

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
September 29-30, 2012
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GROWERS VINE

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Brought to you by Port Elgin Pumpkinfest and the GVGO

NEWS FROM THE PREZ By Kirk Chenier, President

Greetings members, we here at GVGO headquarters hope this newsletter finds you well and getting ready for another busy year in the patch. This winter has been a funny one here in southern Ontario with a lack of wintery weather to say the least. In parts of western Canada I hear golf courses are opening and Eastern Canada is getting blasted at times by Mother Nature so the playing field will be very different for many of us come spring. The great pool of volunteers here at the GVGO have been up to things like seed auctions, seed raffles and currently Pat Watson and his band of merry men and women have sorted, labelled and now stuffed bubble packs which went out the 2nd week of February to places world- wide to be planted and hopefully produce personal bests and records for many of our members. Thanks to Pat and his team for such a good job and for taking this over from me. If you have not renewed your membership please do so as we have some packs left that need a good home. You just can't beat the price of membership (\$25) and what you get for that cost.

The 2012 Edition of the Spring Seminar and Awards Ceremony will be in Prince Edward County in the quaint town of Demorestville just a short drive from Belleville on April the 14th with registration starting at 8 am. We are going to have a hot lunch and the line-up of guest speakers such as Jim Bryson, Harley Sproule and Todd Kline could be the best ever. The tentative agenda for the seminar can be found later in the newsletter. At the seminar this year the position of President will be up for grabs as I'm stepping down to ease back a bit after several months dealing with medical issues and concentrate on some good family time as we're all a bit worn out. Now this usually comes down to an acclamation thing but one never knows.

The seed of the year contest this year will have 2 seeds, one squash which is the 1037.5 Jarvis-2011** (1217 Jarvis-2009** x 1002 Jarvis-2010**), the other is the 1641.4 Montgomery (1566 Rodonis x 1185 Kline). Each of these will carry a first prize of \$500 and a bonus of \$500 if it sets a new world record weighed at an Ontario GPC weigh-off. This contest is open to all GVGO members but the fruit must be weighed in Ontario. Good luck to all who plant these great seeds. You can request these seeds by emailing Pat Watson or myself.

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Port Elgin's Award Winning
Pumpkinfest
In The Municipality of Sauguen Shores



The bulk purchases this year have been trimmed down as many of these products can be easily sourced out by growers and it was getting to be a bit of a burden on those organizing the seminar. This year we are proud to offer as usual the Neptunes Harvest fish and seaweed liquid, RTI and Mykes myco, Lithovit, Kelp meal and granular humic acid and some quantities of Humic and Fulvic liquid hopefully. Phil Hunt is the one taking orders this year so contact him to place your orders ASAP. John Vincent should have his usual array of great products as well which he will post on the website soon. I will take orders for cornmeal as well once I confirm with my supplier and post details on the website.

As this is the last newsletter I will be officially writing as President it has been a pleasure serving all of you and bringing many new things to the club in the years I have served as President. Some of these being the implementation of using PayPal for payments of dues, seed sales etc, seeking out new products, running seminars along with the help of our great executive members and volunteers. We have many great volunteers which are needed by any club and I thank all of you for your time over my tenure. Our club is in great shape and continuing on the path of the vision set out by our club founders to better the sport and hobby of growing giant pumpkins and vegetables. I remember attending my first seminar in Lindsay and rubbing elbows with the likes of Al Eaton and Brant Timm and thinking man I'm with growing royalty. I really was but these very people and many other great growers are normal people like you and I that have helped many of us to become

better growers by sharing information and not holding back things so we could grow as a club. Now heading into the 2012 season we can boast that the Pumpkin and Squash World records belong to GVGO members. Many of our newer growers have climbed right up to the top of many weigh-off leader boards along with the usual names from past years. The weights keep climbing and I'm sure in the near future the 1 ton mark will be met and what a day that will be if it's a GVGO member that breaks it. The club is in good financial shape heading into 2012 but the fundraising landscape is changing rapidly in the Giant Pumpkin World and we really need your feedback to get some direction on how the executive should approach fundraising in the future, the 2011 auction was a success but the raffle had a dramatic decline in sales so please return the questionnaire in the newsletter so we can keep our coffers strong in the future.

In closing I wish all of you well in your growing adventures this season, it's always been about having fun in growing the things we do for me and I certainly hope you have some along the way while trying to obtain personal bests and records. This season I will be dedicating to spending time with my son Jacob and wife Jennifer growing and enjoying time with family after a long winter of Cancer treatments which have taken their toll on us as a family. We won't be growing any pumpkins but will grow many veggies in our three gardens here in Dummer Twp. Any club is only as good as its members and how they work together and as far as that goes we do have one heck of a good club here at the GVGO.

Cheers, Kirk Chenier

**GVGO SPRING 2012
SCIENCE NEWS
By Russ Landry**

A Brief Encounter.....

I am often amazed at the routes or journey I have taken along the path into gardening research. My travels have taken me too many places over the years. Two pumpkin cruises, several patch tours, conventions and seminars. Seed sorting parties and even 3 or 4 weigh-offs each year brings me in contact with growers from numerous clubs and from different countries. The yearly networking with growers has helped me to piece together the puzzles in answering the growing questions while producing the largest Giant Pumpkins in the world.

I never know when it is going to happen. A thought will pop into my head and it may lead me onto something that can literally take weeks to research. This is the story of my piecing together the rather obscure "Rubiks Cube" of several topics.

First let's talk Maple Bud Syrup (MBD). I spent most of the off-season reading and looking for info into the Quebec wonder product. Finally after nearly a 3 month search, I became convinced that the syrups chief benefit was in its Fructose content. I focused on its ability to be quickly used up by bacteria and fauna in the soil allowing Myco to thrive and its remaining nutrients to be absorbed by plant roots. As I came to learn later on there was indeed another benefit lurking down below that was not even on my radar screen.

It wasn't until the seed sorting party in January when I ran into team Butler/Johnston that I

twigged what might be happening to the plant. They had mentioned several times to me that the mineral content of bud syrup may hold the answer. The mineral I began to learn about was Manganese (Mn). It's found in **MBD** and is extremely important since it is thought to be a component of a vital anti-oxidant enzyme called Superoxide Dismutase (SOD). Amazingly this enzyme is thought to disarm DNA damaging free radicals.

Damaged DNA causes replication errors in cells and plant tissues and can hasten senescence and the risk of disease. Bingo, a huge key had just unlocked a very large door and opened up the possibilities to bigger and better pumpkins. SOD is thought to be a powerful ally in reducing the effect of free radicals. The age causing mutations which damage the DNA, within the cells shut down pumpkins early and slows growth. Heck I have seen this effect for several years; did a light bulb just turn on?

However knowing that MBD contains manganese really didn't answer the question of why we needed to use only this product. I needed to get a better grasp of the situation. I called in the troops to further research the issue. I spoke with John Vincent (JV) and Dr. Catapano about other types of agents that could contain anti-oxidants.

Manganese is believed to play a vital role in plant development as JV had mentioned for the past couple of years. In several discussions he commented about the Mn containing Super Man product he sells and his observation of what it does to the plants leaves. He was onto this a

few years ago. I just never gave it enough attention.

The search to find any other compounds that could neutralize free radicals began. My understanding of the topic was in its infancy. I knew from my very basic research that unstable oxygen molecules or free radicals were thought to cause damage in humans and had been theorized to be a large responsibility behind today's cancer epidemic. It turns out that free radicals also damage DNA in the cells of plant tissues.

The good Doctor pointed out to me that Lemons contain a type of ascorbic acid that is often used as a preservative and was also an anti-oxidant. I began to investigate and found that sure enough a grower could use lemon juice products to reduce free radical destruction of plant DNA. He suggested that there may be several other products out there that may also help to grow bigger pumpkins. In fact Vitamin C, or ascorbic acid and or L-ascorbic acid, it is one of the most important powerful antioxidants.

So there you have it - a few conversations have lead to a remarkable discovery of some powerful new tools growers can use. Rather the whole journey has left me wondering of how powerful a brief encounter with another grower can be in opening the door to larger fruit.

I have cited an article and a web site below in case growers want to read further.

Helping you grow bigger pumpkins.....

Good Luck & Good Growing,

Russ

Oxidative stress and antioxidant activity as the basis of senescence in maize leaves

"The results suggest that leaf senescence in general and early senescence of early cv. X 3342 is associated with higher oxidative stress and a decline in antioxidant activity towards maturity, and Mn-SOD has a major role in the scavenging of superoxide radicals during maize leaf senescence." Dagmar Prochazkova¹, R.K. Sairam¹, G.C. Srivastava, D.V. Singh. Division of Plant Physiology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 110 012, India. Received 1 February 2001. Revised 1

Read more:

<http://www.livestrong.com/article/523617-does-lemon-water-contain-antioxidants/#ixzz1nOQ4tmtn>



We are pleased to introduce Erin Zrobach, a young Victoria grower, who met the challenge of providing us with pumpkin cartoons for our newsletters. Throughout the next issues you will see her work featured. Thank you Erin!

**PORT ELGIN PUMPKINFEST
UPDATE
By Sally Hunt**

What a winter we've had eh? ...or would you call this a lack thereof?

The Port Elgin Pumpkinfest team has been busy since we last reported to you in late November. The response to our seed requests to help fundraise for the Niagara seminar was overwhelming and we want to thank all GVGO members who supported our cause. Many donators included personal notes that helped keep our morale up as we faced the many challenges that came with moving to a new venue while also dealing with the separation of the GPC from the International Giant Vegetable Growers Convention.



**GVGO Growers Receive
Their Jackets in Niagara
Falls at the IGVGC**

We had fantastic GVGO representation at the Niagara seminar and we were very pleased to present the Brysons and Joel Jarvis with their orange and green jackets respectively. Thanks to all who attended and be sure to mark your calendars on March 8, 9 and 10, 2013 for the 15th annual event.

We are seeing significant changes around Port Elgin Pumpkinfest Headquarters this year so we are dubbing 2012 the year of change.

For the first time, Port Elgin Pumpkinfest will be held in September, as we received pressure from the business community to not hold the event during the Canadian Thanksgiving Long Weekend. After polling most growers, the general consensus from the growing community tended to agree. With both the Woodbridge Fair and the Erin Fair falling on Thanksgiving weekend – it only made sense not to compete although this now puts us in a position where we would be falling on Pembroke's weekend. After talking to Brian Hugli, I believe they will be bumping their weigh-off a week earlier this year too so that we still have a weigh-off every weekend for a 4 week stretch.

We are also going to be completing some site logistical changes that will make the fairgrounds look a little different, although the weigh-off tent and logistics are staying the same. The craft vendors are going to move from the high-school into the Curling Club and the Kiddie Karnival will be moving closer to the amusement rides. This move has come about by a request from the vendors who felt they were too secluded inside the high-school.

Our featured vegetable is going to be the tomato this year so we went with a fall colours motif to represent change and we brought lots of red into the marketing theme. We have also made some changes to the weigh-off prize structure which will be included in the summer newsletter

**FINAL RESULTS FOR THE 2011
GVGO GROWER'S POOL**

1. Phil Joynson 19,134 lbs.
2. Pat Watson 17,693 lbs.
3. Russ Landry 16,545 lbs.
4. Chris Lyons 16,502 lbs.
5. John Matesa 16,360 lbs.
6. Paul Dettweiler 16,335 lbs.
7. Jane Hunt 15,871 lbs.
8. Bob Mackenzie 15,845 lbs.
9. Art Johnston 15,811 lbs.
10. David McCallum 15,712 lbs.
11. Jeff Warner 15,670 lbs.
12. Craig Balkwill 15,585 lbs.
13. Lonnie Bourne 15,451 lbs.
14. Miika Mantynienmi 15,053 lbs.
15. Jesse Powell 15,030 lbs.
16. John Ciesielski 14,703 lbs.
17. Elaine Mackenzie 14,499 lbs.
18. John Butler 14,449 lbs.
19. Sally Hunt 14,298 lbs.
20. Myrtle Lester 14,126 lbs.
21. Hezekiah Wahl 14,098 lbs.
22. Mike DeMars 14,049 lbs.
23. Rick Sanders 13,930 lbs.
24. Dave McQuay 13,882 lbs.
25. Phil Hunt 13,622 lbs.
26. George Lloyd 13,525 lbs.
27. Fred Hain 13,506 lbs.
28. Candy Dettweiler 13,374 lbs.
29. Gerry Cavanagh 13,338 lbs.
30. Conrad Wheildon 13,263 lbs.
31. Terry Chapelle 12,236 lbs.
32. Ernie Lester 12,224 lbs.
33. Joanne Burcsac 12,222 lbs.
34. Dennis Hartung 12,128 lbs.
35. Glenn Cheam 10,444 lbs.
36. Ron Wray 9,964 lbs.

SOUTHERN ONTARIO NEWS

by John Butler

What a great winter we are having down here in Southern Ontario. The above normal temperatures and lack of snow are really giving me the itch to get the garden started. The cabbage that we have over-wintered is doing fine, so hopefully there will be a good supply of seeds for all again next year.

A bunch of the southern growers and their better halves spent a great evening together just before Christmas. It started at the Mandarin Restaurant where a great meal was had by all and finished up at Fred and Dorothy Hain's for a few hours of cocktails and garden chat. A special thanks goes out to Dorothy and Fred for having us all back to their house. I hope we can do it all again next year.

The Veggy of the year is tomato, and with all of the good Ontario mater seeds out there and the ease of growing them there should be a large number of growers participating this year. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of good weights and maybe even a new WR.

It was good to see everyone at the seed packing party. The Komoka gang did a great job to ensure that everything went smooth. We had enough time for a great lunch, a few brewskis and maybe even a little pumpkin talk. A special thanks goes to Mike and Shiela McAvity for hosting the operation in their rec room and Pat and Karen Watson for all the work they did.

The rest of the packing crew included Fred Hain, Russ Landry, Art Johnston, Mike DeMars, Craig Balkwill, Sean Wardell and myself.

The fish and seaweed party will be again hosted by Lonnie Bourne on March 24. Thanks goes out in advance to all of you who are going to help. Remember to where your rubber boots.

Well that just about does it, the cabbage and amaranth are already up and doing fine, the corn will be started soon. The seminars are just around the corner and the game is about to begin again. Good Luck to all in the upcoming season and remember HAVE FUN after all it is just a hobby.

John Butler

NEWS FROM THE EASTERN REGION

by Phil Hunt

Unfortunately this article was missed in the Nov newsletter, so I thought I would refresh it some for this one.

Well wasn't that one of the most dramatic finishes to the growing season that you've ever seen. No one, other than Jim, Kelsey & Harley could have imagined the outcome. The PEC Pumpkifest in the tiny village of Wellington is now the home of the World Record Pumpkin. 1818.5# Wow, I guess you can grow WR pumpkins in Canada. Congratulations Jim & Kelsey on an outstanding season.

Winter has been an easy one here as low snow fall levels and higher

than normal temps have been the norm this winter. If conditions continue, growers might be able to work their gardens a little earlier than in previous years.

Its awards season and growers from across this continent will converge on Vegas, Niagara Falls and their home club's seminars to learn what the HH are doing to grow these massive fruits. The GVGO seminar will be in the PEC region on April 14th and we are very pleased to have both the WR holders speak to our members.

Congratulations to all the winners of each class in the 2011 weigh off season. Let's start from the 1st weigh off of the season for the Eastern region.

Pembroke

Harley Sproule of Ormstown Que was this year's winner at Hugli's Blueberry Farm in Pembroke. Second place went to Gerry Cavanaugh with an 1185#s & Todd Kline was 3rd at 1133#. Brant & Brandon Timm took top spot in the squash category at 539#. They also weighed in a damaged fruit (exhibition only) at 849#.

The big surprise of the day was the amount of Long Gourds over 120". There were 4 over 120" with Al Eaton taking top spot with a 130.81" gourds. Todd Kline was 4th at 121.63". That is a very impressive showing.

Wellington Pumpkifest, (Prince Edward County)

This is the last GPC sanctioned weigh-off of the season and it was certainly one to remember. A light rain fell as the Pumpkifest parade made its way through the main street of Wellington. I must say that

**NEWS FROM THE EAST
COAST**

by Dawn Northrup

the people of PEC really support their community. Even in the wind and rain, people came out to watch the parade. The weigh-off was moved to the farm of Alvin & Sheila Huffman. Pumpkins & other giants were all unloaded & then the fun began.

The rain and wind increased so hard that at times we wondered how Mr Huffman even stayed on the tractor. A huge THANK YOU to Alvin, Sheila and son Glen Huffman for allowing us to use their building for the weigh-off and their home for lunch and registration. We truly appreciate your hospitality.

While all the pumpkins were being unloaded, the judges weighed and measured all the other giants. Suspension grew as all the pumpkins were lined up. Jim Bryson's pumpkin, taping in the 1700 was all the buzz. Could it beat the current Canadian Record or maybe even the WR? One after one the pumpkin were weighed and recorded, until there was only one left. The crowd gathered as the pumpkin was lifted from the pallet/skid and set onto the scales. The digital board was covered and only one number was revealed at a time (back to front). 5, point, 8, 1, 8, 1 and the crowd went wild as the growers mobbed the new WR holders. The WR is now in the hands of a Canadian and fellow GVGO grower. Congratulations Jim & Kelsey. We hope you enjoy your new found fame. We'll see you in Niagara and Vegas.

Bryan Mailey surprised everyone with a beautiful 206# watermelon, while Jane & I took the top honours for the heaviest squash (877#) & the largest cabbage (69#).
Keene Pumpkinfest

This is the last weigh off of the season and a non-GPC event, so re-weighs are permitted. The weather was good and the crowds were eager to see big ones. There were approx 25 pumpkins weighed in this year. The top three at the last stop of the year was non-other than GVGO VP Phil Joynson @ 1247#, Pat Watson @ 1182# & Gerry Cavanaugh @ 1164#.

I was honoured to be asked to be the official judge of the 1st Erin Fall Fair Giant Pumpkin Weigh off. This is a non-GPC event, so re-weighs were welcomed. Jane took top spot at 1450#. Second place went to John Nieuwenhoff, while Bob & Elaine Mackenzie took 3rd place. It was a great showing for its 1st weigh-off with over 20 pumpkins being weighed. From what I seen, the giant pumpkins were a big hit and very popular with all that attended the fair. Big thank you to Conrad Wheildon & John Nieuwenhoff for working so hard to make this weigh-off happen.

Jane & I would like to congratulate Joel Jarvis again for his WR squash. Man, you really squashed that record. Squash growers will have their hands full if they want to give that record a run for its money. Way to go Joel.

In closing, 2011 was a great season for Jane and I. We had 4 new PBs and had the pleasure to witness both the squash and pumpkin World Records fall to fellow GVGOers. How can it get any better than that? We look forward seeing you all at the seminars. We hope you all had a great off-season. Now let the 2012 growing season begin. Good luck everyone.....Jane & Phil

With a new year upon us, Growers from the East Coast are busy planning out their 2012 season. The winter is the perfect time of the year to reflect on the past year and think about what changes if any you will make for the coming season.

Speaking of winter it certainly has been a roller coaster of weather patterns across the Maritimes this year. We had temperatures of -20 degrees one day and then +9 the next. And not a whole lot of snow until the first of February where some areas got up to a foot of snow! The good news is the Ground Hog did not see his shadow so hopefully Atlantic Canada will get an early spring this year, the big question comes to mind....what seeds to plant this year. There are so many good ones to choose from. It is a great time of year to chat with other growers to see what their plans are and what magical seeds they will be planting in hopes of setting a new personal best.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Edmund Hemphill, a top-notch grower in our area who is very ill. We wish you a speedy recovery so you can get back out in the patch and grow another monster this year Edmund!

Wishing all growers a great year and hope you achieve all of your dreams in the patch!!!

Dawn

News from Quebec

The Potirothon of Gentilly

By Claude Colbert



Unique event of its kind in Quebec, the Potirothon of Gentilly differs from other giant pumpkin contest taking place elsewhere in the world with his philosophy that makes it a familiar and friendly competition where honor and

personal achievement is all the reward. Some participants may be considered as experts in the field of giant pumpkins while others have only few basics skills. This is what makes the beauty contest, open to anyone wishing to attend the event.

Year after year, more and more people have joined this friendly competition. The Potirothon of Gentilly is certainly become the largest competition of giant pumpkins in the province of Quebec. More than 70 teams of growers are registered to the competition.

The season begins with a seeds give away meeting held in late April. All registered members receive a packet of seeds from the pumpkins of our top growers as well as seeds swapped with other clubs and top growers from Canada and USA. A special thanks to all growers who share their seeds for our members.

In August, we have a great patch tour. The tour begins in the morning. Participants travel together in a school bus to visit many patch around Gentilly. They can visit the patch of our top growers as well as those of first time growers. The day ends with a picnic in the evening.



Visit our Web site :

<http://mrcbecancour.qc.ca/potirothon/>



The culminating event of the season is the official weigh off of pumpkins. The weigh off is always scheduled on the last Saturday of September in the village of Gentilly. The weigh off site is located halfway between Montreal and Quebec City on the south shore of the St-Lawrence River near Trois-Rivieres. This year, the weigh off is planned on Saturday, September 29th.

Two weeks later, in the second Saturday of October, we have a pumpkins regatta on the Becancour River. The pumpkins are transformed into boat for this last event of the season. To qualify for the championship vessels must meet the following requirements:

- The vessel consists of a single pumpkin;
- No addition to outside of the pumpkin is allowed for the purpose of flotation;
- Only human-powered devices are allowed (rowing, paddles, arms, etc ...).

Hundreds of people sit on the shore to see our competitors in action.

New records in Quebec this year ? Time will tell !



WESTERN REPORT
by Don Crews

Well it's spring again, well actually mid February as I write this, but it feels like spring. This past winter hasn't seemed like winter at all. The cold arctic air that we accept as normal hasn't arrived yet and even if it does it's too late to make it feel as cold as it would in those short days of mid December. It has been unbelievably warm. Temperatures in the low -20's Celcius are a normal for us between November and February. We have only had a couple of weeks of that. The rest of the time we have been near freezing which just seems wrong. Best of all - no snow at all. We just have enough snow to cover the ground. That may come to cause us some grief later if no moisture comes before planting time.

The competition may get a little tougher out here this year. It looks like there are more growers who are getting permanent greenhouses to extend their season. The newest AG lines seem to grow for a longer period so this is becoming a necessary piece of equipment to extend the season long enough to accommodate that.

Seed choices are always tough. I think I'm going to try my 1081 from last season. The lineage is good 1161 x1725. Neither of the parents reached their potential; the 1725, because of over fertilization and the 1161, because of a foaming stump caused by a ridiculous amount of rain that even affected the soil inside the greenhouse. What better way to give both plants another shot. After that the list

becomes a debate as to what to cross a 1244.5 Rea with. Presently I'm thinking 1634 Werner but there are more than few good GVGO seeds to consider. The decision is difficult because I have received so many good seeds from so many generous growers.

There is one more seed I am going to try this year. John Kapelari has grown my seeds for a couple of years now and had an interesting fruit from the 462.4 lb progeny of a cross of my 1129 est dmg and 1180 dmg. It produced a nice dark green squash. He selfed it so there is good chance we can get a squash back from this sometime. I believe I have convinced a couple of other noted growers from out here to try it so hopefully one of us gets a greenie! Lots of good 1400 and 1600 lb pumpkin genes in the background. The 1129 and 1180 besides being among the largest I've grown, were both ridiculously thick. Worth a shot.

I did pretty good with field pumpkins again this past year. I'm not sure if I'm lucky or if this is the perfect climate for them. I'm sure we will find out now that there is a class at Smoky Lake for them. I'm definitely trying my 145 from last year. Choices after that will probably be at least one of the world record 162's and perhaps an 81 Wolf. I might have to dedicate more space to FPs if my success continues. So far I've just let them grow with minimal attention once I get past the spring frost season. Perhaps I should try pruning like AGs but its kind of fun to not have to do all the work AGs require.

Well that's about it, let's all work hard and have a fun 2012 season!

NEWS FROM OVERSEAS
by Brad Wursten

This article was actually written by C. Houtekamer for the science section of a Dutch national newspaper in the spring of 2011. This is an English summary of the article.

Last summer, Bradley Wursten (38) of Hasselt, the Netherlands, had a marrow grow 16 cm longer in one night when two centimeters is normal. It was too much and the marrow exploded.

To prevent that he can set a marrow on a side vine next summer, but he will take the risk and set it on the main vine again.

Wursten grows giant vegetables in his spare time: giant tomatoes, giant carrots, giant pumpkins, giant parsnips, to mention a few. That works well in the cool Dutch climate with many sun hours in the summer. The Canadian is even good at it.

In his community garden Wursten has grown several records during the past few years including his pride and joy, the world's largest marrow, which slowly grew, without exploding, to 93.7 kg, almost 30 kg more than the world record a year before.

Wursten says he doesn't manipulate anything, he just makes the best of what is in the species.

That is correct. Some normal vegetables can grow to more than twenty times their standard weight. A pumpkin of the *Atlantic Giant* strain will grow to about 50 kg

without any attention, but with attention to over 800 kg.

“It all deals with competition within the plant”, explains Leo Marcelis, professor of plant physiology in greenhouse crops at the University of Wageningen. He wrote his doctor’s thesis on cucumbers. “A cucumber in the store will weigh 400 grams. For my research I grew one to several kilograms, on the same plant.”

Usually sugars made through photosynthesis (assimilates) are shared between the vines, leaves and fruit. If you only keep one fruit, everything goes there.

Wursten also knows this. With scientific precision he has studied the past few years how he can best manoeuvre the sugars to the one remaining fruit. He invented the “Tulip model”, which is a variant of the popular “Christmas tree” model used in pumpkin growing. He used this on his marrows and grew the world record.

The idea is to have a maximum amount of foliage for a maximum amount of photosynthesis at the time of pollination, but a minimum of new leaf or fruit growth, except for the pollinated fruit. Many growers have a straight main vine and let the side vines grow out till the plant looks like a Christmas tree. Somewhere on the main vine they pollinate a flower.

Wursten says it is handy if you are growing pumpkins which grow three or four months. The oldest part of the plant starts dying off and then it is good to have side vines which continue to grow and produce fresh leaves for photosynthesis.

But Wursten doesn’t want that because a marrow ripens a lot

earlier and Wursten has limited space. That is why he developed the Tulip model which bends all of the side vines ninety degrees like a multi-armed candle holder. The side vines can continue growing on the small piece of ground. All tertiary vines are removed and the vines are buried to promote roots that take up extra nutrients and water from the soil.

If Wursten does his calculations properly, then on a certain day his plot of 5x5 meters is full of leaves. Then he carefully pollinates a flower on the main vine, making sure he doesn’t miss any lobes which will cause a deformed fruit. He also pollinates a backup flower further along the vine. From this moment on, no new leaves or vines are allowed to grow. All the growth goes into the marrow and before the leaves start to die off, the marrow is ripe.

Plantphysiologist Marcelis says careful planning and pruning can work, because if a fruit gets only a little extra sugar, that can mean a large increase in weight. Sugar works as an osmoticum which attracts water. A cucumber is made up of 97% water and 3% solid. If you can increase the 3% solid just a little bit, that will attract kilograms of water.

But then you have to make sure there is constantly enough water available in the ground, says the professor. The water potential in the plant is then negative: a higher concentration of salts and sugars in the plant than outside of it. It then pulls water out of the ground. But if you give it too much water, it will run short of oxygen.

Wursten gives his plants lots of water which he warms up to room

temperature first. He says that is to prevent shock in the plant. You can shut down a plant’s growth with cold water.

Marcelis agrees. Processes in the roots go quicker by higher temperatures, within certain limits. But if you put squash or marrows in a heated greenhouse, they will ripen too early. With most fruit, the lower the temperature experienced by the fruit, the bigger it will get. The fruit will grow slower, but longer.

The major giant vegetable weigh-offs are in Shepton Mallet in the south of Great Britain and in Palmer, Alaska for this reason: cool climates and lots of sun hours. The University of Alaska in Fairbanks has its own botanical garden with giant vegetables. Professor Meriam Karlson says that cabbage will get very large if they get 22 hours of sunlight per day. You only need to give them enough water and manure.

In order to give the vegetables in the Dutch summer months enough sugars, Wursten puts them on a balanced diet. Depending on the type of giant vegetable, he mixes sand, clay, compost, peatsoil, leaves and straw. He fertilizes with dried cow manure pellets or a mix of bone and blood meal and kalium. Beetroots grow best in acid soil (5.5 PH) while pumpkins do best in 6.5 PH. Some vegetables also get plowed under winter rye, CO₂ and mycorrhiza fungi. The fungi increases the intake of the roots.

During the winter he lets the worms do their work by covering the patch with straw. What the proper balance is in nutrients is something he knows by experience.

You can get huge pumpkins with the right feeding and care, but can you also get huge peas and 10 kg heavy tomatoes?

Prof. Marcelis says no. Tomatoes almost reach their maximum potential weight with normal care. Of importance is the sink power of the plant. This is how the plant divides the assimilates (including sugars) between the parts of the plant (leaves, roots, vines, fruit) if there were an endless supply available.

With cucumbers, the balance between what the plant needs and what it produces is 0.35. So the plant asks for a lot more than is available. An individual cucumber therefore reaches about 35% of its potential weight. If you take off the other cucumbers, then the plant as a whole needs less sugars and the remaining cucumber gets what it needs and becomes much larger.

With tomatoes, the ratio is 0.5. Because the tomato is getting pretty much what it needs, limiting the plant to only one tomato won't have much effect.

One reason for different sink ratios is that cucumbers and marrows form relatively many fruit compared to the available amount of assimilates.

Difference or not, Wursten managed to grow a tomato weighing 2.1 kg.

David Hu, researcher at Georgia Tech, believes that pumpkins have their own mechanism to prevent them breaking under their own weight. In a study he proved that pumpkins develop a flattened shape in order to distribute internal stress which allows them to grow to immense sizes without breaking.

By squeezing pumpkins with a machine, Hu calculated that the outer skin causes the flattening shape for only about 40%. The rest must come from "growth through pulling". When pumpkins grow, they experience local tension. Where this pulling tension occurs, the growth is sped up. In the bottom of the pumpkin, there is the most tension and therefore it grows the fastest, which gives it its characteristic flat, bulging bottom. This distributes the pressure better so the pumpkin doesn't break.

Prof. Marcelis can prove that the pulling tension can influence cell division, especially its direction. He's not sure which role it plays in the total size of the vegetable.

Wursten knows that it is crucial to keep the skin young to prevent splits. During the day he places white sheets to keep the sun off his pumpkins and marrows. In the night he adds blankets to keep the temperature differences between night and day to a minimum.

VIRGINIA PUMPKIN FESTIVAL by Rick Sanders

The Virginia Pumpkin Festival took place this year from Friday October 28 to Monday October 31 in Virginia Ireland. The Irish festival offers a later GPC weigh-off and also an international weigh-off for previously weighed pumpkins. They offer free transport of the pumpkin, free flights and free accommodations to anyone with a pumpkin over 600lbs. I decided to take them up on their offer and took my wife and daughter with me to the weigh-off. It was an opportunity to meet other serious growers, as well as celebrate my

wife's birthday and experience an Irish Halloween. After a problem with the transport company, organizers from the festival had to quickly find another logistics firm to bring the pumpkins to Irish soil. Only a few hours before our flight, the pumpkin was finally picked up and on its way to Ireland.

Bright and early Friday morning, we were on the way to the airport and our awaited Irish adventure. We arrived in Dublin in the afternoon and were promptly picked up and driven one hour to our hotel on the main street in the little village of Virginia. After getting settled in and eating a great meal in the hotel restaurant, we decided to go on the Haunted Forest Walk. More than two thousand people came from Virginia and the surrounding area to brave their way along the dark and frightening path through the woods to arrive at the bonfire and barbeque that awaited them at the end along the lakeshore. After a long and tiring day, we headed back to the hotel to get a good night's sleep.

Saturday morning we met Norbert Andres and Oliver Langheim with his lovely wife Kathleen, two German growers already waiting for their breakfast after a long night out in the many local pubs. For Oliver and I, it was finally a chance to meet each other after four years of communicating over the internet. Oliver explained that his pumpkin was also picked up only a day before he left for Ireland, and Norbert's pumpkin was not yet picked up when he had gone. After a tasty breakfast and a great conversation, we decided to explore the town. Residents and businesses stopped at nothing to put on an amazing display of Halloween decorations. Every door and window was outlandishly decorated with pumpkins, witches,

skeletons, ghosts, and monsters. Especially imaginative were the hanging bloody body parts in the butcher's window, and the skeletons lying in the coffins carved out of a loaf of bread in the baker's showroom window. We then made our way to the Church of Ireland grounds to see the wares at the Artisan Food and Craft Fair.

Next stop on the tour was the Pumpkin Wonderland display at Pergola Nurseries. Here was a Wild West themed display made from thousands of pumpkins. The two English pumpkins from Ian and Stuart Paton and Mark Baggs were also here on display. This was particularly exciting for me as it was the first time I have ever personally seen a pumpkin larger than mine own. Having always won all of the local weigh-offs that I have entered over the last seven years, I have never had an opportunity to see a larger pumpkin. It was amazing to be able to view a 1300+lb pumpkin and appreciate its size. Saturday night I found myself in the Pumpkin Dome with Oliver and Norbert to watch the rock concert featuring The Strypes and The Waterboys. Later we made our way to one of the jam packed local bars and enjoyed a long night of friendly conversation with many of the local Irish patrons.

Our Sunday began with coffee and a typical Irish breakfast of egg, sausages, bacon, baked beans and toast. We then decided to prowl the town again and visit the craft market, before the Giant Pumpkin weigh-in. The main street was closed off to traffic so thousands of visitors could enjoy the many activities planned for the day, including a soapbox derby, a lumberjack show, face painting, a pig roast, live music and countless

more events. Shortly before the pumpkin weigh-off the German pumpkins arrived by truck. My pumpkin as well as Oliver's arrived safely, but Norbert's never made it to the festival. The excitement was building up and the crowd was growing as the first of the Irish pumpkins were getting weighed, ending with a first place finish for Michael Byrne with 895lbs. James and Susie Mahon's 765 pounder was enough for second place and Josephine Byrne claimed third prize with 330lbs. The four remaining international pumpkins were next to be weighed. The big winner was Mark Baggs from the U.K. with his specimen weighing in at a whopping 1320lbs, 14lbs lighter than when it was weighed at the XPG. Ian and Stuart Patton came in with second place with 1155lbs, 18lbs less than their weight at the XPG. Oliver Langheim proudly took 3rd place with 870lbs only 20lbs less than his weight almost a month earlier in Brandenburg Germany. My entry came in at 810lbs 37lbs less than when it was weighed six weeks earlier in Lower Saxony. Michael Byrne graciously donated his 895 pounder to be sacrificed in the pumpkin drop. It was raise up by crane and dropped on to a car to the delight of thousands of spectator. After the sun had set, and all the lights in the town were turned off, spectators lined the crowded streets to watch the carnival parade which featured acrobats and fire throwers. Directly after the parade the crowd jostled its way down to the lake to watch the big fireworks display over Lough Ramor. It was a real crowd pleaser.

Sunday night was then time for Irelands largest Fancy Dress Party. Hundreds of people dressed up as their favourite TV or movie

characters, or as a typical monster or witch. Only their imagination limited the possibilities. Our group decided to spend our last evening together downstairs in the hotel bar enjoying a few drinks and observing all the costumed people that stopped in. The next morning found us packed up and on our homeward journey. It was a wonderful experience and I recommend wholeheartedly to other growers to take the opportunity to experience the Virginia Pumpkin Festival in Ireland.

Rick Sanders



Top Ten

What Grower's Say and What they Really Mean (Revisited)

- 10 I had whether problems this year... Whether to go fishing or work in the pumpkin patch.
- 9 I'm going to the garden center to pick up a few things... I'm going to see if I have reached my credit card limit yet.
- 8 I love me some ho's ... I'm really fond of my garden implements.
7. My Wife enjoys the weigh-offs... My wife spends my prize money.
6. Sheeepump a kiniss umph ... I really like beer.
5. I'm going to visit John's patch ... I'm going to spy on John's patch.
4. I got everything I wanted for Christmas this year ... I bought my own Christmas presents.
3. My prize money pays for all my growing expenses ... My name is Jim Bryson
2. I'll stick to what works for me ... I'm going to do the things I always do and expect better results.
1. I'm an intuitive type grower when it comes to seed selection ... I guess.



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JOHN NIEUWENHOFF

Twenty Questions for the Featured Grower

Occupation: Own a Lawn and Tree Care Business (Shepherd Lawn Care)

Family: Wife Susan, and Daughter Larissa

Town/City that you reside: Georgetown



How many years have you been growing and what or who got you growing?

I've been growing seriously for 4 years, but it all actually started when I was 13 and sent a letter to Howard Dill after reading an article in the newspaper about a new World Record. He sent me three seeds and I grew a whopper that must have been at least 40 pounds!

What is the largest pumpkin that you've grown and on which seed did you grow it on?

I grew my largest last year on the 1663 Zoellner (1421 Stelts x sib) that weighed 1266 pounds.

Do you grow any other giant vegetables besides pumpkins and if so what are they?

Last year I tried giant cabbage, long gourds, tomatoes, field pumpkins, and bushel gourds. This year I'll be doing all those plus watermelon I think.

What did you plant last year and what did you plant this season?

Last year I grew the 1161 Rodonis (produced the 1088.8 Nieuwenhoff), the 1663 Zoellner (produced the 1266 Nieuwenhoff), and my own 724 that split around 700 pounds the beginning of August. I'm growing 4 plants this year and I will be seeding the 1818.5 Bryson, 1657 Bryson, 1641 Montgomery, 1381 Swarts, and my own 1266 (1663 Zoellner x 1161 Rodonis)

Is there anything you plan on doing differently in the patch this year?

Most of my stumps rotted out last year at about day 30 so I'm going to protect them from overhead watering. I'm also adding some form of fructose type sugar to all my foliar treatments and may try shade cloth on one of the plants.

Do you have any other hobbies other than giant vegetable growing?

Any type of gardening.

What was your soil's PH & what % of organic matter was your patch at the start of the season? What type of soil do you have (sandy loam, clay loam, etc.) What are your Base Saturation numbers (K, Mg & Ca)?

I have a sandy loam soil. On my spring 2011 soil test my pH was 7.7 and the organic matter was 7.3%. The CEC was 27 and the base saturation levels were K-2.7, Mg-8.2, and Ca-88.7.

Besides getting a Soil Report done, what do you think are the most important things a grower can do in the fall to prepare for the next season? How much organic material would you add to each plot?

I like to add any organic matter in the fall and do a light tilling. I also add Black Earth Humic Acid, gypsum, and lots of leaves before tilling. On a 2800 sq ft patch I added 20 yards of mushroom compost in 2010 and another 12 yards in fall of 2011.

What are the most important things a grower should do in the spring to prepare for the season ahead? What do you add to your soil in the spring to prepare for the season? Also, do you grow in the same plots each year or do you have another patch that you can rotate back & forth? If so, how often would you rotate from one patch to another (every 2 or 3 years or every year)?

I like to do a good tilling as soon as the garden is dry enough then do a soil sample a couple weeks later. I don't add very much to the soil in the spring unless the soil test recommends it. I only have one area on our property that I can grow on so I have to grow in the same patch every year. I haven't had any real problems in 4 years but if I do I guess I will have to cut back and rest half the patch while growing in the other half (or move).

What date do you start your seeds, put your plants outside & what do you use for protection from weather & cold temps?

I start the seeds the end of April with the intention of going in the garden no later than May 15. I plant in a 4x8 foot hoop house covered with Reemay. I really like using Reemay because you don't have to ventilate it during the day and it keeps things a few degrees warmer at night. I can cover the hoop house with blankets at night and use an electric heater if needed.

Were any fertilizers used in the 1st stage of the plants life (1st true leaf stage to just before pollination) & how were they applied?

After having a lot of problems setting fruit in 2010 I decided to not fertilize the soil at all until after pollination. I didn't even use a starter fertilizer at the time of planting. I did apply a foliar micronutrient product a couple times, but that was it.

Do you use Mycorrhizal Fungi on your plant's roots? If so, only on the stump area or do you use it at each leaf node as well?

I used it everywhere! We use it in our business so I had lots on hand. I used about 40 pounds per plant

of Myke's Pro Turf-G (a lower spore count Glomus intraradices). I used a mix of Myke's (7 parts) Black Earth Humic (1 part), Kelp Meal (1 part), Jersey Greensand (1 part) and a little 0-0-50 to make what I called PshycoMyko. I used this when vine burying and also raked in lightly ahead of the plant as it grew. I even broadcast it by hand on top of the soil where you can see tiny roots growing.

What fertilizers do you use after the pumpkin is pollinated? How often and at what rates? How are they applied, through the soil or as a foliar application?

I stuck to a pretty strict schedule of TKO phosphite, potassium silicate (SilGuard), and Companion all at 1oz per gallon foliar sprayed every 10 days. I used Lithovit at 1 tsp per gallon every 10 days foliar applied. I applied Superman a couple times and Micro nutrients once a month. I also added 3 oz per gallon of seaweed extract to everything I sprayed all season. Once a month I did a soil drench with Eximo, a synthetic acid that is supposed to solubilize calcium and reverse the effects of watering with high bicarbonate water without having to treat the water. Unfortunately my supplier said it has been discontinued and I'm not sure if there is a product out there to replace it. I also soil drenched once a month with all the products listed above except the lithovit. When foliar spraying I counted on 2.5 gallons of mix per full grown plant.

How do you water your plants (by hand, sprinkler system, underground or misting system) & how much water per plant per day do you use when the pumpkin is at around 400#, 700# & 1000#?

This is something that many newer growers struggle with. Last year was the first year I watered from the river that is right beside the pumpkin patch. I use a gas trash pump and overhead sprinklers. I applied pretty much the same amount of water each week throughout the whole season. I would say it was about 50 gallons per plant per day from about July 15 to Sept 15. I usually watered every other day. I stopped watering Mid September because I wanted to make sure I didn't split anything so I held back a little near the end. Now that I have a couple 1000 pounders under my belt there's no holding back!

How many SQ FT do you grow your plants? Do you bury all the main & secondary vines & at what lengths do you terminate the Main & Secondary vines? Do you allow all the secondary vines to grow or do you trim every second or third vine to allow for better airflow around the plant? What vine pattern do you prefer best?

My plants are about 600 sq ft and I bury the main and secondary vines. I don't prune any secondary's off unless they are in the way. The one pumpkin (1266) that kept growing until the weigh-off last year never had the main terminated. I terminated the secondary vines due to space but I let the main keep going for about 45 feet. I plan to keep the main going on all the pumpkins next year. I used to grow the Jungle vine pattern but have now smartened up and grow a spider/Christmas tree type pattern.

Tell us what you use as a pesticide and fungicide during the season?

I find the TKO, Companion, and Silguard keep most of the Powdery Mildew away. Neem and Garlic type sprays will work for Cucumber Beetles but I have yet to find something legal to use in Ontario that will control Squash Vine Borer. My patch is about a half mile away from a 50 acre field of pumpkins every year so SVB is a problem in my area.

Do you use a mulch at all to help suppress the weeds or do you weed the old fashioned way, by hand & hoe? Any tips on weed control?

I try to keep the garden weed free at all times. I spray a few times just ahead of the growth of the plant and find very few weeds once the pumpkin canopy shades the ground. There's lots of organic options for weed control such as Horticultural vinegar, Top Gun made by safers, or even flame torches to burn off small weeds. I use a product called Finalsan (a fatty acid product) that burns off anything it touches but doesn't translocate into the plant if you get a little too close.

Could you give us some late season (month of September) advice to help our growers get the maximum growth from our pumpkins?

I did notice the one pumpkin I left the main vine growing on kept growing right until it was picked. This was the 1663 Zoellner that was also pretty much disease free so I'm sure that had something to do with it as well. So my advice would be to keep some part of the plant always growing (I think it signals the fruit to keep growing as

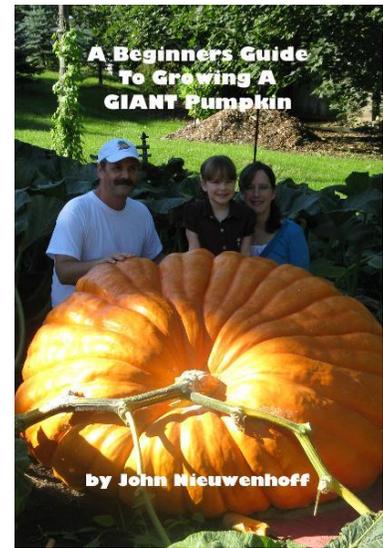
well) and make sure you do everything you can to have a healthy plant come September.

What were the 2 most important factors that help you grow monster pumpkins each year?

Well, I haven't grown a monster every year but I did go from a personal best of 724 pounds in 2010 to 1266 pounds in 2011 by focusing on two main things. 1) Give each plant enough room. In the past I always grew more plants than I should have. I was always worried I may not have anything if I just grew a couple so I would usually put 4 or 5 plants in an area that should only have had three. 2) Control the vine growth. It can easily get carried away if you skip a few days vine burying and pruning. Other years by the end of the season my patch was just a tangled mess of vines. Last year when I grew a 1088 and 1266 I really worked hard to keep up with the vine management and at the end of the season there was just the main vines, the secondary vines and two big pumpkins. It's a lot easier to clean up the patch at the end of the year without all that extra growth as well.

Is there any one piece of advice you would give to new growers?

Spend your money wisely. If you are on a limited budget, get a soil test and put your money towards anything that improves your soil first. Without a good healthy soil there's no point spending money on other stuff.....unless....you have an extra \$16.00 (shipping included) then you should contact me at JSL@cogeco.ca and order my book "A Beginners Guide To Growing A Giant Pumpkin"



- A full colour 40 page book designed to help the beginner achieve success the very first year. You can preview a few pages of the book at www.blurb.com.

CABBAGE ROLLS ANYONE
By Kirk Chenier

This article is a brief insight into our first attempt at growing Giant Cabbage. I hope it will help other novice cabbage growers when starting out and prevent some of the mistakes we made during my first year as a cabbage grower.

Like any other giant veggie growers I did many a search for the latest techniques in growing cabbage. What are the record breakers doing that I could do to increase my chances of growing a record breaker. I soon realized that the techniques of planting and growing are not that complicated but keeping the bug offs is actually the largest task in my mind. With knowledge in hand I proceeded to seek out good seeds from a

renowned grower by the name of David Thomas who is a GVGO member. I also accessed info from Jane and Phil Hunt, John Butler and a few other GVGO members.

Plants were started in February inside and quickly showed signs of growth; they were left under the grow lights all the time. The lights were turned off at night (9pm-5am) and adjusted accordingly to the plants growth. I started out with about 6 plants and was planning on planting 4 of them come warm weather. I didn't feed them much at all as the potting soil I used had nutrients in it.

When the warm spring finally came I worked the ground with the tiller adding in some well composted chicken manure along with leaf compost that was added to the entire garden. I laid out my plots and here is where I made my first major mistake – I crowded my planting areas, even after all my research and reading of the suggested spacing I for some reason in my infinite wisdom planted my plants as I would find out to close to each other.

So the plants are now in the ground and covered up to keep them warm and the critters out. To achieve this I hammered 2 foot long stakes in the ground surrounded by pallet wrap. I had planned on using this for a support but would later find out different. The plants kept growing and I kept feeding them with a mixture of fish and seaweed extract and steady water.

The plants soon were growing out the top of their little enclosures now and I soon realized that the wood stakes would cause holes in the leaves so I then took them out and the plants were on their own as far as support goes. All I could

think about were the nice frames I kept looking at on David Thomas' page on BP, maybe next year!

The 4 plants that I planted too close together were now growing in on each other and it was quite apparent of my error and how it would cost me growth in the end. Not much you can do about it now. With the plants getting to be a good size the bugs now started to take an interest in them, I used my natural products to get rid of as much of them as I could but without covering them up entirely it was a losing battle. When I saw pictures of Phil Joynsons bug protecting enclosures from the patch tour I knew I had a winter project ahead of me for next year's cabbages.

From this point on I didn't pay too much attention to the cabbages, my son Jacob did most of the work from here on in as far as ferts and water went. When water was tight during the dry periods his watermelon got the special treatment so the cabbage did suffer a bit but they are very hardy that's for sure. Water will stay in the pockets in the leaves also and the Hunts are known to take this out with a turkey baster but I didn't pay too much attention to it but it did result in losing a few leaves so in the end probably a few pounds.

Well now its harvest time and I was emailing various growers to see what their techniques were to get the cabbage out of the patch without demolishing them. Most use the tarp technique and kind of roll the cabbage half way and get the tarp under it. I happen to have some material that is used for tie back support on retaining walls at my house and I used that cutting it from one side to the middle where I made a 10 inch hole, this was wrapped around the base of the

cabbage and then zip tied together. This proved to work very well and this coming year I will install it right from the start. I believe this to be a very critical part of the process as I'm sure I lost 5 lbs of leaves in loading them up and that cost me a few spots if not a growers benchmark for the master grower achievement. In the end my cabbage came in at 54.0 lbs which I was very happy with in my first year and I received \$100 and third place at Port Elgin on Saturday.

To summarize I would make sure you get:

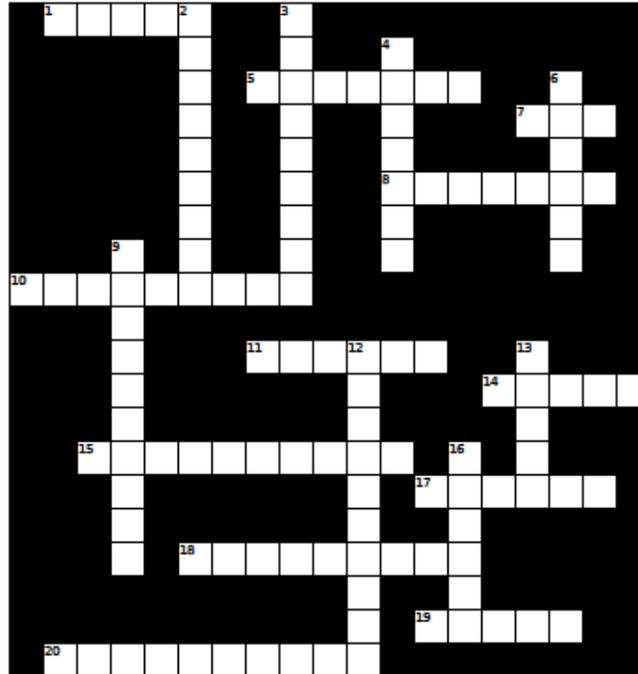
- Good seeds
- Start plants early inside
- Don't crowd plants
- Use bug protection coverings
- Use best possible care when harvesting

Last but not least have fun!

I hope this article will help some of you novice cabbage growers to grow a monster cabbage and don't ever be afraid to access the knowledge of the great master growers of whatever you decide to grow as they are always more than willing to help.

Good Growing, Kirk Chenier,
Warsaw, ON

GVGO Crossword Challenge



- | Across | Down |
|---|---|
| 1 Who held BBQ for 2011
GVGO Patch tour | 2 What Town does Todd Kline
live in |
| 5 Last name of World Record
Holders | 3 Winners of Neguac weigh off |
| 7 Nickname for Dick Wallace | 4 GVGO Vice President |
| 8 Winner of Pembroke Weigh
off | 6 Grower of Heaviest
watermelon in Ontario |
| 10 method used to help seeds
split open easier | 9 Name of Weigh off in Tulatin
Oregon |
| 11 Last name of GVGO
"Coach" | 12 President of GPC |
| 14 Steve Daletas's Profession | 13 residents of Long Pond |
| 15 Phil Hunts new official
nickname | 16 Winner of Woodbridge Weigh
off |
| 17 Won Sundays weigh off in
Port Elgin 2011 | |
| 18 Brand of tractors John
Vincent Sells | |
| 19 Son of GVGO president | |
| 20 Used in early spring to get
plant cozy | |

All Time List of Canadian Pumpkins

By Phil Hunt (2011)

Placing	Name	Weight	Hometown	Place	Year	Site
1.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson*	1818.5	Ormsdown, QC	1	2011	WEL
2.	Phil & Jane Hunt *	1677.5	Cameron, ON	1	2009	PEO
3.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson**	1657.6	Ormsdown, QC	1	2011	PEO
4.	Harley Sproule***	1650.8	Ormsdown, QC	2	2011	PEO
5.	Greg Montgomery	1641.4	Port Carling, ON	3	2011	PEO
6.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson*	1618.2	Ormsdown, QC	1	2010	PEO
7.	Jake Van Kooten *	1536.5	Port Alberni, BC	1	2008	EGC
8.	Todd Kline**	1489.6	Shawville, QC	2	2010	PEO
9.	Edmond Hemphill*	1468	Mount Pleasant, NB	1	2010	NEG
10.	Phil & Jane Hunt	1464.8	Cameron, ON	4	2011	PEO
11.	Eric Sundin **	1451.5	Stoney Creek, ON	2	2009	PEO
12.	Alan Eaton*	1446	Richmond, ON	1	2004	PEO
13.	Bill Northrup ***	1432	Sussex, NB	1	2009	WIN
14.	Todd Kline	1430.8	Shawville, QC	5	2011	PEO
15.	Joel Jarvis	1427.4	St Thomas, ON	6	2011	PEO
16.	Jeff Reid **	1419	Waterville, NS	1	2010	WIN
17.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1404.4	Ormsdown, QC	1	2010	WEL
18.	Darrell Leonard *	1395.5	Wyevale, ON	1	2008	PEO
19.	Henry Banman	1379.5	Schanzenfeld, MB	1	2011	ROL
20.	Dave Pitura*	1378.5	Merrickville, ON	1	2007	PEO
21.	Bob Mackenzie	1376.6	Tiverton, ON	1	2010	PEO
22.	Brian Dueck/A.Papez *	1373	St. Catherines, ON	1	2003	NIA
23.	George Lloyd	1372.8	Simcoe, ON	7	2011	PEO
24.	Chris Lyons	1367	Scarborough, ON	3	2010	PEO
25.	Brant & Brandon Timm	1360	Pembroke, ON	2	2011	WEL
26.	Andre Marion*	1355.5	Penetanguishene, On	1	2006	PEO
27.	Deanna Lloyd	1344.8	Simcoe, ON	4	2010	PEO
28.	Chris Lyons	1343.5	Scarborough, On	2	2008	PEO
29.	Harley Sproule	1343.4	Ormsdown, QC	1	2008	WEL
30.	John Vincent ***	1339.5	Picton, ON	1	2009	PEO
31.	Todd Kline	1337	Shawville, QC	1	2008	LSQ
32.	Art Johnston/John Butler	1330.5	St. Thomas, ON	3	2009	PEO
33.	Phil & Jane Hunt	1329.7	Cameron, ON	1	2010	PEM
34.	Bryan Dueck*	1327.5	St. Catherines, ON	1	2005	PEO
35.	Clifford Picketts**	1318	Kensington, PE	2	2010	WIN
36.	Edmund Hemphill	1315	Mount Pleasant, N	1	2010	FRE
37.	Clifford Picketts	1315	Kensington, PEI	1	2008	WIN
38.	Harley Sproule	1312	Ormsdown, QC	1	2011	PEM
39.	Dave Pitura	1310.5	Merrickville, ON	3	2008	PEO
40.	Pierre Slusarek**	1310	Latugue, QC	2	2006	PEO
41.	Glean & Meagan Cheam	1309.7	Stittsville, ON	2	2010	PEM
42.	Ben Hebb	1309	Bridgewater, NS	1	2008	NEG
43.	Art Johnston**	1302.5	St. Thomas, ON	2	2007	PEO
44.	Al Eaton**	1301.5	Richmond, ON	1	2003	OTT
45.	Harley Sproule	1294	Ormsdown, QC	3	2011	WEL
46.	Jake Van Kooten**	1287	Port Alberni, BC	1	2005	SHO
47.	Donna Hebb	1281	Bridgewater, NS	2	2008	WIN
48.	Carl Graham	1280	Donkin, NS	1	2010	MIL
49.	John Lyons	1273	Baltimore, ON	4	2008	PEO
50.	Brant & Brandon Timm	1267.8	Pembroke, ON	3	2010	PEM
51.	John Nieuwenhoff	1,266	Georgetown, ON	2	2011	ERN
52.	Elaine Mackenzie	1265	Tiverton, ON	2	2010	PEO
53.	Todd Kline	1264	Shawville, QC	1	2008	BAR
54.	Dave Pitura***	1263.8	Merrickville, ON	1	2007	WEL

55.	Ben Hebb	1262	Bridgewater, NS	3	2008	WIN
56.	Chris Lyons	1,258.6	Scarborough, ON	2	2010	WEL
57.	John MacKinnon***	1252	Strathlorn, NS	1	2003	MIL
58.	Todd Kline***	1250.5	Shawville, QC	1	2006	BAR
59.	Claude Colbert	1,250	Sainte Croix, QC	1	2010	GEN
60.	John Matesa	1249.8	Breslau, ON	8	2011	PEO
61.	Daryl Tingley***	1247	Fredericton, NB	1	2005	WIN
62.	Elaine Mackenzie	1246.2	Tiverton, ON	5	2010	PEO
63.	Claude Clobert	1243	Sainte-Croix, QC	1	2011	GEN
64.	Charles Ebbett	1239	Stickney, NB	2	2010	NEG
65.	Russ Landry	1238.5	Thornton, ON	4	2009	PEO
66.	Phil Joynson	1233	Enniskillen, ON	4	2011	WEL
67.	Fred Hain	1232.2	London, ON	9	2011	PEO
68.	Eric Sundin	1229	Stoney Creek, ON	5	2008	PEO
69.	Ben Hebb	1227	Wileville, NS	1	2011	WIN
70.	Todd Kline	1226.5	Shawville, QC	3	2007	PEO
71.	Todd Kline	1224	Shawville, QC	3	2010	WEL
72.	Les Quatrouilles	1222	Gentilly, QC	2	2010	GEN
73.	Craig Sandvik	1222	Chemainus, BC	1	2008	NAN
74.	Adrien Gervais	1220	Barrie, ON	6	2008	PEO
75.	Gerard Ansems	1,220	Kentville, NS	3	2010	WIN
76.	Joel Jarvis	1,219.4	St. Thomas, ON	6	2010	PEO
77.	Claude Clobert	1219	Sainte-Croix, QC	2	2006	GEN
78.	Ben Johnson	1,217	Kakabecka Falls, ON	1	2010	MUR
79.	Ben Hebb*	1215	Bridgewater, NS	1	2002	WIN
80.	Brant Timm	1211.5	Pembroke, ON	1	2007	PEM
81.	Jeff Reid	1211	Waterville, NS	4	2008	WIN
82.	Todd Kline	1209	Shawville, QC	1	2006	WIN
83.	Clifford Picketts	1208.5	Kensington, PEI	1	2008	SPR
84.	Andrew Papez	1208.5	St. Catherines, ON	1	2006	CLA
85.	Todd Kline	1206.5	Shawville, QC	2	2007	PEM
86.	Todd Kline	1204	Shawville, QC	1	2005	OTT
87.	Phil Joynson	1203.4	Enniskillen, ON	10	2011	PEO
88.	Dave Pitura	1202.9	Merrikville, ON	3	2007	PEM
89.	Jeff Reid	1202	Waterville, NS	1	2007	WIN
90.	John Lobay	1199.2	Smokey Lake, AB	1	2009	SMO
91.	Jake Van Kooten	1199	Port Alberni, BC	2	2011	SHL
92.	Chris Shier	1198.2	Wilfred, ON	3	2010	PEOS
93.	John Matesa	1197.6	Breslau, ON	7	2010	PEO
94.	Dawn Northrup	1194.5	Sussex, NB	1	2009	NEG
95.	Dave Pitrua	1194	Merrikville, ON	1	2007	SIM
96.	Arnold Vader	1193	Cherry Valley, ON	2	2003	OTT
97.	Bill Northrup	1191.5	Sussex, NB	1	2007	NEG
98.	Bill & Dawn Northrup	1190	Sussex, NB	1	2011	NEG
99.	Lisa Wentzell	1190	Bridgewater, NS	2	2005	WIN
100.	Les Quatrouilles	1188	Gentilly, QC	1	2008	GEN
101.	Jane & Phil Hunt	1187.5	Cameron, ON	7	2008	PEO
102.	Pierre Slusarek	1187	La Turque, QC	1	2005	GEN
103.	Todd Kline	1185.8	Shawville, QC	1	2009	WEL
104.	Darrell Leonard	1185.5	Wyevale, ON	2	2005	PEO
105.	Gerry Cavanagh	1185	Ennismore, ON	2	2011	PEM
106.	Eddy Shaw	1181	Charlottetown, PEI	2	2006	WIN
107.	John Matesa	1180.5	Breslau, ON	1	2011	WOD
108.	Pat Watson	1180.4	Komoka, ON	1	2011	PEO-S
109.	Eric Sundin	1179.4	Stoney Creek, ON	8	2010	PEO
110.	Gertrude Marion	1179	Penetang,	9	2010	PEO
111.	Valerie Reid	1179	Waterville, NS	4	2010	WIN

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Product	Available in	Price	After GVGO Discount	
			16.78%	
12% Liquid Humic Acid	1-4-10 & 20 L	\$13.90	1 litre	\$11.56
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Dry Soluble Humic Acid	.5 kg – 20.7 kg	\$14.05	½ kg	\$11.69
Dry Soluble Humic Acid	.5 kg – 22.7 kg	\$26.95	1 kg	\$22.42
Mini-Granule Humic Acid	50 lb Bag	\$20.50	\$17.06 bag	

For a complete list please contact Rick Milliken @ mknr@mts.net or 204-880-0884.
GVGO members will receive the 16.78% discount shown on all humic products ordered.
Pay Pal is accepted.



Top 1,000 Lb. Pumpkins Grown in Canada in 2011

This list is a compilation of sound giant pumpkins exceeding 1,000 lbs. grown in Canada and weighed and recorded at a public competition.

Name	Weight	Hometown	Site
1. Jim & Kelsey Bryson ***	1,818.5	Ormstown, QC	1 WEL
2. Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1,657.6	Ormstown, QC	1 PEO
3. Harley Sproule	1,650.8	Ormstown, QC	2 PEO
4. Greg Montgomery	1,641.4	Port Carling, ON	3 PEO
5. Phil & Jane Hunt	1,464.8	Cameron, ON	4 PEO
6. Todd Kline	1,430.8	Shawville, QC	5 PEO
7. Joel Jarvis	,427.4	St. Thomas, ON	6 PEO
8. Henry Banman **	1,379.5	Schanzenfeld, MB	1 ROL
9. George Lloyd	1,372.8	Simcoe, ON	7 PEO
10. Brant & Brandon Timm	1,360	Pembroke, ON	2 WEL
11. Harley Sproule	1,312	Ormstown, QC	1 PEM
12. Harley Sproule	1,294	Ormstown, QC	3 WEL
13. John Nieuwenhoff	1,266	Georgetown, ON	2 ERN
14. John Matesa	1,249.8	Breslau, ON	PEO
15. Claude Colbert	1,243	Sainte-Croix, QC	1 GEN
16. Phil Joynson	1,233	Enniskillen, ON	4 WEL
17. Fred Hain	1,232.2	London, ON	9 PEO

18. Ben Hebb	1,227	Wileville, NS	1 WIN
19. Phil Joynson	1,203.4	Enniskillen, ON	10 PEO
20. Jake VanKooten	1,199	Port Alberni, BC	2 SHL
21. Bill & Dawn Northrup	1,190	Sussex, NB	1 NEG
22. Gerry Cavanagh	1,185	Ennismore, ON	2 PEM
23. John Matesa	1,180.5	Breslau, ON	1 WOD
24. Pat & Karen Watson	1,180.4	Komoko, ON	1 PEOS
25. Phil & Jane Hunt	1,167.5	Cameron, ON	5 WEL
26. Terry Chappelle	1,166	Meaford, ON	2 WOD
27. Ron Wray	1,152	Simcoe, ON	11 PEO
28. Bob Mackenzie	1,146	Tiverton, ON	2 PEOS
28. Mario Morin	1,146	Saint-Georges, QC	2 GEN
30. Todd Kline	1,142	Shawville, QC	6 WEL
31. Deanna Lloyd	1,133.8	Simcoe, ON	12 PEO
32. Todd Kline	1,133.5	Shawville, QC	3 PEM
33. Eric Sundin	1,132	Stoney Creek, ON	3 WOD
34. Brant & Brandon Timm	1,129	Pembroke, ON	4 PEM
35. Mike McAvity	1,126.6	Komoka, ON	3 PEOS
36. Gary Burke	1,126	Simcoe, ON	5 NCF
37. Dave Dudley	1,125.5	Grafton, ON	5 PEM
38. Ben Johnson	1,122	Kakabecka Falls, ON	1 MUR
39. Terry Chappelle	1,089.4	Meaford, ON	13 PEO
40. John Nieuwenhoff	1,088.8	Georgetown, ON	14 PEO
41. Jeff Reid	1,084	Waterville, NS	2 WIN
42. Don Crews	1,081	Lloydminster, AB	1 SML
43. Dorris Wray	1,069.6	Simcoe, ON	15 PEO
44. Chris Delaney	1,065.6	Pickering, ON	4 PEOS
45. Terry Chappelle	1,058.4	Meaford, ON	5 PEOS
46. Jim Bryson	1,057.5	Ormstown, QC	6 PEM
47. Liz Burke	1,055	Simcoe, ON	7 NCF
48. Glen Huffman	1,048.5	Ameliasburg, ON	7 WEL
49. Norm Ireland	1,047	Simcoe, ON	8 NCF
50. Greg Montgomery	1,046	Port Carling, ON	8 WEL
51. Chris Lyons	1,032.8	Scarborough, ON	16 PEO
52. Russ Landry	1,030	Thornton, ON	9 WEL
53. Clifford Pickets	1,029	French River, PE	1 YOR
54. Ben Johnson	1,025	Kakabecka Falls, ON	Ex.MUR
55. Bob Mackenzie	1,006.8	Tiverton, ON	17 PEO
56. Todd Kline	1,002	Shawville, QC	1 LDS

*** New world and provincial record

** New provincial record

1,000 lb. Plus list pumpkin Conclusions.

A Comparison of this year's results with the past several years.

2011 - 56 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,520 lbs.**

2010 - 77 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,413 lbs.**

2009 - 45 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,338 lbs.**

2008 - 55 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,344 lbs.**

2007 - 35 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,238 lbs.**

2004 - 26 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,143 lbs**

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The reason why the International Giant Pumpkin Growers Seminar is held at Niagra Falls.



In the depth of winter, Wallace Seed spent hours online trying to find his perfect match.



Five Year Status Report

This table uses the Top 10 Average figures from www.ipga.us to show changes in rank over the last 5 year period. Column 2 shows the regions that have changed the most. We tend to dwell on the very top growers, pumpkins, sites and regions each year but over the years things change.

I think each column here tells a story, if you look carefully, and each grower shown deserves a lot of credit. Each TTA represents a team, every team is advancing. Some teams are advancing faster than others but all growers shown are big winners in one way or another.

Region	Rank 5Yr.	Record AG	Record vs TTA	Most prolific Grower	Growers in TTA	Heaviest of oldest	AGs 2011
South Dakota	+16	1674 Marsh '10	+11%	Marsh-9	2	1445 Marsh '07	2
Wisconsin	+11	1810 Stevens '10	+16%	Stevens-6	3	1569 Gronski '09	3
California	+9	1704 Urena '11	+7%	Urena-3	7	1535 Glasier '07	7
Belgium	+9	1582 Ghaye '11	+15%	Ghaye-5	6	1297 Ghaye '07	3
Connecticut	+7	1487 Derosiers '11	+16%	DeBacco-4	6	1353 DeBacco '08	3
Colorado	+7	1308 Todd '10	+10%	Sawtelle-3	5	1135 Scherber '08	0
Michigan	+6	1725 Sweet '10	+13%	Sweet-4	5	1478 Barron '09	1
Vermont	+4	1498 Breznick '11	+12%	Breznick-4	4	1392 Breznick '08	2
Minnesota	+4	1630 Revier '11	+12%	Revier-7	4	1428 Revier '08	2
Maine	+4	1471 Pierpont '10	+14%	Button-3	5	1210 Morgan '09	3
Kentucky	+4	1331 Van Hook '10	+10%	Van Hook-5	6	1216 Burton '08	1
Rank changes of +3 to -3 omitted to save space							
Rhode Island	-4	1689 Jutras '07	+9%	Jutras-4 Ron W-4	4	1502 Wallace '06	4
New York	-4	1631 McKie '07	+9%	Adams-3	7	1631 McKie '07	3
New Brunswick	-5	1468 Hemphill '10	+16%	Northrup-4	4	1247 Tingley '05	1
North Carolina	-5	1258 Holder '09	+25%	Lovelace-4	5	860 Simmons '03	0
West Virginia	-6	1242 Chambers '07	+7%	Christen-3	6	1157 Wotring '05	0
New Hampshire	-7	1593 Whittier '11	+9%	Whittier-4	5	1566 Rodonis '07	3
Nova Scotia	-8	1419 Reid '10	+12%	Hebb-5	5	1215 Hebb '02	1
British Columbia	-8	1536 Van Kooten '08	+25%	Van Kooten-6	4	1142 V. Kooten '04	1
Ontario	-9	1678 Hunt '09	+15%	Hunt-2	9	1373 Papez '03	3
Indiana	-9	1308 Barenie '11	+13%	J.Barenie-6	3	1136 Barenie '04	2
Prince Edward Island	-10	1318 Picketts '10	+15%	Picketts-6	4	1181 Shaw '06	0
Washington	-11	1505 Holland '09	+7%	J.Holland-3	7	1420 LaRue '04	1

Al Eaton Jan, 2011

GVGO Member Questionnaire

The following are several topics that have come up lately and we would like some feedback from our members to ensure we are serving you the best we can. This can be mailed back to us, emailed to me or filled in at the seminar – thanks in advance for your feedback and please indicate your province, state or country when filling out the form.

- Did you like the way the raffle lots were set out this year or would you prefer the original raffle setup?
- We had a large decline in sales for the raffle – do you think it's still a viable fundraiser or do you prefer an auction setting?
- Would you still buy a membership if dues were raised by \$5 or \$10/year to increase operating funds for the club?
- Do you participate in the seed of the year contest?
- What do you think about having only fruit weighed in Ontario eligible for prizes?
- Do you enjoy attending the seminars and how they are set out?
- What else would you like to see at the seminars – time permitting
- Do you like the patch tours? Anything you would like added

Please email these to kirkc1@xplomet.ca or by mail to
Kirk Chenier, 1650 4th Line Rd N, Lakefield, On, K0L 2H0

5th Annual GVGO Grower's Pool (Paid up members only)

Rules for the pool. To play, simply circle the amount of growers you're ask to in each grouping (20 total picks) Each grower listed below is listed with their personal best pumpkin or squash weight. Pick the growers you feel will weigh in the heaviest fruits this year. The weight of your picked growers biggest sound fruit will count towards your pool total. One pound will equal one point. All pool judgments will be made by me. If you or a fellow GVGO are not listed below and you'd like to pick yourself or that person, simply add the name to the proper seeding. Dead line for entries will be May 1st. I'll accept printed forms at the club seminar or email picks. My email address is cwheildon@sympatico.ca Conrad Wheildon.

1400+ (pick 2)

Phil/Jane Hunt 1678 ON
 Joe Jutras 1689 RI
 Jake Van Kooten 1536 BC
 Al Gibson 1462 OH
 Eric Sundin 1451 ON
 Bill Northrup 1432 NB
 Jos Ghaye 1581 BEL
 Steve Connolly 1674 MA
 Todd Kline 1489 QC
 Kevin Snyder 1418 PA
 Jim Bryson 1818 QC
 Harley Sproule 1650 QC
 Bob Duffy 1513 MA
 Joel Jarvis 1427 ON

1300+ (pick 2)

Jim Beauchemin 1314 NH
 Darrell Leonard 1395 ON
 Dave Pitura 1378 ON
 Chris Lyons 1343 ON
 Dan Bowles 1313 WI
 Pierre Slusarek 1310 QC
 Andre Marion 1355 ON
 Art Johnston/John Butler 1332 ON
 Bernhard Preiss 1331 GER
 Jon Vincent 1339 ON
 Dick Kilburn 1355 WA
 Jim Courson 1370 MN
 Brian McGill 1339 ON
 Bob /Elaine Mackenzie 1376 ON
 Glenn Cheam 1309 ON
 Peter Mohr 1306 CO
 Brant /Brandon Timm 1360 ON
 George/Deanna Lloyd 1372 ON
 John Barenie 1308 IN

1200+ (pick 2)

Joe Pukos 1231 NY
 Geneva Emmons 1262 WA
 Dan Kirts 1224 OH
 Brad Wursten 1256 NETH
 Claude Colbert 1250 QC

1200+ (continued)

Mark Lombardi 1248 CT
 Matthais Wuersching 1286 GER
 Glenn Peters 1258 MA
 Dan Boyce 1254 VT
 Joe Scherber 1204 CO
 Ben Johnson 1217 ON
 Fred Hain 1232 ON
 Phil Joynson 1233 ON
 John Matesa 1249 ON
 John Nieuwenhoff 1266 ON

1100+ (pick 2)

Don Crews 1137 AB
 Arnold Vader 1193 ON
 Gerry Cavanagh 1185 ON
 Pat Watson 1180 ON

1000+ (pick 3)

Bill Donkers 1047 ON
 Peter Frei 1091 GER
 John Harnica 1067 MI
 Gary Burke 1092 ON
 Gordon Tanner 1054 UT
 Eddy Zaychkowsky 1011 AB
 Marty Schicker 1099 IA
 Tom Duffy 1089 OR
 Gary Grande 1046 CO
 Chris Delaney 1065 ON
 Terry Chappelle 1089 ON

900+ (pick 2)

Keith MacLellan 981 QC
 Dave McCallum 989 ON
 Jean L. Duchezseau 925 FRA
 Christoph Schieder 986 AU
 Jason Jongeneel 958 ON
 Craig Balkwill 916 ON
 Paul Dettweiler 996 ON
 Richard Niewwenhoff 968 ON

800+ (pick 2)

Doug Heathman 880 KS
 Matt Leach 814 ON
 Andreas Wild 803 GER
 Rick Sanders 847 GER
 Lonnie Bourne 843 ON
 Roger Ruegger 895 SWI
 Stevann Fraley 813 KY
 John Ciesielski 854 CT.
 Mike DeMars 838 ON

700+ (pick 2)

Conrad Wheildon 759 ON
 Alan Makarchuk 770 AB
 Armi Lindell 796 FIN
 Elmer Daley 710 ON
 Matt Winey 713 SD
 Mikkal Hodge 775 IN
 Miika Mantyniemmi 735 FIN
 Dennis Hartung 789 ON

600- (pick 3)

Bill Williton 631 NF
 Mike Strange 563 QC
 Dan Westfall 647 MO
 Brian Hugli 620 ON
 Marc Levy 366 ON
 Andy Hamilton 335 NS
 Debra Rebel 689 OK
 Brian Kenneally 601 NS
 Dave McQuay 648 ON
 Jeff Warner 618 ON
 Juma Ollila 606 FIN
 Dana Shay ON 637
 Novar Dave ON 389
 Peter Burdon 485

Tie Breaker (used if necessary). My guess of the heaviest fruit weighed by a GVGO member is _____ lbs.

Your name: _____