

# SMASHING PUMPKIN ALE

Official NORTHERN BREWER Instructional Document

Autumn, and a homebrewer's thoughts turn to capturing the sensory experience of the season ... crisp nights, colorful leaves, and ripe gourds being turned into pie. We're often asked for pumpkin ale recipes at this time of year, and it's easy to understand why: sipping this spiced amber ale is like drinking a slice of pie. Clean and sweetly malty with just enough hop bitterness to balance and no hop aroma to mask the spices. A dose at the shutdown of the boil imbues the beer with a complex, lingering spice profile full of nutmeg, cinnamon, and ginger that lingers from the pour to the last swish in the pint glass.

If you want to incorporate actual vegetables in this recipe, you'll need to purchase an additional 2 or 3 pounds of Rahr 6-row (#G002) and provide your own 8 to 10 pound pumpkin (winter squash like butternut or acorn will work if pumpkin is out of season). Cut up the gourd, discard the innards, and roast or microwave the pieces until soft and cooked through, then peel. Mash the peeled, cooked pumpkin flesh with up to 3 gallons of hot water, the 6-row and the included grains at 152°F for 1 hour. Then strain the liquid off and add it to the water in the boil kettle, topping up to achieve 3 gallons.

**O.G.: 1.054 READY: 6 WEEKS**

1-2 weeks primary, 2 weeks secondary,  
1-2 weeks bottle conditioning

## KIT INVENTORY:

### MAILLARD MALTS™ SPECIALTY GRAIN

Nightshade Grains:

- 0.5 lb Briess Caramel 40

### MAILLARD MALTS™ EXTRACTS & OTHER FERMENTABLES

- 6 lbs Amber malt syrup (60 min)
- 1.0 lb Pilsen dried malt extract (60 min)

### HOPTIMUS REX™ PREMIUM HOPS & OTHER FLAVORINGS

- 1 oz Cluster (60 min)
- 1 tsp Pumpkin Pie Spice (0 min)

## YEAST

- Dry Yeast (default): Safale US-05 Ale Yeast. Optimum temp: 59°-75° F
- Liquid yeast option: Wyeast 1056 American Ale. Apparent attenuation: 73-77%. Flocculation: low-medium. Optimum temp: 60°-72°F.

## PRIMING SUGAR

- 5 oz Priming Sugar (save for Bottling Day)

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN ...

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Homebrewing starter kit for brewing 5 gallon batches
- Boiling kettle of at least 3.5 gallons capacity
- A 5 gallon carboy, with bung and airlock, to use as a secondary fermenter - If you do not have a secondary fermenter you may skip the secondary fermentation and add an additional week to primary fermentation before bottling
- Approximately two cases of either 12 oz or 22 oz pry-off style beer bottles

### UNPACK THE KIT

- Refrigerate the yeast upon arrival
- Locate the Kit Inventory - this is the recipe for your beer, so keep it handy
- Doublecheck the box contents vs. the Kit Inventory
- Contact us immediately if you have any questions or concerns!

## PROCEDURE

### A FEW DAYS BEFORE BREWING DAY

1. Remove the liquid Wyeast pack from the refrigerator, and "smack" as shown on the back of the yeast package. Leave it in a warm place (70-80° F) to incubate until the pack begins to inflate. Allow at least 3 hours for inflation; some packs may take up to several days to show inflation. Do not brew with inactive yeast - we can replace the yeast, but not a batch that fails to ferment properly. If you are using dry yeast, no action is needed.

### ON BREWING DAY

2. Collect and heat 2.5 gallons of water.
3. For mail-order customers grains for extract kits come crushed by default, but if you requested uncrushed grains, crush them now. Pour crushed grain into supplied mesh bag and tie the open end in a knot. Steep for 20 minutes or until water reaches 170°F. Remove bag and discard.
4. Bring to a boil and add 6 lbs Amber malt syrup and 1 lb Pilsen DME. Remove the kettle from the burner and stir in the Amber malt syrup and Pilsen DME.
5. Return wort to boil. The mixture is now called "wort", the brewer's term for unfermented beer.
  - Add 1 oz Cluster hops, and boil for 60 minutes.
  - Add 1 tsp of Pumpkin Pie Spice at the end of the boil.
6. Cool the wort. When the 60-minute boil is finished, cool the wort to approximately 100° F as rapidly as possible. Use a wort chiller, or put the kettle in an ice bath in your sink.
7. Sanitize fermenting equipment and yeast pack. While the wort cools, sanitize the fermenting equipment - fermenter, lid or stopper, fermentation lock, funnel, etc - along with the yeast pack and a pair of scissors.
8. Fill primary fermenter with 2 gallons of cold water, then pour in the cooled wort. Leave any thick sludge in the bottom of the kettle.

9. Add more cold water as needed to bring the volume to 5 gallons.

10. Aerate the wort. Seal the fermenter and rock back and forth to splash for a few minutes, or use an aeration system and diffusion stone.

11. Optional: if you have our Mad Brewer Upgrade or Gravity Testing kits, measure specific gravity of the wort with a hydrometer and record.

12. Add yeast once the temperature of the wort is 78°F or lower (not warm to the touch). Use the sanitized scissors to cut off a corner of the yeast pack, and carefully pour the yeast into the primary fermenter.

13. Seal the fermenter. Add approximately 1 tablespoon of water to the sanitized fermentation lock. Insert the lock into rubber stopper or lid, and seal the fermenter.

14. Move the fermenter to a warm, dark, quiet spot until fermentation begins.

### BEYOND BREWING DAY, WEEKS 1-2

15. Active fermentation begins. Within approximately 48 hours of Brewing Day, active fermentation will begin - there will be a cap of foam on the surface of the beer, and you may see bubbles come through the fermentation lock.

16. Active fermentation ends. Approximately 1-2 weeks after brewing day, active fermentation will end: the cap of foam falls back into the new beer, bubbling in the fermentation lock slows down or stops.

17. Transfer beer to secondary fermenter. Sanitize siphoning equipment and an airlock and carboy bung or stopper. Siphon the beer from the primary fermenter into the secondary.

### BEYOND BREWING DAY— SECONDARY FERMENTATION

18. Secondary fermentation. Allow the beer to condition in the secondary fermenter for 2 weeks before proceeding with the next step. Timing now is somewhat flexible.

### BOTTLING DAY—ABOUT 1 MONTH AFTER BREWING DAY

19. Sanitize siphoning and bottling equipment.

20. Mix a priming solution (a measured amount of sugar dissolved in water to carbonate the bottled beer) of  $\frac{2}{3}$  cup priming sugar in 16 oz water. Bring the solution to a boil and pour into the bottling bucket.

21. Siphon beer into bottling bucket and mix with priming solution. Stir gently to mix—don't splash.

22. Fill and cap bottles.

### 1-2 WEEKS AFTER BOTTLING DAY

23. Condition bottles at room temperature for 1-2 weeks. After this point, the bottles can be stored cool or cold.

24. Serving. Pour into a clean glass, being careful to leave the layer of sediment at the bottom of the bottle. Cheers!