



# Alex Noel, Giant Pumpkin Grower, New England

## Rain Bird® Irrigation Helps Connecticut Man Pursue his Dream of Growing World's Largest Pumpkin

Alex Noel has been growing giant pumpkins for 20 years, making adjustments in breeding and growing conditions to achieve bigger pumpkins with thicker walls. He currently holds the state record in Connecticut with a 2,294.5-pound whopper. He dreams of setting the world record one day.

### THE CHALLENGE

Alex believes that delivering more water to the plants' roots could yield bigger, thicker-walled pumpkins. Too much overhead watering, however, will oversaturate the soil and jeopardize the plants, so an alternative watering method will be necessary. If possible, Alex also wants to reduce the time he spends on pumpkin care. He currently invests about 1,000 hours per growing season, including watering by hand.



XFS Subsurface Dripline with  
Copper Shield™ Technology

### Core Products Used:

- XFS Subsurface Dripline with Copper Shield™ Technology

### THE SOLUTION:

An innovative subsurface dripline system from Rain Bird® will provide consistent water to the plants' roots without flooding the soil. This cutting-edge technology will deliver even moisture without clogging from roots or debris. Connecting the system to a fertilizer injector will save Alex time while improving the health, size, and wall thickness of his pumpkins.

### KEY OBJECTIVES

- ✓ **Water roots directly**
- ✓ **Provide consistent moisture**
- ✓ **Avoid oversaturation**
- ✓ **Eliminate clogging**
- ✓ **Save time**

## Site Report: Alex Noel, Giant Pumpkin Grower, New England

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### APPROACH:

#### Ensure Consistent Moisture

Selecting the efficient XFS Subsurface Dripline with Copper Shield Technology will support Alex's growing goals with hassle-free irrigation. The system's larger inlet holes and wider flow channels will let debris pass through instead of plugging the emitter, ensuring a reliable supply of water. The copper will release ions that prevent roots from growing into the lines and blocking flow. This choice will be an environmentally responsible alternative to chemical root inhibitors.

#### Water Roots Directly

Alex will be installing these XFS lines to irrigate 3,000 square feet of fields where he grows his giant pumpkins. Placing the lines 8 to 12 inches deep and spacing them 17 to 18 inches apart will allow for consistent moisture at the plants' root zones.

#### Save Time

Connecting an automatic fertilizer injector to the Rain Bird system will help Alex provide precise nutrients for his pumpkins, which can grow as much as 60 pounds per day. This approach will also save him time compared to watering by hand and applying the fertilizer separately. "It simplifies everything to be able to put it directly to the roots and to be able to keep the top layer of soil hot and dry as opposed to soggy and covered in algae," explains Alex.



“Based on a theory I had that a high water table and a consistent soil saturation about 12 inches deep in the root zone influenced wall thickness in a strong positive way, I put this system to the test and as far as I'm concerned, it has worked beautifully. I would encourage anyone thinking about improving their deep soil moisture to look into this Rain Bird system.

ALEX NOEL  
PROFESSIONAL GIANT PUMPKIN GROWER

### RESULTS:

#### A New World Record is Set

Since installing his new Rain Bird subsurface drip irrigation system, Alex has set a new world record for growing the thickest-walled pumpkin over one ton. In fact, he grew two behemoth pumpkins that were 20% and 26% respectively over the estimation charts, which anticipate a pumpkin's weight based on surface area. Alex attributes his success to the new Rain Bird system and certainly plans to continue using it into the future!

