



# Judging Class

## Horticulture –Gardening

### Pumpkin Patch

This page is for the Leader

#### Supplies Needed:

Situation and option card, 4-H judging cards, Judging Scale Chart and pencils

#### Reasons: B, A, D, C

**B** is a close placing over **A** because it has a shorter growing season, which means it should be ready to harvest sooner. Both are in hardy zones, are hybrids for increased vigor, and are all-American winners.

**A** is a fairly easy placing over **D**, as **A** is a hybrid and really gives Jay more factual information which matches his needs. **D** does not indicate it is a hybrid, nor an AAS winner. Granted, it is hardy for the growing area and matures in 90 days, but admits to summer stress.

**D** is the easy choice over **C**. **C** is really promoted as an eating pumpkin, does not indicate it is hybrid, has smaller fruit and doesn't fit the criteria that Jay has established that will make his business profitable.





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#### Situation:

Jay has developed a pick-a-pumpkin business from his 4-H gardening project. Jay lives in zone 5. He wants to select a pumpkin variety with as long a growing season as possible, so he can get them planted early in the spring to insure a large crop before fall frost. He also wants a vigorous, drought-tolerant, large fruited pumpkin that will make good jack-o-lanterns.

Rank the varieties you think Jay should select from the garden seed catalog description to best meet his criteria.

#### Options:

- A.** Orange Giants: A large, globe shaped pumpkin, hardy to zone 6, named the AAS winner in 1997. This hybrid variety has been developed for disease and heat tolerance and is ready to harvest in 110 days.
- B.** Golden Globe: Hardy to zone 5, this 2000 AAS winner is a heavy bearing hybrid, medium sized pumpkin, just perfect for Halloween jack-o-lanterns. It has a 90-day growing season, which should ensure lots of perfect pumpkins to pick by early October. Research plots indicate that it grows and produces well in all types of soil and weather conditions.
- C.** Old Faithful: This heritage variety has been around for years. It is known for its prolific vines, which shade a small to medium sized fruit, which is highly regarded for its pulp to make delicious pumpkin pies. It has a long growing season, which makes it adaptable for most of the United States.
- D.** Spooktacular: This favorite for pumpkin growers in the Midwest. The large, deep orange fruit are just perfect for carving your favorite jack-o-lantern. Hardy to zone 6, this variety is known to be susceptible to summer wilt. Ready to pick in 90 days.

