

PICK THE BEST TYPE OF PUMPKIN OR SQUASH FOR YOUR PROJECT

- Baking a pie: Blue Hubbard, Butternut, Cinderella, Pink Banana and Sugar Pie
- Baking breads, cakes or cookies: Sweet Meat pumpkins
- Carving to display: Jack-O-Lantern and Lumina
- Harvesting pumpkin seeds: Kakai
- Making a soup or stew: Butternut, Kabocha and Red Kuri
- Painting as a decorative accent: Cotton Candy, Lumina and Orange Smoothie
- Preparing as a stand-alone dish: Acorn, Butternut, Carnival, Delicata, Sugar Loaf and Sweet Dumpling
- Serving with marinara sauce: Small Wonder (a type of spaghetti squash)
- Stuffing and serving: Acorn, Buttercup, Sweet Dumpling and Turban Squash
- Using as a bowl or tureen: Baby Bear, Jack-Be-Little, and Lil' Punkemon



taking a nap in their strollers. At the popular face-painting booths, visitors can select from options as simple as having a sparkly rainbow, festive leaf or pumpkin daubed onto their cheeks to getting decked out as their favorite animal such as a tiger, puppy or cat. For another autumn-friendly photo opportunity, cute backdrops featuring fall figures are often set up along the path.

Several local festivals include corn mazes which, as the name reflects, are pathways that farmers cut into cornfields. A popular tradition throughout North America and in other locales around the world, these features may be easy-to-follow passages designed primarily for young children or may be more elaborate trails, incorporating complex twists, turns and other elements that make navigation more challenging. Depending on the difficulty of the maze, the process of making your way through it can take anywhere from moments to an hour, and often help is provided by means of clues, signs or tips from volunteers along the path.

Fall festivals are often a wonderful showcase of the area's talent. The musical styles of the live performances by local bands tend to lean toward oldies, classic rock, country or bluegrass, adding to the rustic sensibility of the occasion. Dance troupes may take to the stage to demonstrate an Irish jig, clogging or tap dance. Those who appreciate seeing the season's gold and russet décor on display will want to be sure to peruse the craft booths where they will discover painted pumpkins, creative scarecrows and gourds that have been carved, dried or embellished with fall motifs. With the wealth of regional artworks and other handmade items that are displayed, it's easy to get a little early holiday shopping in as well.

When you come to a fall festival, you will want to be sure to bring your appetite! As you walk around and take in all the sights, the air is filled with the inviting aromas of sweet-and-salty kettle corn, and you may even catch a whiff of freshly ground coffee percolating. If you need to quench your thirst, freshly squeezed lemonade, refreshing water, sodas and, of course, a mug of spiced apple cider will hit the spot! Many of the favorite fair treats often are made fresh on site, such as tasty corn dogs, caramel-covered apples, cotton candy, snow cones, and funnel cakes, topped with your choice of powdered sugar, fruit in syrup or other delectable options. Another highly sought-after snack are the large fried dough treats known as elephant ears, which are cooked to light, crispy perfection and then dusted with cinnamon and sugar.

By stopping into the market, you can take the tastes of fall home with you. Those who love pumpkin will be delighted to find an assortment of foods enhanced with



its one-of-a-kind flavor, such as breads, hand-dipped ice cream, fudge and pies, ranging from the traditional style to richer custard varieties. Apple-picking is a fall tradition for many, so you may want to select a bushel of these field-fresh fruit for making a delicious pie. Often, you will discover jars of apple butter, blackberry jam, seedless raspberry jelly, and sugar-free strawberry preserves, which can easily be paired with a loaf of delicious, soft bread. In the bakery section, you can select from pastries filled with cream, doughnuts, coffee cakes, cinnamon rolls and pies, including Dutch apple, strawberry rhubarb, and cherry. If you have a sweet tooth, you may enjoy the assortment of candies, such as soft caramels, peanut butter blossoms, root beer barrels, and the Florida favorites, chocolate-covered coconut patties and Key lime-flavored saltwater taffy.

Now that you know all about these wonderful festivals, you may be inspired to revisit a favorite seasonal tradition or to introduce a special loved one to all that these events have to offer. So, go ahead and "fall into" the celebration of the season!

A PALETTE OF PUMPKINS: VARIETIES BY COLOR

Create an appealing fall display showcasing a rainbow of brightly hued gourds.

- Blue: Blue Hubbard, Jarrahdale, Queensland Blue and Sweet Meat
- Dark Green: Acorn, Buttercup, Cha Cha, Green Hubbard, and Marina Di Chioggia
- Green and Orange: Kakai and La Estrella
- Green with Cream Stripes: Carnival, Cushaw Green, Delicata and Sweet Dumpling
- Orange: Jack-O-Lanterns, Orange Magic and Pie Pumpkins
- Orange and White: One Too Many
- Orange Red: Cinderella, Orange Hubbard, Red Kuri, Red Warty Thing, and Sunshine
- Tan and Pink: Amish Pie, Butternut, Pink Banana and Tahitian Butternut
- White: Baby Boo, Cotton Candy, Full Moon, Lumina and Valenciano
- Yellow: Halloween in Paris, Small Wonder and Spaghetti Squash
- Yellow with Cream Stripes: Celebration, Cushaw Gold and Festival