

A detailed oil painting of a large, vibrant orange pumpkin. The pumpkin is the central focus, with its ridges and colors ranging from bright orange to deep red. It is surrounded by lush green leaves and dark, winding vines. The background is dark, making the pumpkin stand out. The painting style is expressive, with visible brushstrokes and a rich texture.

Willy's Giant Pumpkin

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Willy looked forward to going to the state fair every year in the fall.

His favorite thing to see were the giant pumpkins that farmers brought to show in the BIG PUMPKIN CONTEST.

This year, Willy wanted to grow his own prize pumpkin to enter at the fair.

Willy bought some special seeds that come from pumpkins that grow to be GIANTS.



small



medium



large



giant





He read the label on the seed packet and it said that it would take 120 days for his pumpkins to grow.

“That seems like a very long time.” Willy thought. “If I plant my seeds now in May, will my pumpkin be ready to show at the fair in September?” Willy wondered.

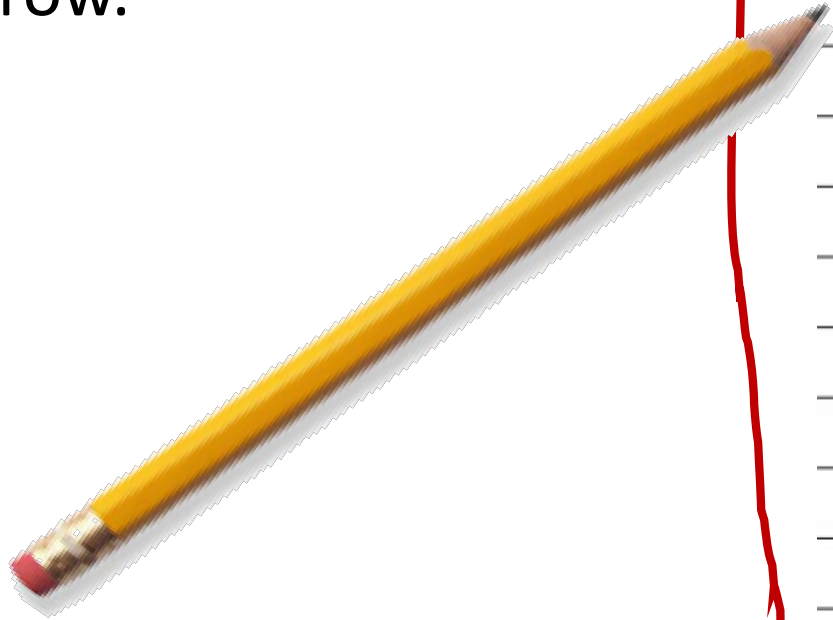




May	31 days
June	30 days
July	31 days
August	<u>31 days</u>
=	123 days

Willy laid in the spring grass and added the days of the coming months in his head. “May has 31 days; June has 30 days,” he thought. Willy continued to count. “July has 31 days and August has 31 days too. That’s 123 days or 4 months. Perfect! If I plant my seeds now, my pumpkins will be ready just in time for the fair!”

Willy made a list of things he needed to do to get his plants to grow.



And then he remembered one more thing....

Willy's LIST



1. Plant outside in the spring.

2. Put seeds in the ground.

3. Cover with soil.

4. They need lots of sun
and water.

5. watch out for rabbits.

...Grandpa's secret compost!

“Mixing compost with the soil provides vitamins and minerals so your plants will grow big and strong.” Willy's Grandpa had told him.

So Willy made a bucket full of compost for his pumpkin plants.



“Regular pumpkins can grow up to 20 pounds, but a giant pumpkin can grow to be 800 pounds or more!” Grandpa told Willy.

“I wonder if 800 pounds is very heavy?” Willy pondered.



1

Pound



20

Pounds



800

Pounds

Willy decided to try an experiment to see if he could tell how heavy his pumpkin would be.

Willy put a 1 pound bag of beans in a cardboard carton and lifted the box.

“That’s not very heavy.” he thought. “My pumpkin will be much heavier than that.”



So Willy filled his box with 20 bags of beans. “That would be the same weight as a 20 pound pumpkin.” he mused. The box was much heavier.



5 lbs. + 5 lbs. + 5 lbs. +



“Oh my!” he thought, “If my giant pumpkin weighs 800 pounds, it will be very, very, very heavy.”

BeBe BecB Beans eBe BecB Beans seBe BecB Beans

BeBe BecB Beans seBe BecB Beans BeBe BecB Beans BeBecB Beans seBe BecB Beans

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Willy prepared his garden in a sunny spot high on a hill so it would get plenty of sun.

Then he added his “secret compost” to the soil before planting the giant pumpkin seeds.



Willy cared for his pumpkin plants every day, making sure they had plenty of water.

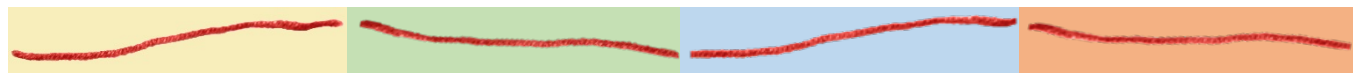
Soon his seeds sprouted roots and began to grow.





“The seedling will soon sprout vines. Giant pumpkin vines can grow up to 6 inches in one day!” Grandpa told Willy. “Wow! I wonder how much that would be in four days?” Willy asked.

Grandpa had an idea. “Let’s cut 6 inch pieces of string and glue them to strips of paper. Then we can tape the paper strips together and you can see how much your vines will grow each day.”



$$6 \text{ inches} + 6 \text{ inches} + 6 \text{ inches} + 6 \text{ inches} = 24 \text{ inches or } 2 \text{ feet}$$

Willy was amazed. The vines will grow 24 inches in just four days.” he proclaimed. “That’s two feet!”

Honeybees gathered pollen from the flowers, flying from one flower to another, leaving pollen behind.



Grandpa had told Willy this was important so the flowers would produce a pumpkin. "This is called pollination." Grandpa had said.

Willy's pumpkins grew and grew and grew, but one in particular was bigger than all the rest. By the end of summer, Willy had grown an enormous pumpkin to show at the fair.

"It's so big and heavy."
Willy thought. "How will I ever get it to the fair?"



“Maybe I can roll it to Grandpa’s hay wagon.” he thought. So Willy took a deep breath and tried to push his pumpkin with all his might.



All of a sudden, he heard something snap. The pumpkin had broken loose and began to roll down the hill.

“Oh no!” Willy shouted. It is headed straight for Grandpa’s fishing pond.





Kerplunk! The pumpkin made a big splash as it crashed into the pond.

“I’ll never get it to the fair now!” cried Willy.

But just when Willy thought all was lost, to his surprise the pumpkin popped up and floated right on top of the water.

How is this possible? It is so heavy.” thought Willy.

Then Willy remembered the pumpkin experiment his class had done at school to see if pumpkins would float.

His class had put a large and small pumpkin in a bucket of water and they both floated to the top.

Willy had learned that pumpkins float because they are hollow and filled with air in the middle which can be seen when they are carved.



When Willy's Grandpa saw what happened, he brought his tractor down to the pond.

"Don't fret." He told Willy. "We will slip some straps around your pumpkin and lift it out of the water."

Willy watched as his Grandpa's tractor lifted the pumpkin high in the air.



Whump! The pumpkin made a loud sound it was lowered into the wagon

Grandpa strapped it safely in and off to the fair they drove. Willy was smiling ear to ear.



When Willy got to the fair,
he registered his giant
pumpkin in the BIG
PUMPKIN CONTEST.

Everyone at the fair was
amazed.

Willy had grown the
biggest pumpkin anyone
had ever seen weighing
over eight hundred
pounds.



Willy won the blue ribbon just like he had dreamed of.
What a great day!

