 100 days
- Strong handle.
- Great value in the large size class.



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‘Gumdrop PMR’ F1

- Small jack (11-13 lb.), perfect for the kiddos.
- Bold color.
- Round to gumdrop-shaped.
- Long, very strong handle.
- Short vine.
- Intermediate PMR.



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‘Igor’ F1

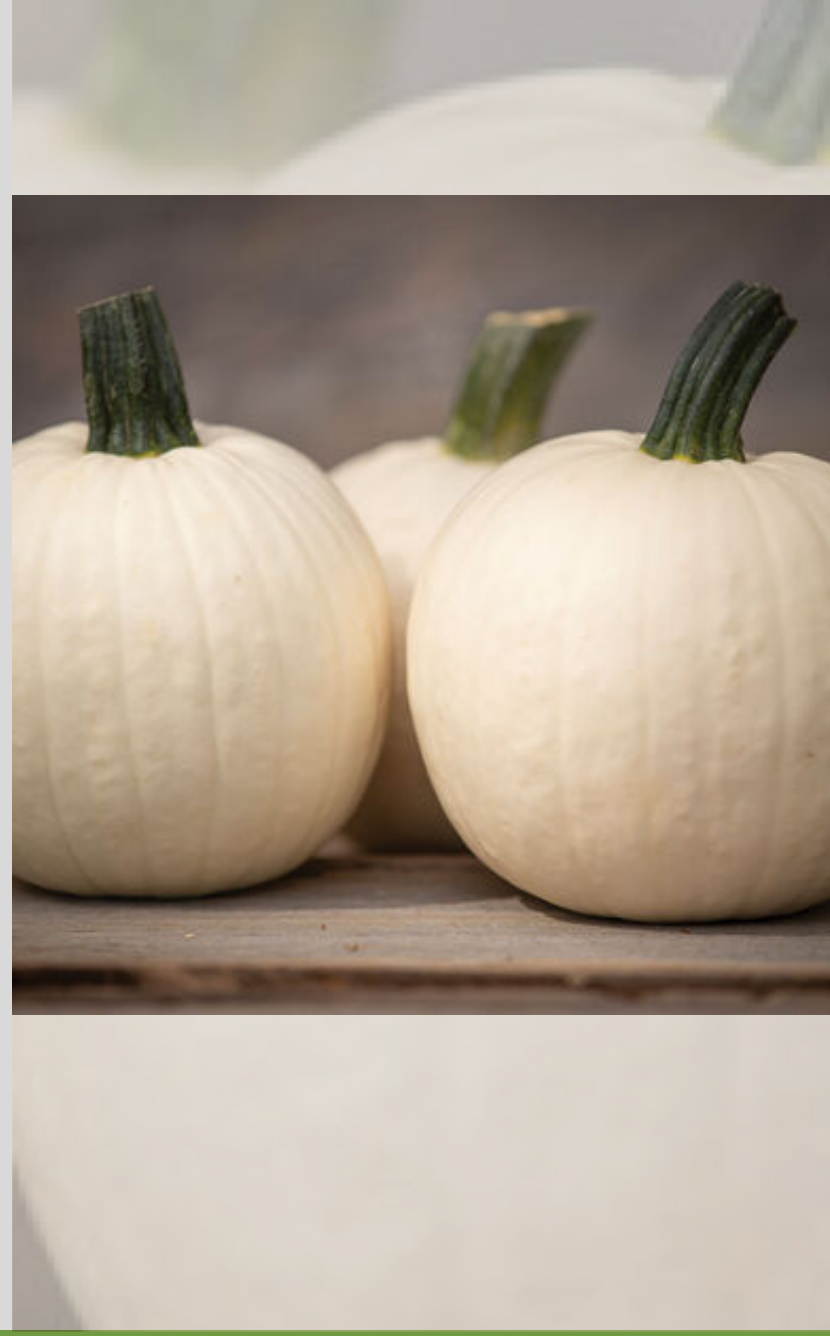
- Dark orange skin.
- Deep ribs.
- Consistent tall barrel shape.
- ‘Hunchback’ – style shoulder.
- Strong handle.
- 25 – 35 pounds.
- Thick walls resist flat-siding very well.
- Uniformly creepy.
- Very high yielding for this size class.



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‘Shiver’ F1

- Beautiful white tabletop pumpkin.
- Exclusive to the original seed company; bred by Brent Loy at UNH.
- ‘Snowball’ size (1.5-2.5 lb)with a proper handle.
- Excellent color retention.
- Good PM resistance.
- Bush habit.



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‘Polar Bear’ F1

- Very big and very white!
- Can get over 100 lb., but typically, they run 30-50 lb.
- Very vigorous vine, and a high yielder.



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‘Cinnamon Girl’ PMR F1

- Now available as organic seed only
- Perfect size for pie or small decorative
- Good powdery mildew resistance
- Selected by the breeder for smooth texture and neutral flavor, for making great pies.



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‘Pipsqueak PMR’ F1

- Little upright pumpkin.
- Long, whimsical handles.
- Excellent PM resistance! The greenest handles in our trial every year.
- Bright orange color with fine ribbing.
- Compares very favorably to ‘Trophy’.



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Coming in 2022:

‘Duchess’ F1

- Medium round with heavy, narrow ribs
- 19-21 lbs. average fruit weight
- Excellent yields for size class
- Excellent uniformity
- Excellent PMR
- Double-rib and intense orange color really stand out in the low-angle light of autumn!



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Coming in 2022:

‘Jack of Hearts’ F1

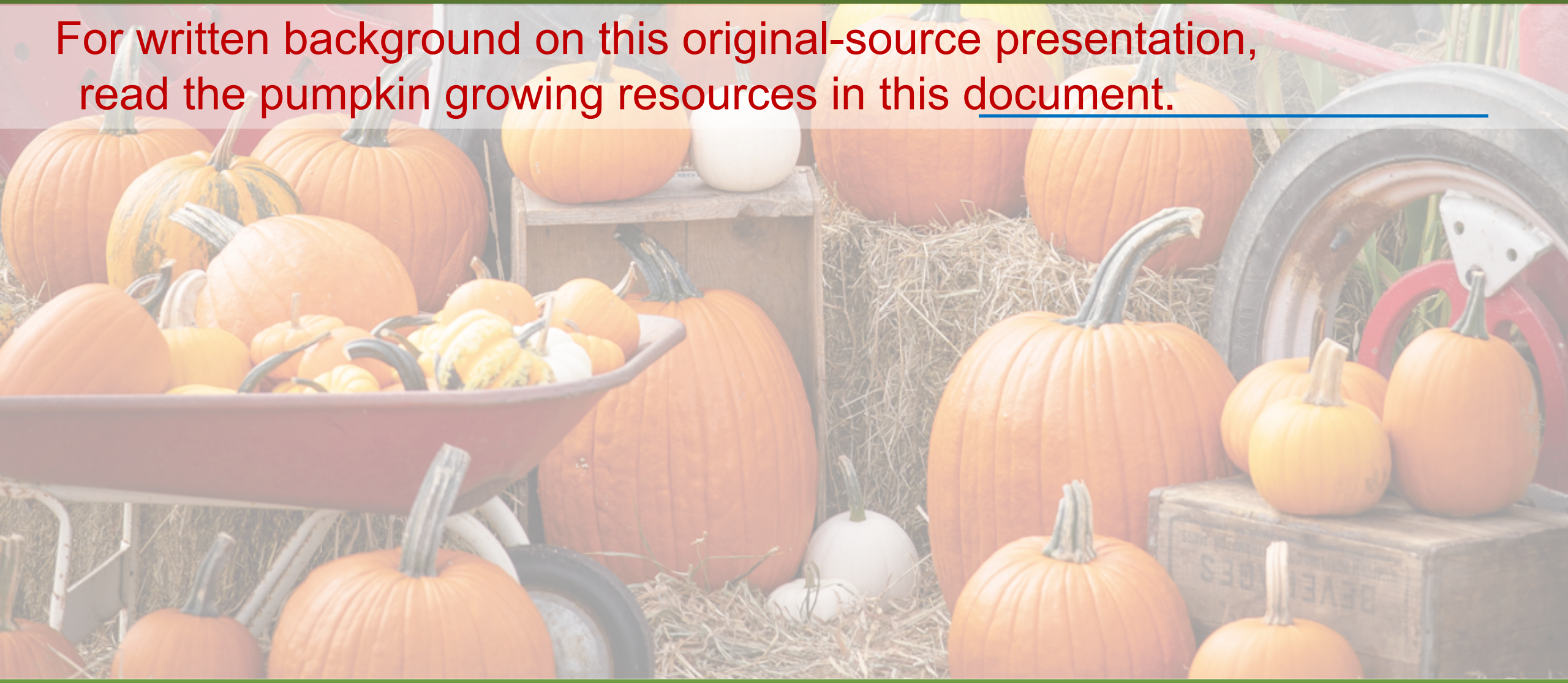
- Small blocky jack with a mighty handle.
- 6-7 lbs. average fruit weight
- Excellent PMR
- Unique appearance with narrow ribs, rich color, and star-shaped stem attachment
- Slightly later maturity
- Great size for kids to carry out of a U-pick field.



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Resources

For written background on this original-source presentation, read the pumpkin growing resources in this document.



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