

Plant Pumpkins Now for Halloween Harvest



Alan, Ashlyn and Kristen with Grandpa Lee in their pumpkin patch a few years ago.

If you hope to have pumpkins in time for a Halloween Harvest, then you need to get them planted now. In Kansas the guideline for a Halloween Harvest is to get them planted around the Fourth of July.

When pumpkins are small, a fun activity to do with your children is to have them carve their initials in

the pumpkin and then watch the initials grow with the pumpkin. Just don't go any deeper than about an 1/8 of an inch.

If you haven't bought any pumpkin seeds lately, you will be amazed at the selection you will find. Ashlyn and I would really like to try the *Cinderella Pumpkin* variety. Its wonderful shape

would make a wonderful coach for Cinderella. There is also the new white varieties which I am sure would be fun to grow. Whatever variety you choose, find a sunny spot, give the plants plenty of water and fertilizer and plan to watch your pumpkins grow.

Grow a Cucumber Inside a Bottle

Want to get your children excited about growing cucumbers in your garden? Well then try this project. When you find a small cucumber just starting to grow, place a plastic pop bottle so that the cucumber is inside the bottle. Cover the bottle with some mulch to prevent the bottle getting too hot. Check back eve-

ryday to see how much your cucumber has grown. When the cucumber has grown enough to fill the bottle, gently cut it from the vine and bring inside. You will amuse your family and friends as they try to figure out how you got the cucumber inside the bottle.



Meet *Itsy Bitsy* the Spider



Meet "Itsy Bitsy!" This "not so little" spider is the newest addition to the Joyal vegetable garden. Someone at the 2005 Wichita Garden Show gave me the idea to make a spider out of a tractor tire when they saw our smaller spider on display. *Itsy Bitsy* currently has sweet potatoes planted inside with our pumpkins just planted around his legs. One thing to keep in mind if you want to make a similar spider, be sure and have a heavy duty Saw It All. My husband Roger spent plenty of time cutting out the openings to make room for the legs. The eyes are actually some Swan Gourds that I grew last summer. The necks are down inside the tire with dirt packed around them.