

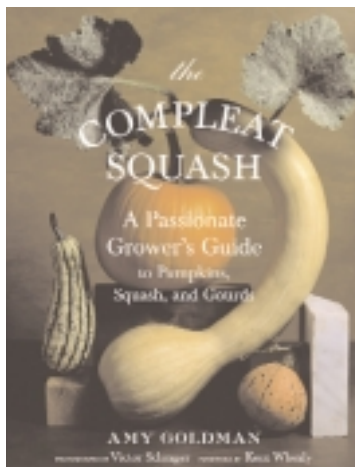
"Even the beginning gardener can grow any of the four major domesticated squash species (*Cucurbita maxima*, *C. moshata*, *C. pepo*, and *C. argyrosperma*) in most places in the United States," says Amy Goldman.

'Atlantic Giant' (*C. maxima*, Mammoth Group)



Squash enthusiasm

Big news for pumpkin, squash, and gourd growers: Amy Goldman, fairy godmother of the humble cucurbita, has written a magical new book



"I AM A DEVOTEE of pumpkins and squashes," begins *The Compleat Squash: A Passionate Grower's Guide to Pumpkins, Squash, and Gourds* (Artisan, October 2004; \$40). Coming from author Amy Goldman, this is a glorious understatement, for this garden writer is in fact the reigning queen of all things cucurbita. They might have warts, bumps, and bulges, or be fat beyond belief. But to Goldman, every pumpkin, squash, and ornamental gourd is a "miracle," and every element of ministering to them a pleasure, from saving seed to showing at the state fair. "Growing pumpkins and squashes is not for the minimalist," she admits, and she speaks from experience. A masterful gardener (her pumpkins, squashes, and gourds earned her 38 blue ribbons and the coveted Grand Championship rosette in vegetables at the Dutchess County Fair in Rhinebeck, N.Y.), Goldman has raised cultivars prized for their rarity and others celebrated for their sheer size. Authoritative information on cultivation, hand-pollination, and harvesting—plus 150 spectacular photographs by Victor Schrager—make this inspiring 208-page hardcover well worth carving out space for on your bookshelf. —M.E.G.

The Compleat Squash, by Amy Goldman, published by Artisan Books © 2004. Photographs by Victor Schrager.