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Just in Time for Thanksgiving: 5 Things You (Probably) Never Knew About Pumpkins.

It's downright impossible to even contemplate Thanksgiving without the thought or reality of pumpkins coming to mind.

In fact, for a fruit/vegetable (*do you know which it is?*) that is so woven into the fabric of mid- to late fall, there's actually quite a bit about pumpkins that you probably never knew.

Well, if it makes you feel any better, neither did we – until, that is, we undertook a little skulduggery on the internet. Here's what we uncovered to both "amaze and delight" you (**pumpkins are fruits, by the way, not vegetables**):

- **Pumpkins were not always called pumpkins.** The original name for pumpkin was "pepon", the Greek word for "large melon". Later on, it morphed into "pompon" by the French only to have the English rename it the "pumpion". The large orange fruit we know today as "pumpkin" was so dubbed by early American colonists and, all these hundreds of years later, the name has stuck.
- **Whose idea was the jack-o'-lantern?** For that answer, we travel back in time to Ireland where turnips, potatoes, beets, and such were carved and lit up to ward off evil spirits. Once Irish settlers started landing on the shores of America, they soon realized that it was just plain easier to carve up a pumpkin. Plus, they reasoned, the bigger size was bound to be more effective in shooing evil spirits away from their premises.



Green & Healthy Living Tips

Toss the turkey skin.

As soon as you grab a slice of turkey, trim off the skin and set it aside. Though delicious, the skin is very high in fat, and not the good kind.

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- **"Take this pumpkin and call me in the morning."** Back in the 1700's, physicians prescribed pumpkin to cure a whole host of ailments and conditions – everything from snake bites to freckles.
- **Where would you start a pumpkin farm?** Someplace where the growing conditions are just right, of course! **And apparently they're just right** in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania and California – the four largest pumpkin producing states in the country. Each year, more than 1.5 billion pounds of pumpkin are harvested in the US.
- **Step aside, pumpkin pie.** Pumpkin pie wasn't always the favorite result of cooking up some of that delicious fruit. And neither were pumpkin breads, muffins, or even pumpkin flavored beer. Instead, early settlers once carved out the middle, filled it with milk, honey, and spices, and then baked it and called THAT pumpkin pie, of all things. Now there's a tradition worth reviving!



While Thanksgiving and pumpkins are largely synonymous, so is the day after Thanksgiving and clogged drains. In fact, that's the busiest drain cleaning day of the year for US plumbers. If such bad luck should befall you, **please use the coupon on page three of this newsletter to save \$35 on our professional drain cleaning service.**

Happy Thanksgiving from all of us at Your 1 Plumber.

William Kirkorian
President

Amazing Fact

North Carolina produces more sweet potatoes than any other state in the union – a total of 1.2 billion of the 2.6 billion pounds produced in the US in 2014.

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Our Favorite Recipes

Thanksgiving Corn Casserole



"A great inexpensive side dish for almost any meal! This is one of my favorites. I make it every Thanksgiving as it goes great with turkey."

[Click here to view and print this recipe](#)

You Gotta Laugh



"I celebrated Thanksgiving the old-fashioned way. I invited everyone in my neighborhood to my house, we had an enormous feast, and then I killed them and took their land." *Jon Stewart*



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