Plant a Pumpkin

Have you been enjoying this little taste of fall? Lower nighttime temperatures are such a treat! It gets me excited for football season, gumbo and pumpkins! We'll get a few trees with leaves that change color, but for the most part, we have to BRING the fall season to Louisiana. We use crotons, mums, marigolds, corn stalks & pumpkins to bring on all the fall feels! If you're looking for something creative to do with your pumpkins, other than carving or painting them, try PLANTING them. Here's how you can do that.

Once you've picked out your pumpkin, cut the top off – make the hole at the top plenty big enough for your hand to fit inside so that you can scrape out the guts of the pumpkin. Scraping out as much as you can helps prolong the life of your pumpkin.

Also take into consideration how many plants you want to try and fit inside. Think of the hollowed-out pumpkin as a pot. If you're using a small pie pumpkin, you might only have room for one or two plants. If you're using a larger pumpkin, you've probably got room for a few medium size plants, or one bigger plant.

Once you've scraped out all the inside, you've got two options. First, fill the pumpkin with soil, and plant directly into it. Or, second option, keep your plant inside of the plastic pot, and just place it inside of the hollowed-out pumpkin. This second method really only works with bigger plants, like a 6" or gallon size mum or croton. However, this method does help preserve the pumpkin. Moisture is not a hollowed-out pumpkin's friend. So, to combat that, consider planting your pumpkin with cactus and succulents.

Last idea here, to continue with the cactus and succulent theme – our climate is so humid, that you can hot glue pieces of a succulents to the outside of a pumpkin, and they will stay fresh for the entire fall season! Every year I make a succulent wreath for Christmas time, and the same thing applies – even though I don't plant any of the succulent pieces in soil, they stay fresh for plenty long enough because we have so much moisture in the air. So, if you don't feel like hollowing out a pumpkin, you can still decorate it with other fall pieces, mixing in some succulents for a unique garden theme.

Happy Fall Y'all – I hope you're inspired to add some fall décor to your home and garden this weekend. Kick off the fall season with a fun, creative idea, like "Planting a Pumpkin"!

Written by John MacMillan