

# Grow Your Own Fall Display – Start Today!



I love the fall season of the year. And after you grow your own fall plants, you will love it even more. As the temperatures drop ever so slightly making the nights a bit crisper, the leaves begin to change. This creates a kaleidoscope of colors in just about every landscape. My favorite part is, I can grow everything I need for my own fall display right in my own backyard.

## **Grow Your Own Fall Display**

I love mixing and matching the colors of pumpkins, squash and gourds along with corn stalks to really make the porch stand out. With the vast array of choices you have when it comes to these items, your decorating possibilities are truly endless.

## Corn Stalks

Corn can serve a dual purpose in the home vegetable garden. The first purpose, being the obvious, is to grow your own corn. The second is to save the stalks for your fall display. When given a good amount of space, corn stalks can grow upwards of seven feet tall with varieties such as Silver King or Queen. I was just at the store the other day and they wanted \$6.98 for 3 stalks! To me that is outrageous. You can grow 3 stalks of corn for about a quarter.



## Pumpkins

Larger pumpkins can be a bit tougher to grow since they need plenty of room and lots of water, but in my opinion they are the most fun because they are challenging and they are immediate conversation starters when the neighbors see them growing. Good larger varieties to grow at home for your fall display (and Halloween carving purposes) are Connecticut Field

and Jack O` Lantern with Autumn Gold being an excellent hybrid choice. With proper care, you can get pumpkins up to twenty pounds.

Don't count out smaller varieties of pumpkins like Jack Be Little or Baby Boo. They fit in the palm of your hand, come in white and orange and are prolific producers. While they are only grown for fall display and decorating purposes, my kids love growing the smaller pumpkins because they grow rather quickly and they love the size.

## **Gourds**

It would take me a lifetime to describe every single option you have when it comes to the gourds that you can grow. They come in all shapes, sizes and colors. Some are edible, although most, like the smaller varieties are for decorating purposes only. You can even grow a few to make your own birdhouses.

What I like to do when it comes to gourds is hit the local farmer's market and choose a few that I like. When the fall season is over, I will save the seeds from those gourds and grow them at home the following year in my home garden. The seeds are easy to save, and I am yet to not have them come up the following season. Don't be surprised though if the seeds you save produce a different type of gourd, as many can be hybrid varieties. As long as you keep saving the seeds every year, you can grow your own gourds.

You could easily pay over twenty dollars for your own fall display for the front porch. However, you can also save that money and grow those items yourself, making your front porch autumn display, truly home grown.



### About the Author

Mike Podlesny is the author of the book [Vegetable Gardening for the Average Person](#) as well as the creator of the [Seeds of the Month Club](#). Mike is a member of the Garden Writers Association and you can listen to him each week on the [Vegetable Gardening Show](#) where he interviews gardening industry experts.

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*Timber Creek Farm*

