Pumpkin on a Stick

Solanum integrifolium

Height: 4 feet

Spread: 4 feet

Sunlight: ○ ◐

Hardiness Zone: (annual)

Description:

An interesting variety presenting small, fruit resembling miniature pumpkins on tall, dark stems; blue-green foliage; excellent vase life, lasting up to 2 weeks; small fruit is edible but bitter and peppery in taste



Pumpkin on a Stick fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Pumpkin on a Stick
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Edible Qualities

Pumpkin on a Stick is an annual vegetable plant that is typically grown for its edible qualities, although it does have ornamental merits as well. It produces scarlet round fruit which are usually ready for picking in late summer. The fruits have a bitter taste and a firm texture.

The fruit are most often used in the following ways:

- Cooking

Planting & Growing

Pumpkin on a Stick will grow to be about 4 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 4 feet. This fast-growing vegetable plant will behave as an annual in our climate, which means that it can be expected to grow for one season in your garden and then die after producing a crop.

This plant can be integrated into a landscape or flower garden by creative gardeners, but is usually grown in a designated vegetable garden. It does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in average to moist conditions, and shouldn't be allowed to dry out. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in rich soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This species is not originally from North America.

Pumpkin on a Stick is a good choice for the vegetable garden, but it is also well-suited for use in outdoor pots and containers. With its upright habit of growth, it is best suited for use as a 'thriller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the center of the pot, surrounded by smaller plants and those that spill over the edges. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.