



**Does Planting Date Affect Pumpkin Yield?**

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**PURDUE UNIVERSITY**

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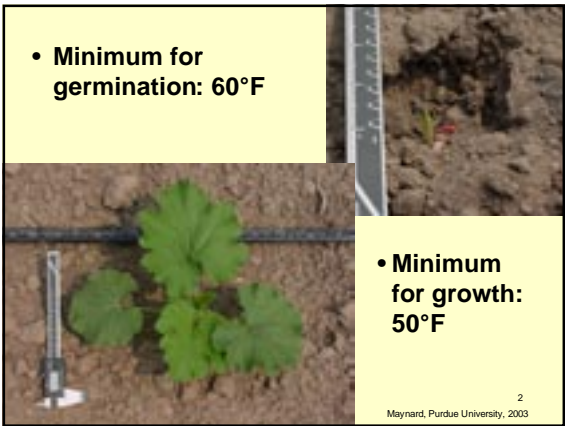
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- **Minimum for germination: 60°F**
- **Minimum for growth: 50°F**

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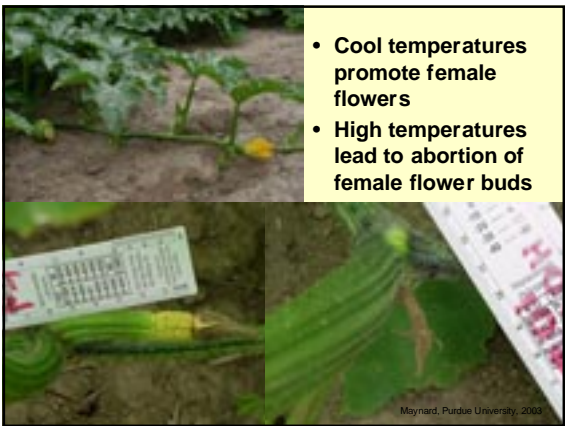
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- **Cool temperatures promote female flowers**
- **High temperatures lead to abortion of female flower buds**

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- Later planting may escape overwintering cucumber beetles
- Early planting may escape yield loss due to virus



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### What is the Best Planting Date?

- May 25?
- May 30?
- June 5?
- June 10?
- June 15?
- June 20?

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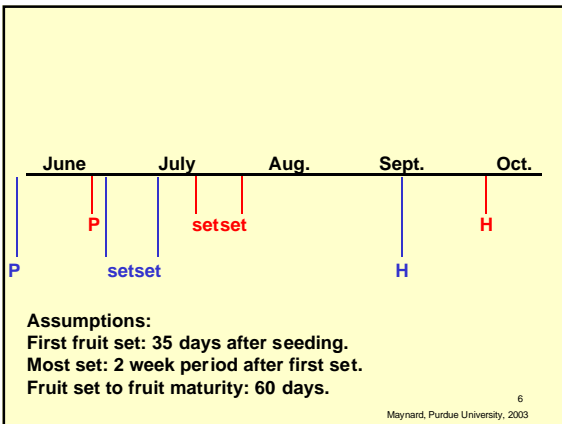
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Assumptions:  
 First fruit set: 35 days after seeding.  
 Most set: 2 week period after first set.  
 Fruit set to fruit maturity: 60 days.

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## Field Trials

- Yield
- Post-harvest shelf life
- Flowering, Fruit Set, Temperature

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## 2002 Trials at Pinney-Purdue

- Cultivars
  - Gold Medal
  - Magic Lantern
- Planting Dates
  - May 31
  - June 10
  - June 20

8  
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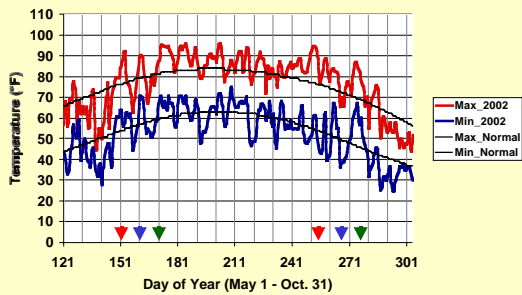
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Maximum and Minimum Temperatures at Wanatah, Indiana in 2002, and 30-year Normals



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**Gold Medal, PD 1, 9 WAP**

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**Gold Medal, PD 2, 7.5 WAP**

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**Magic Lantern, PD 1, 9 WAP**

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**Magic Lantern, PD 2 , 7.5 WAP**

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**Gold Medal, PD 1, 13 WAP**

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**Gold Medal, PD 2, 11.5 WAP**

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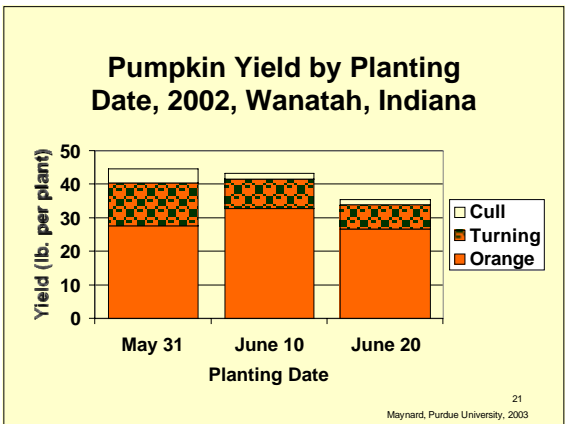
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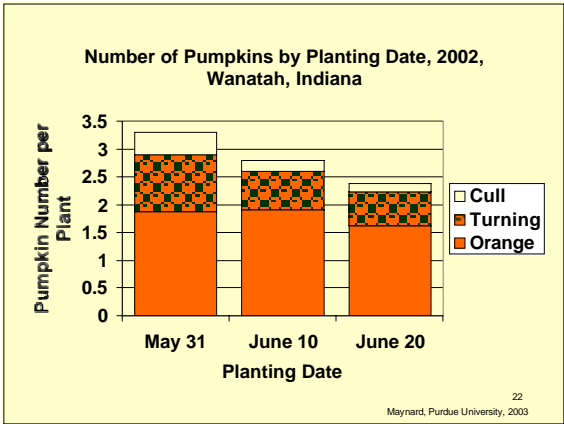
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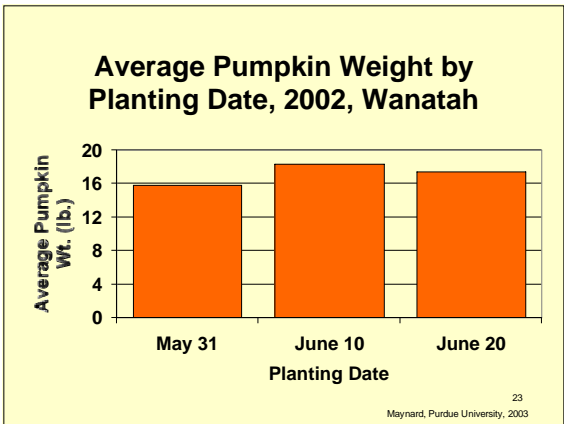
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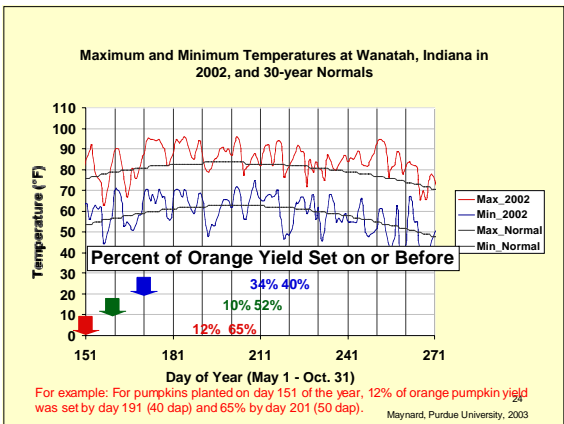
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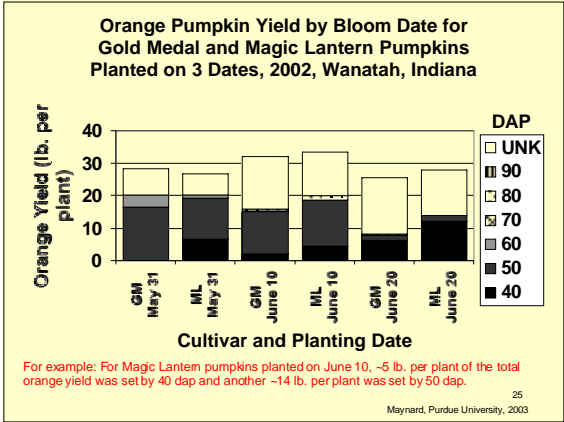
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**Does Planting Date Affect Pumpkin Yield?**

- Yes
- In 2002:
  - Second week of June was the best
  - Earliest date had smallest pumpkins
  - Earliest date had highest % culls
- What will happen next year?

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