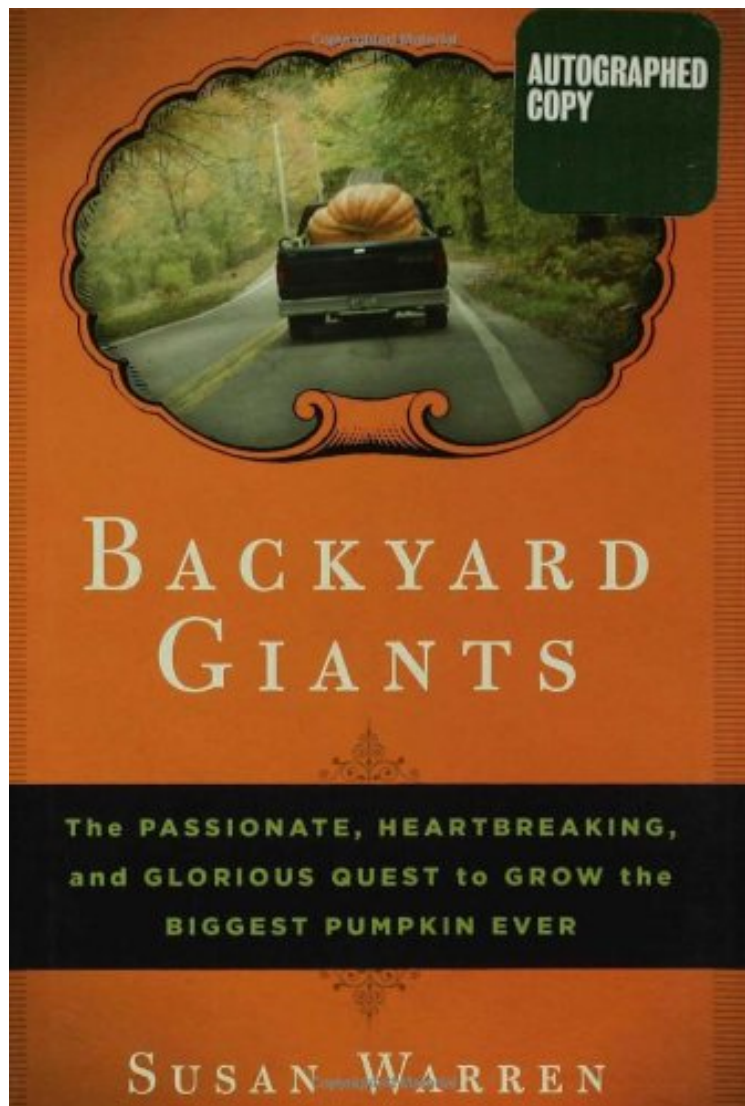


(Get free) Backyard Giants: The Passionate, Heartbreaking, and Glorious Quest to Grow the Biggest Pumpkin Ever

Backyard Giants: The Passionate, Heartbreaking, and Glorious Quest to Grow the Biggest Pumpkin Ever

Susan Warren

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Susan Warren : Backyard Giants: The Passionate, Heartbreaking, and Glorious Quest to Grow the Biggest Pumpkin Ever before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Backyard Giants: The Passionate, Heartbreaking, and Glorious Quest to Grow the Biggest Pumpkin Ever:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An "I can relate" type of book for those who grow pumpkins. You WILL relate to the pages in this book. Highly recommended. By four tabby house This book is for anyone who grows

pumpkins, either for fun or profit (small scale). The trials and tribulations of growing mega pumpkins makes this book a nail biter. Honest. The real life characters in the book show just how difficult it is to grow a pumpkin for a country fair. Would it be too silly to say this book is riveting and hard to put down, once you start it? The only time I put it down was to check the status of my own small pumpkin patch. Definitely recommend this book for its insight, educational and humorous descriptions of livin' high in the pumpkin patch. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. In short: a shockingly compelling story of a man and his pumpkins. By The Itsy Bitsy Wall Street Journal bureau chief Susan Warren follows one year in the life (weigh in to weigh in) of father and son pumpkin growing duo Dick and Ron Wallace in their (not insufficient) labors as they attempt to grow their local growers club, the hobby in general, and the world's biggest pumpkin. While the book is primarily concerned with the particulars of Ron Wallace's 2006 season, it also touches on the history of the hobby, many of its major players, and how giant pumpkins have changed their lives. While the pumpkins themselves are giant to the point of cartoonish-ness, the real marvel here is the level of dedication these people put into something that is almost soul grinding in its expense. Competitive pumpkin growers sacrifice staggering amounts of time, money, and even relationships on a few pieces of fruit that what will more likely than not end up a shattered, rotting, grizzly-bear sized pile of stink in their compost heap. They are constantly and painfully reminded of this, and yet even standing over the husks of their defeats they're busy figuring out how to do it better next time... right before heading out to use their new-found free time to help someone else with their patch. This is a story of hope, competition, sharing, purpose, camaraderie, community, and yes, if you are paying any attention to the interplay between father Dick and son Ron, even love. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Customer entertaining

In the tradition of *Word Freak* and *Confederates in the Attic*, a charming, witty account of a season in mad pursuit of the world's largest pumpkin. Every year, the race to grow the biggest pumpkin in the world draws a rowdy crowd of obsessive gardeners to county fairs and weigh-offs across the country. The competition is furious; there's sabotage and treachery and the heartbreak of root rot, and many a weigh-off ends in tears. This year more than just the grand prize is at stake. The Holy Grail is within reach: the world's first fifteen-hundred pound pumpkin. And Ron and Dick Wallace will stop at nothing to get it. *Backyard Giants* follows a tumultuous season in the life of a close-knit tribe of competitors as they chase down the ultimate pumpkin prize. In the grueling and gut-wrenching quest for truly colossal fruit, vacations are postponed, marriages are strained, and savings accounts are emptied. Backyards are converted into leafy laboratories of biogenetics and toxic chemicals to say nothing of pumpkin sex. Riding shotgun with Ron and his father Dick, Wall Street Journal editor Susan Warren brings to life a winning and unforgettable crew of pumpkin lunatics: the newbie who shocked everyone by growing the big one last year; the pro-bono slime scientist; the groundhog assassin; and the safety trainer who risked electrocuting himself to save his patch. Funny, sharp, and engaging, *Backyard Giants* is a romp through a charming corner of American life, as quirky and enchanting as the big pumpkins themselves.

From Publishers Weekly The pursuit of the Great Pumpkin among Rhode Island gardeners becomes the passion of Texas-based Wall Street Journal bureau chief Warren in this gently ironic, thoroughly engaging work. Growing the world's heaviest pumpkin (the record tops around 1,500 pounds) has become an international sport, requiring full-time planning and cultivation, and amply rewarded in prizes at fairs and in TV appearances. Warren focuses on a group of winners among the Rhode Island club of growers, led by father and son duo Dick and Ron Wallace, who live south of Providence. She follows their fastidious planning over the 2006 growing season, from early tilling of a new patch of land (they burned out the old patch by pouring in too many supplements and fertilizers) to careful selection of seeds from previous monster prizewinners via online auctions, then germinating seedlings in an incubation chamber; this is followed by a strict planting, culling, watering and fertilizing schedule. While wives feel neglected, the men obsessively care for their pumpkin patches, coaxing the behemoths to amass 30 pounds a day at peak growth, and fending off destroyers such as deer, foaming stump slime and cracks in the shell. Each of these growers shares tales of heartbreak, but Warren peaks the anticipation with the big fall weigh-ins, lending a humorous, poignant touch to this hearty gardener's tale. (Sept.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist It's not only Charles Schulz's Linus who waits every year for a Great Pumpkin to come along. All over the country, from Rhode Island to California, Ohio to Washington, legions of men (and not a few women) eagerly anticipate great pumpkins of their own literally. Audacious, obsessive gardeners, they have dreamed and planned, watered and weeded, pruned and fertilized, coddled and agonized over a bumper crop of pumpkins, hoping to nurture one worthy of "world's largest" honors. To do that, it will have to weigh in at close to 1,500 pounds and approximate a Volkswagen Beetle in girth. Accompanying father-and-son pumpkin growers and competitors Dick and Ron Wallace throughout a roller-coaster season, Warren experiences it all, from foaming slime to marauding mice. As bank accounts dwindle and ulcers blossom, Warren's hilarious yet enlightening expos reveals why and how these passionate, peculiar, and painstaking pumpkin growers are willing to put it all on the line for one big one very big payoff. Haggas, Carol About the Author Susan Warren is the deputy bureau chief for the Wall Street Journal in

Dallas, Texas. A native Texan, she is an avid gardener. Her biggest pumpkin was 240 pounds. This is her first book.