



Gourds

Dee Gutttau talked about a family project to raise gourds and pumpkins every year. Dee collects the seeds of those varieties she wants to keep, based on color, shape, and size of the item. She collects baskets through garage sales and thrift stores for giving away the gourds.

Dee plants the pumpkins and gourds in the middle of June. She plants a lot of seeds in a one foot circle and then thins them when they start growing. She uses grass clippings to mulch around them to prevent weeds from growing. She also sprays to prevent bugs.

Dee plants over 100 hills of seeds. She tries to make the hills eight feet apart so Gary can drive the tractor between them to cultivate. Chad does any tilling that is needed.

Dee collects seeds from those she likes before they rot. She

doesn't keep volunteers. She sometimes cooks pumpkin seeds to eat. But she doesn't make many pumpkin pies.

To preserve gourds, Dee washes them with bleach water when they are picked. Then they keep better and are shinier.