

# Checkers donates to Heidelberg Giant Pumpkin Festival

Shoprite Checkers has again supplied the sixty-five entrants into the annual Heidelberg Giant Pumpkin Festival with special hand-selected pumpkin seeds imported from Canada.

Especially bred for size, Dill's Atlantic Giant is the granddaddy of giant pumpkins. Non-treated or genetically modified in any way, these seeds are the variety of choice for those wishing to produce pumpkins in excess of 300 kilograms.



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"Producing a giant pumpkin requires talent, hard work and of course a bit of luck," explains Dr Johan van Deventer, GM at Freshmark (Shoprite's fruit and vegetable procurement and distribution arm).

"A planting area of between 40m<sup>2</sup> and 60m<sup>2</sup> in full sun is required. Once successfully germinated, the pumpkin plant constantly needs to be protected from overexposure to heat and wind. When watering the plant, it is important to try to keep the leaves dry. Last but certainly not least, guarding a giant pumpkin from porcupines and the like can be quite the challenge. So it's no surprise that some producers have been known to sleep next to their

pumpkins."

Heidelberg's annual Giant Pumpkin Festival, taking place this year on 24 - 25 March, is a community initiative and all proceeds are donated to the local schools and old age home. Additional activities at the festival include a MTB race, 35km trail run, golf day and bowls competition. There will also be pumpkin carving and pumpkin throwing competitions, which promises to be lots of fun for both young and old.

Prize money is sponsored by Shoprite Checkers and additional prizes are also awarded for the smallest, prettiest and ugliest pumpkins. For more information, go to [www.pumpkinfestival.co.za](http://www.pumpkinfestival.co.za).

For more, visit: <https://www.bizcommunity.com>