



# Pumpkin



*Cucurbita maxima* (pumpkin) is believed to have originated in South America and is grown worldwide. Pumpkin belongs to the Cucurbitaceae family, which includes cucumber, melon and squash. Exports of fresh pumpkin from Guyana increased from 275 tonnes in 2005 to 452 tonnes in

2011. Guyana's exports of pumpkin to Antigua and Barbados during 2006-2008 represented 70% of the import volume of these countries. Thus there is still a 30% slack between imports and Guyana's exports. Notably, the exportation of pumpkin in 2011-2015 is expected to increase tremendously.

## VARIETIES

- American Pumpkins
- Butternut squash
- Marrows

## MAIN PRODUCING AREAS

- Crabwood Creek
- Bonasika
- Wakenaam
- Hogg Island

## PREPARATION FOR EXPORT MARKET

### HARVESTING

- Use a pair of sharp pruning shears to sever the stem and create an attractive smooth cut. One inch (2.5 cm) should be left attached.
- Transport from field to packing house in strong field crates.

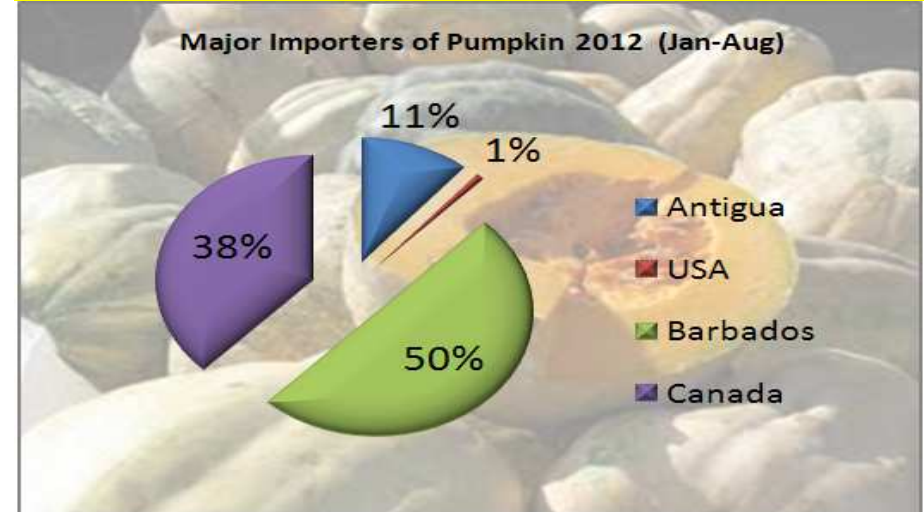
### CLEANING

- Remove surface soil and stains with a soft cloth or cotton gloves.
- If washing is required, wash water should be sanitized with 150 ppm hypochlorous acid. Allow fruit to thoroughly dry.

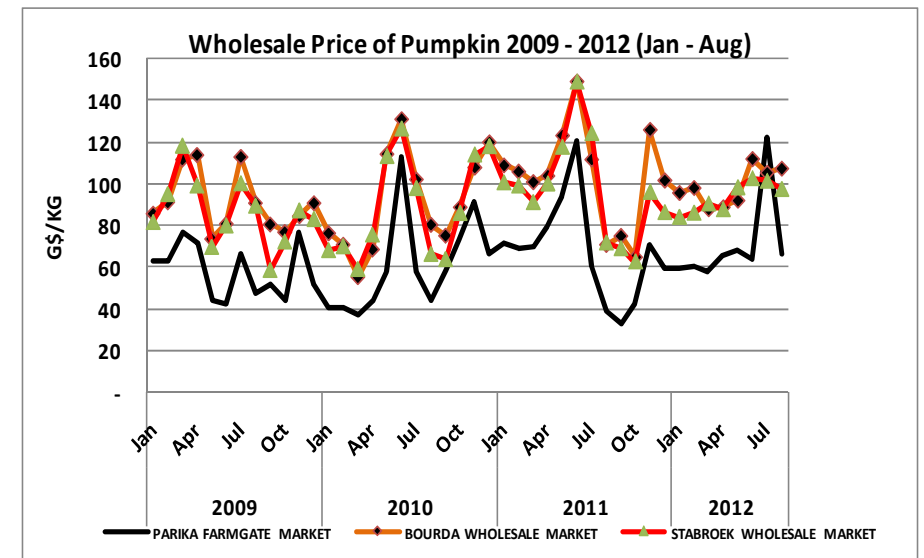
### PACKING

- Local & Caribbean Market – They are placed in mesh sacks containing 3 –7 fruits weighing 23kg (50 lbs)
- North American Market – Pack in strong, well-ventilated fiber-board cartoons containing 19kg (42 lbs) of fruit. Separate using internal dividers.

## EXPORT MARKETS



## PRICE TRENDS



Guyana Marketing Corporation, 87 Robb & Alexander Sts, Lacytown

Tel: 592-226-2219, 227-1630, 226-8255 Fax: 592-227-4114

Website: [www.newgmc.com](http://www.newgmc.com)

Email: [info@newgmc.com](mailto:info@newgmc.com)