

# Grower's Vine

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

Summer 2013 Newsletter



Volume 2 Issue 1



GVGO  
4376 Hwy 35 N  
Cameron, ON KOM 1G0  
[www.gvgo.ca](http://www.gvgo.ca)  
[gvgo@i-zoom.net](mailto:gvgo@i-zoom.net)



# Meet the Editors



*Welcome to the newly designed 2013 summer edition of the GVGO newsletter. Our bright, new look offers a face-lifted view deep into the inner workings and realm of growing giant vegetables. We hope it continues on the tradition of the most respected periodic publication for giant vegetable growers in the Commonwealth. Continuing to reach out to growers in Ontario and across the globe is our goal. We strive to share friendship, knowledge and growing experiences with all growers.*

*This issue is filled with all your favorite GVGO regular updates, special news features and skill enabling tips and facts. This edition includes the latest patch tour directions, a spy tour feature along with a giant tomato news update. Also in this issue we explore Horn Worms and dive into your soil, testing it for best growing practices this coming fall. Further inside we remember Kim Leonard & Len Stellpflug. Then we journey on a cruise while brushing up on your growing skills in a 101 course of learning to grow a garden for maximum yields.*

*Join us in this excellent growing adventure. Good Luck & Good Growing.*

*Russ & Shannon*



# CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By Phil Johnson &  
Russ Landry

From the Office of *Phil*

The old adage that it never rains but it pours seems to fit the Ontario world these last few months. It seems that most of the news coming down the pipe has been pretty chilly but I am sure we'll survive and move forth.

The 2013 season started out very well with the GVGGO spring seminar held in Breslau. The setting, food and drink were probably the best ever. The club again presented a first class presentation with John Vincent and Russ Landry taking centre stage and educating the membership on the science of growing and strategies. Congratulations went out to the winners from 2012 growing season and the "Hardware" was handed out to the best of the best. The highlight of the day had to be Ben Johnson being inducted into the GVGGO "Hall of Fame". A big thank you goes out to John Metesa for Putting this event together. It's a big commitment for anybody to take on and he did a stellar job? Thanks also goes out to Paul Detweiler and the other usual suspects that helped out with supplies and the set up and tear down of the materials.

The GVGGO annual patch tour for 2013 will be held in Prince Edward County on August 24th. This will be a bit later than usual but it has been a tough spring for growers and we needed extra time to get things together and there should be a few "big ones" to see. Details of this event are printed elsewhere in this newsletter. As some of you may have heard, there was potential for a bus-rented tour of Eastern Ontario and Western Quebec patches. This venture was not executed due to unforeseen circumstances. Thanks goes out to John Vincent for saving the day and stepping up to fill the void.

The resignation of two members of the executive Board, is the next bit of bad news. First, Sally Hunt has moved on from the pumpkin growing world and is pursuing other interests and opportunities. Many thanks to Sally for putting together the newsletter the last few years and for putting up with difficulties that presented much too often. You will be missed.

Second, Kirk Chenier has decided to call it a day. Kirk has been an anchor for the club for years and served as President of the club for a few years, as well as, taking care of those details that made this club tick. I know on a personal note I'll miss his humor and candor. Kirk has also stopped growing.

Hopefully, he will come back to the hobby at a different level after a few years off. This is a lifetime hobby where age is no barrier. We'll be there for you Kirk! We may very well need to expand the Board to take on some of these members' responsibilities. The newsletter has been taken over by Russ and Shannon Landry. This seems to be a perfect fit as Russ has a gift for the written word.

I know the weather has been an issue for Ontarians in the GVGGO. First, we saw a stubborn winter that didn't want to go away. We had snow falling on our greenhouses, then straight into record high temperatures. Some areas have had wind issues that tore out trees by the roots and flattened growers' plants. I have also had hail issues with the biggest chunks I have ever seen. Thankfully it only lasted a few minutes but it did do more damage than I'd care to see. Another big issue has been the over applications of various growing products. More than a few good growers pushed the envelope and paid a terrible price. Not all the news has been bad, however, as I've heard a few rumors about a few very good early OTT numbers out there. So let's keep the Faith.

I personally want to extend my condolences to the Leonard Family. The times I talked to Kim left me with the impression of a kind and gentle person who was all about family. She was taken far too soon and will be sadly missed by all.



I continue to be amazed and awed at how we have reached such levels of accomplishment. The skill of each of us continues to mount as the GVGO is now resting at the crown of this leisure pursuit. The potential is not yet limited either. Enormous opportunities and challenges lie ahead of us. This pumpkin growing hobby will indeed take us and the GVGO much further in the very near future.

The strength of the hobby in Ontario and the rest of the world is extremely sound at the current time. Popularity continues to swell by leaps and bounds. The GVGO membership is holding strong.

Grower attendance is still increasing at Ontario weigh-off sites as publicity machines are cranked up each fall. Spectators literally clamor to see the giants every fall at the many Ontario weigh-off sites. It is easy to see the excitement build at each area's competition.

We hope you like our new revamped look. In future look for more changes to the format while we continue to strive in bringing you the very best grower content available.

Grower support has been tremendous as it continues to thrive and build an ever enlarging broad base of support among the avid gardening clubs in the province. The GVGO web site is continuing to spread the word as growers share information and join the co-operative. Support and pooled resources are allowing for cost effective purchases of products and further enables a broad range of well supplied growers.

Seed sharing and goodwill is the engine that spreads growth of the hobby in ways that are now paying dividends to growers within the community. The annual summer GVGO patch tour has developed into a can't miss event with parties and informative consultation during the day.

Can we rest and say we've arrived at the top of the sport? The answer is a resounding NO! Giant vegetable growers never rest when good hard work remains to be completed. GVGO'ers must hoist the banner higher than ever before for the entire world to see and say "Yes We Did". Yes to growing larger fruit. Yes to building a better club. Yes to mentoring a friend. Yes to sharing knowledge. Yes to building a better sport. And finally Yes to another personal best in each and every members patch. Howard's giants warrant no less because he was and we are **Canadians!**



## GVGO facebook Page

Editors:

Nathan & Jennifer Veitch

# Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

is now on facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/GVGO/140780926101331>

Nathan & Jennifer 

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# PORT ELGIN PUMPKINFEST

*Field pumpkin is the 2013 featured vegetable*

## *Port Elgin GPC Weigh-off*

Saturday, October 5, 2013 & Sunday, October 6, 2013

Now always the weekend before Thanksgiving! Award winning festival.

Field pumpkin is this year's featured vegetable and the final prize structure will be completed and posted in the near future. Watch for posts on the GVGO and BP message boards for announcements.

After much discussion between our weigh-off coordination team the decision has been reached that we will remain a GPC site for both Saturday and Sunday of 2013.

Hours: Saturday 9am-6pm and Sunday 10am-4pm.  
Car Show Hours: Saturday 8am-4pm and Sunday 8am-4pm. Port Elgin Pumpkinfest operates under the umbrella of the Saugeen Shores Chamber of Commerce.

(800) 387-3456

[info@pumpkinfest.org](mailto:info@pumpkinfest.org)



## SOUTHERN ONTARIO NEWS

by Pat Watson

The start of the 2013 growing season has been a real challenge for many growers. Here in Southwestern Ontario, May and June have been very cool & wet. Finally some warmer days with sunshine arrived in July. Now later in the month we are experiencing cooler than normal nighttime temperatures. This all translates into slower growth rates than normal we might hope to see. On the bright side, I know of a few growers in my area that have managed June pollination dates and are currently on track for new personal bests....

*"I don't want to mention names for fear of jinxing them but good luck! ☺"*

On June 8, I hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual "Unofficial" GVGO barbecue. We had a fun day and it was nice to see several members and their spouses for an afternoon of pumpkin talk.

One of the highlights was the pumpkin patch dessert Sheila McAvity baked. The icing on the cake was a pumpkin patch complete with a number of pumpkins ranging in size from 2102lbs with McAvity's name on it all the way down to a tiny 89lber with the Watson name on it. She even included a damaged pumpkin with the split in the side with the Johnson/Butler name attached. Art and John will be quite happy if this is their only

damaged pumpkin of the 2013 season. The cake was delicious gobbled down as we all had a great laugh.

## *Enter your heaviest pumpkin and squash to win the Big Momma.*



The weigh-off season is just around the corner, I want to wish everyone success and good luck.

\*Remember, if you are growing an eligible seed, don't forget to enter your heaviest pumpkin and squash for a chance to win money in the first annual Big Momma Growers Contest. All of the rules and details can be found in the newsletter and we plan to remind everyone again after the weigh-offs.

*Pat Watson*



GVGO NEWS

### The **Big Momma Reloaded**

## *New\* 2013 Growers Contest*

*Here is a quick review*

- 1) The contest is open to all paid GVGO members.
- 2) The top 3 pumpkin and squash grown off an eligible seed win a cash prize. All prizes are paid in Canadian funds. (see table, Eligible seeds page 44)
- 3) All pumpkin and squash seeds donated to the GVGO membership seed packs are eligible to participate.
- 4) The cash prize payouts are:

### ● *Heaviest Pumpkin*

*1<sup>st</sup>- \$500, 2<sup>nd</sup>- \$250, 3<sup>rd</sup>- \$125*

### ● *Heaviest Squash*

*1<sup>st</sup>- \$300, 2<sup>nd</sup>- \$150, 3<sup>rd</sup>- \$75*

5) All entries must have been weighed on a digital scale at any organized weigh-off.

6) All participating growers are responsible for reporting the weight of their entry before December 31, 2013 to Pat Watson via email, telephone or postal mail.

Email: [karenpat@sympatico.ca](mailto:karenpat@sympatico.ca)  
Telephone: 519-641-1607  
Mailing address:  
Pat Watson,  
PO Box 25,  
Komoka, ON.  
N0L 1R0

## Questions or Comments

Contact: Pat or any GVGO executive members.



7) GPC rules will apply when identifying pumpkin and squash. Growers may be required to submit photos of their entry upon request. In the event of a dispute, the decision of the GVGO executive will be final.

8) Prize money will be awarded by check to each winner at the GVGO spring seminar or sent in the mail if the winners are unable to attend the seminar in person.



## Cytokinins Delay Senescence

Richmond - Lang effect is retardation of ageing due to cytokinins.

They slow the rate of destruction of chlorophyll and yellowing of leaves

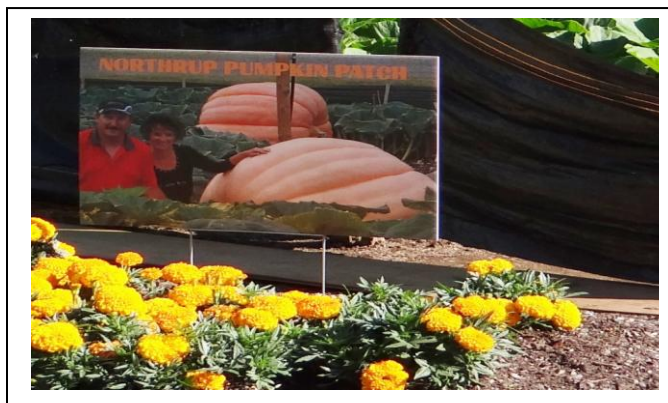
### NEWS FROM THE EAST COAST

by Dawn Northrup

## East Coast Weather Extremes.

Another season is upon us. It is currently a blazing hot weekend as I am writing this with temperatures soaring to 42 C. These high temperatures are making it very difficult for pollinations.

Some of the newer leaves look like a blow torch went through the patch burning the leaves to a blacken crisp!



The main vine on a couple of plants came to an abrupt halt as the tips got scorched by the hot sun.

As I look back over the last two months the weather has been just the opposite. Our hopes of having an early spring was shattered as Mother Nature decided to give

us a cold, wet spring. Jack Frost even lingered into June this year!

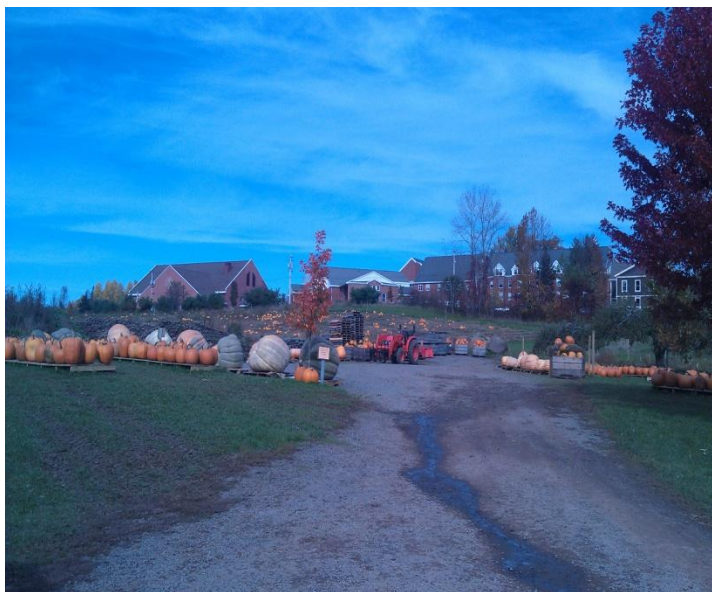
The East Coast was slow out of the starting gate at least two weeks behind compared to last year. The storm clouds rolled in for much of June giving the East Coast records amount of rainfall. A tornado warning was even issued for the Sussex and Kings County area. I cannot recall this ever happening in our area before. Luckily it did not touch down!

## "Swarms of Beetles Arrive"

Despite the weather, swarms of cucumber beetles arrived just like clockwork!

I wish all growers the best of luck and hope you get a new personal best! See you at the scales!

## Dawn



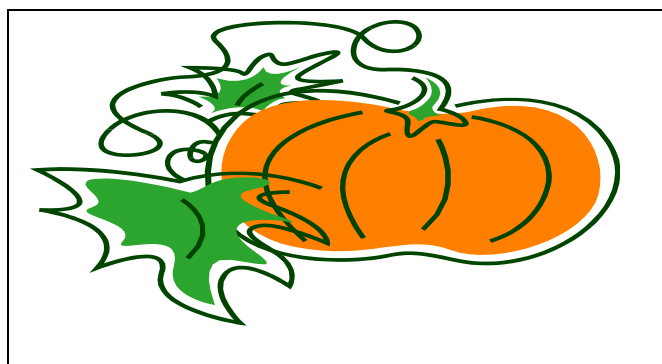
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## Best New Link

by Neil Anderson

Mykos, the underground network.

"Vegetables employ fungi to carry messages between them."



<http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21580443-vegetables-employ-fungi-carry-messages-between-them-beans-talk>

Neil

# Bigger Roots



## *Roots and Suberization.*

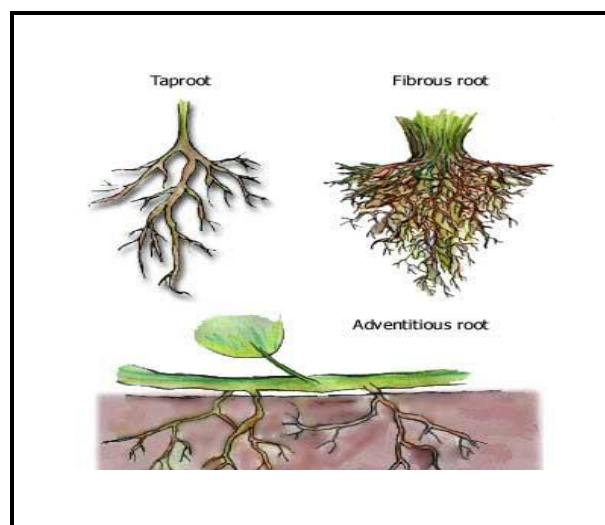
The process of suberized roots is the build up of a cork like substance that builds up on the surface of older roots to insulate them from the world around them.

The build up of the suberin layer is a natural occurrence that is a response to a number of factors.

Stress increases this build up, which gradually begins the plants slow decline into senescence. Stress can be caused by; cold and drought or vigorous wind damage. Ethylene the ripening hormones signals suberin to action. Leading to a reduction in the roots ability to absorb Calcium and

other vital nutrients. The plant falls into a self-imposed shut down to protect the maturing fruit and its procreating seeds inside.

Simply stated, growers need young adventitious roots that are able keep up with and supply the leaves food building, fruit factory.



**GVGO Spy Tour**  
*by John & sue Vincent*

Off to the east coast we went on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Our pumpkin patch safely in the hands of Brian McGill, we headed east. After only 1400 short Km we stopped at the patch of our good friend Bill and Dawn Northrup at Sussex, New Brunswick. The scenery driving up to the Northrup's is truly breathtaking. Rolling hills of green, deep in the eroded Appellation Mountains. They are surrounded by dairy farms. We later learned that Sussex is the dairy capital of the Maritimes.

Bill and Dawn were great hosts. We started out admiring Dawns beautiful flower beds which truthfully overshadow there immaculate pumpkin patch. The conversation quickly turned to Pumpkins as we walked around the house to the patch. The couple are a true growing team, each with their own job at growing their next monster pumpkin. Despite a tough spring and being about two weeks behind with plant development, the pumpkins were in fine form.

## *Dawns beautiful flower beds overshadow the immaculate pumpkin patch*

The tour started with their late pollinated 1634 Werner, which I'm pleased to report should be classic Northrup Orange. Their six plants were all impressive, but I was especially impressed with the root systems on their plants.



Fueled by Chitosan rich marine compost, I have to say I have never seen root systems like this. Top roots the size of your index finger, with spider web-like roots extending from those in all directions. Amazing!

The star of the show is Dawn's 1789 Wallace x 1495 Stelts, affectionately known as "Freakette". This pumpkin was an early pollination at only 8ft. The pumpkin was estimating 550 lbs on July 30<sup>th</sup>, and still ramping up at 30 lbs per day!



### *Freakette*

*xxxx Northrup 13, 1789 Wallace x 1495 Stelts*

The Northup's are great hosts. After the patch tour and some refreshments on their deck, we were off on a guided tour of the area and a drive south to St Martin's on the Bay of Fundy. The afternoon was topped off with a fabulous sea side dinner. Later we walked the ocean floor as the tide receded. Thanks to Dawn and Bill for a great time. Good luck with Freakette!



Later in the week, we visited the Dill Farm in Windsor, Nova Scotia. Although Busy with their farming operation, Danny and Dianna happily took time to show us their patch and talk pumpkins.



Danny said they had one of the worst springs he ever remembered for being wet and backward. Their pumpkins were way behind and they were still pollinating as of our visit on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Although delayed, I'm sure the Dills will be out at this falls weigh-off with some monster pumpkins. After a couple hours visit and a great gift of some squash seeds from Dianna, we were off to the park to see the Howard Dill statue and memorial.

## *pumpkins are way behind ....still pollinating*

*What a great week we had in a great part of the world visiting friends and pumpkins! Now off to some Lobster!!*

*John & Sue*



### **Western Report**

*Don Crews*

Spring finally came but it was late and lasted for a whole week and then it was summer. Well, not quite but you get the idea. The last few years have been like this, - 20C and a couple of weeks later it's + 20C. I spoke with some other growers up north here and they had similar if not worse conditions.

## *Spring lasted a week*

The south part of the province didn't have our extreme long winter. They had a little warmer than usual winter. We still had snow into May and I was forced to abandon plans for the patch in the north part of the yard. Where my greenhouse should have been, there was a snowdrift that was still a meter high. The patch was just muck and the snow went all the way over to where my watermelon shack should be placed. I put boards down and was able to get the watermelon going but the soil was so wet that I wrecked the soil structure putting heat cable in.

I managed to get the patch on the south yard going by placing the cold frame directly on to the large drift. I sunk through once with my foot and I didn't feel a bottom. As the snow melted later, weeds growing well were revealed. The early October snow, and the large amount we received had a nice side effect, no frozen soil! My soil thermometer was giving me a temp around 65°F immediately after the snow melted! That's a good late June temp in the outside garden.

Because the patches were so wet and I was not confident of their ability to grow anything, I decided not to commit a valuable seed to an uncertain end. Besides, I had a seed that did well for me, the 1081 Crews. It grew my 1274 and being a cross of the 1161 Rodonis and 1725 Harp should be good as it gets. So I planted the 1081 and the 1274. The 1274 had the 1634 Werner in it now so maybe I'll get some better color from that cross.

I was surprised how fast both of those plants grew. The 1274 was in the greenhouse and even though I started it late April I had a keeper on it May 31! Soil temp is why, I'm sure. The 1081 got put in the south patch and it grew like crazy as well. It needed the 16x18 hoop house

put up 2 weeks sooner than normal. It got pollinated early in the second week of June. The crappy winter we had gave me a kick start like I've never had before.

## *Hydronic Heat System*

I managed to get my hydronic heat system in the greenhouse working. It uses a takagi tank less water heater that is specified for that purpose. 400 ft of 3/4" poly pipe in one zone circulated by a Grundfoss brass pump seems to work well. I'll dig it deeper after the season is over. Right now the pipe is not deep enough to get past the rototiller. It is able to warm the soil to over 80\* F overnight . Of course this isn't a good year to determine if there are benefits because the soil was so warm to start with. I'm thinking that it would normally help later in the season when the sun can't warm the soil because of the leaf canopy. My fruit is at 60 days right now and the growth really hasn't tapered off much so maybe it is working.

Eddy Z gave me this note in April, "We're a go for Blue Grass (weighoff)on October 12th." Sounds like we will have two weigh offs to go to this year in Alberta. Not a good year for me to just have two plants.....!



I keep a pumpkin diary on twitter @pumpkinjerk. You can read the pumpkin updates, ignore the rest of the nonsensical ramblings.....

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## **Quebec Report**

*by Claude Colbert*

### **Update from Gentilly club : "Le Potirothon"**

This year is the 23rd season of "Le Potirothon" contest. The season begun with the spring meeting on Saturday April 13th. The event was a great success. The 60 people present have listened carefully to the presentations about growing giant pumpkins and watched a video presenting the history of the club. All the teams who came to register at the event received a package of seeds from our winning pumpkins in 2012 as well as those resulting from trade with other clubs. At the end of the official period of registration, 73 teams have joined the club for the 2013 season. A patch tour will be held in the Gentilly area on August 24th. The weigh off is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>. The pumpkins regatta will follow on October 12<sup>th</sup> to close the season activities.

The Potirothon of Gentilly presented this year the first sale of giant pumpkin seeds on the Internet. All proceeds go directly to fund our activities. We collected seeds from the top pumpkins grown in Quebec in 2012. Thank you to all the growers who donated seeds and all growers all over the world who supported us.

### **Update from Colbert's patch .**

This year, I'm growing 4 plants. I started my seedlings on April 26th which is a week later than usual for me. I put the seedling in the soil on May 9th. The plants grew in green house which is large enough to cover the plants for the entire season. I prepared the new patch in the fall by working in sub-soil and roto-tilling after having spread lots of wood chip compost.

The greenhouse polyethylene film was put in place in March. The sunshine we had in March and April has contributed greatly to warm up the soil in the greenhouse. The greenhouse was heated at night with kerosene 70,000 BTU heater.

According to the soil test results, I had no nutriments to add in the soil but enough nitrogen for the growth of

plants and for helping to speed up the decomposition of wood chips contained in my compost pile. I used urea and calcium nitrate at this stage.

The main vines were oriented so they hit the side wall of the greenhouse at 12 feet. Then the plastic film was removed in the first two feet from the ground so the vines can keep growing at the outside. Side vine are trained perpendicular to the main at 15 feet each side. All female flowers were pollinated on the main vines at 14 feet from the stump between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 5<sup>st</sup>

Watering is made by an automatic overhead sprinklers system. I am using numbers of Nelson S10 Head Sprinklers inside the green house and Nelson Whiz head sprinklers outside the greenhouses arranged in a spraying pattern that cover more than the full area of the plants. Once a week or the second one I spray the leaves with a solution maple syrup, fish emulsion and liquid kelp. Summer fertilization is completed by adding high nitrogen soluble fertilizer in irrigation water once a month or so.

At the time of writing this article, here is an overview of the state of growth in my patch:

<https://www.facebook.com/Colbert.pumpkin.patch>

Claude Colbert

Sainte-Croix, Quebec

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## NEWS FROM EUROPE

By Brad Wursten

### *Flooding rocks Europe.* Giant

vegetable growers tend to be a tough bunch. You can throw all kinds of problems at them and they will come up with a fix. But there are a few things you simply can't fix: cold, lack of sunlight and flooding. And those are just the things many Europeans, especially in the central and northern parts, have had to deal with all year.

If records are to be broken, we have already broken a few, like coldest spring, least number of sunlight hours and most amount of rainfall. Especially parts of Germany have been dealing with excessive flooding as rivers can no longer handle the flow. Great Britain and the Netherlands have been dealing with very cool temperatures and low sun levels.

### *Records fall in Coldest spring with the Most Rain and Least sunlight*

You can battle quite a few things, like powdery mildew, insects and draught, and live to tell the tale, but these are things you can't have going on all spring and summer and then hope to come out on top in the fall. But countries like Germany and France are big and somewhere somebody will be having ideal growing conditions. Holland is a different story. It's a country that pretty much fits into the back of a pickup truck, and if one has the odds turned against him, so does the other.

### *1694 Mierer, 1088 Horde are top Euro seed choices*

This year three of the main Dutch growers are all growing the same seeds: the 1694 Meier (European record pumpkin) and the 1088 Horde. The 1088 was a pumpkin crossed with a squash and we all got lucky as the progeny are all green. We've also all got a 122 Wursten long gourd going. It grew the European record last year, so hopefully one of us will get lucky again this year.

In other news, the world's major giant vegetable show, at Shepton Mallet (UK), is a no go this year. It was the place where world records were broken. Pretty much every year. Another show, Malvern, has decided to step up to the plate and expand its giant vegetable show to include more categories. Hopefully Shepton Mallet will be back next year.

*Brad Wursten*

## GVGO SCIENCE NEWS

By Russ Landry  
AKA Kahuna 11, Team Lunatic



### *The tomato hornworm* or *Manduca*

*quinquemaculata* (Lepidoptera: Sphingidae), is native to Ontario and much of North America. It is commonly found throughout the region.

The insect normally does not reach detrimental levels on area farms. However, in the giant mater patch an alarming number of larvae can, from time to time, begin to munch away on a grower's plants.

Tomato hornworms feed most often on fresh, newly developed mater leaves. They are certain to reduce the size of your fruit if left to dine on your efforts.

They are bright green, well camouflaged and have a single horn on the tail end. The caterpillars are the plant consuming larvae of the adult moth. They will sometimes also attack eggplant, pepper, potato and certain host weeds. There are, as a rule, 2 generations of the insect in each growing year.

*"Tomato hornworms feed on newly developed leaves."*



**Tomato Horn Worm**

The adult, is often called the "sphinx", "hawk" or "hummingbird" moth. It is a large bodied moth with

narrow front wings that are mottled grayish-brown in color and have yellow spots on the sides of its abdomen and a large wing spread of up to 5 inches.



**Horn Worm Moth**

Whitish Hornworm eggs can be found deposited on both the lower and upper leaf surfaces in late spring and early summer. The eggs will hatch in six to eight days and are oval shaped, light green to yellowish, and measure only 1mm in diameter.

*"Hornworm eggs hatch in 6 to 8 days"*

Younger larvae are smaller versions of the caterpillar. They are pale green with white markings (see photo above), they transform every few days in 5-6 instars or shedding events. From the first instar which is yellow to white in color without markings they later develop white, "V-shaped" markings. The name hornworm is derived from a sharp black projection or single long "horn" on its last abdominal segment.



The caterpillar reaches the final instar stage in 3-4 weeks, at 3 1/2 to 4 inches when fully developed. Larvae then fall off the plants and dig into the soil to pupate. During the summer months the adult will hatch in about

2 weeks. The moths emerge from the soil, mate, and begin to deposit eggs on the tomato plants.

The larva damages the plant by feeding initially on the upper portions of new leaves, leaving in its wake dark green, brownish or black droppings with completely defoliate vine stems with only short nubs left at the nodes.



**Defoliated Leaf Stem**

The larvae are extremely well camouflaged and blend in with the plant canopy. They can go unnoticed until most of the damage is done. Later more mature larvae are capable of destroying several leaves as well as fruit. Defoliation damage increases, with each instar as the caterpillars increase in size and girth.

Growers should begin Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by examining plants daily from early July and into August for eggs and small caterpillars. Beginning control measures as soon as young larvae are observed can halt damage. Small giant patch plantings and early infestations can be effectively controlled by hand-picking off larvae.

Helping you grow bigger and better giant maters.

*Russ*




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# *Compost Spreading Chart*

## Yards needed to cover

<b>" Deep</b>	<b><u>1000/ FT</u></b>	<b><u>1 ACRE</u></b>
1/8	0.38	18
1/4	0.75	35
1/2	1.5	69
1	3.1	13
2	6.2	
3	9.3	

# The Quebec Connection

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## *simple summer growing tips*

How much water do you use each day and does it increase at various times?

"It varies on how dry it is but the most we use is 125 gallons every second day."

Jim Bryson

What would be your tips for the three "seasons" of growing – early summer, midsummer, late summer and fall?

**Early summer,** "keep your plants comfortable with the cold nights and keep up with the vine growth."

**Midsummer,** "keep up with vine growth, protect fruits from sun and water when necessary to prevent leaf burning."

**Late summer,** "keep fruit warm at night and use frost protection for the best plants."

Todd Kline

What products do you use during the growing season? What time of the season and are they applied by foliar or drench?

"I Use myco fungi to develop the root system.

Drench & Foliar feed with Maple Bud Syrup.

Fish, Seaweed & Lithovit first half of the season.

Second half of season I remove Fish, switch to Seaweed & Lithovit only."

Harley Sproule



## *AGP Plant Tissue Analysis Ranges*

	N	P	K	Mg	Ca	B	Z	Mg	Fe	Cu
	%	%	%	%	%	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm	ppm
Normal	4.0	0.6	3.0	0.3	1.2	25.0	20.0	20.0	50.0	7.0
Range	6.0	0.7	5.0	2.5	2.5	75.0	200.0	250.0	250.0	25.0

# Foaming Stump Update

## *Pumpkin, Vine Anoxia, Atlantic Giant (Cucurbita-Maxima)*



Foamy, Dripping and or bleeding of sap or exudates with viscous, clear to cloudy white bubbly fluid often erupting from surface around the internodes of the basal crown area. Affects usually the main vines and sometimes secondary vines. Results in rotting and necrotic area to vine stem areas, affecting xylem and phloem pathways. Loss of crown and adjacent vine leaders. Hinders, yield of the Primary Fruit Sink (PFS). Resulting in hastened senescence, fruit maturity, decreased size and weights.

In the past we have often thought of foaming stump as a viral or fungal condition. In fact very little was understood of the condition or its causes until recently.

Xylem cavitation of pumpkin plants is the formation of vapor bubbles of the flowing liquid in an area where the pressure of the liquid falls below its vapor pressure. The term is called inertial cavitation. It's the process

where a void or bubble in a liquid rapidly collapses, producing a shock wave. In the vascular tissues of plants conducting rivers such as pumpkin plants main vines, inertial cavitation damages or ruptures the channels & cells of the river we have come to know as the "Calcium Highway."

Pumpkin vine, xylem cavitation or as we have come to refer to as foaming stump ultimately reduces a plant's capacity to move water and nutrients from the soil to the leaves and sinks. Its primary cause is one of unsustainable canopy transpiration rates during high heat and low humidity. The result is in lowering of the xylem hydraulic water pressure causing cavitation, embolized (gas-filled) bubbling and ultimately whitish foaming stump percolated from the damaged vine stem.

Leaf stomata closure prevents further cavitation and desiccation of leaf tissues by reducing transpiration. However this reduces fruit growth by slowing carbon fixation or sink storage.



# Remembering: Len Stellpflug

By Alan Nesbitt

*I received word that on March 19th 2013 Leonard Stellpflug 82 passed away.*

I was reminded of the impact Len had on the growing community and his many contributions to the sport/hobby. I thought I would share some of my experiences growing pumpkins with Len during the golden age of the 1980's.



**Len in 1986 Photo**

I first met Len in the fall of 1985. He had recently retired as an engineer at the Eastman Kodak Company. Finding more time on his hands, 1985 would be the start of his quest for a big pumpkin. His two biggest pumpkins weighed 322 and 284 pounds that year.

Although 40 years my senior, we instantly struck up a friendship in the world of pumpkin growing. During the next 6 years, Len would increase his personal best 100 pounds each and every year and set 3 world records in the process.

Here's a year by year account of memories.....  
1986 season- Len began taking notes of observations he would find interesting. My most lasting impression of this season was visiting his patch wanting to see his biggest. Hours later I would get that opportunity, but not before we went to every plant (30+) as he went through his notes of observations....pages and pages. It didn't matter if the pumpkin weighed 100 pounds, he had something to say about it. It was torture for this 15 year old at times as I didn't always understand that Len was learning from the failures as much as the

winners. I just wanted to see the big ones. In late September he would lose his biggest pumpkin to a split at 478 pounds, unofficially breaking the 465 pound State record.

Len was one of the very first growers to actively hand pollinate and record crosses. In '86 he would take 4 or 5 male flowers and place them near the females..."to help out the bees". He had a good 30 plants or so in those days and you would see picked males all over the place. He later would keep notes of all his hand crosses.

*Len was one of the very first growers to actively hand pollinate*

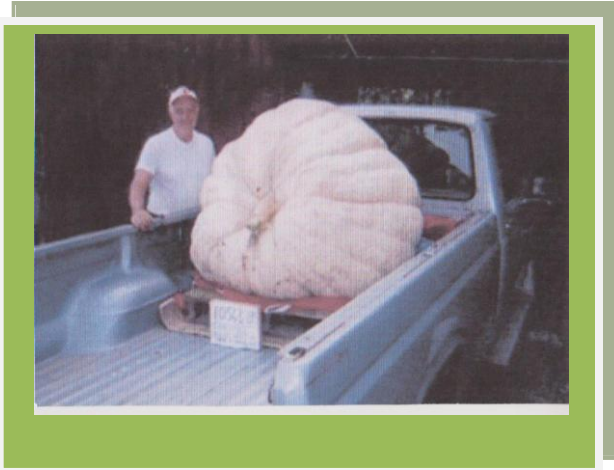
1987 season- Len was the first to propagate giant pumpkin cuttings as we know today. In 1987 he cut and planted 2' sections of vine in an effort to keep his best genetic plants alive. His cutting that year produced 3 pumpkins with the largest weighing 149 pounds. He was able to prove that it was possible to grow pumpkins from a desired cutting.

1987 marks the year he began recording circumference measurements in an effort to better estimate a pumpkins weight. The original chart we used was created by Hugh Wiberg in 1983. Hugh's chart was quite simple. After 300 pounds, every additional inch in circumference represented 5 pounds of growth. It was good for pumpkins in the 3-400 pound range, but would over estimate smaller pumpkins, and under estimate larger ones.

*"recording circumference measurements to better estimate a pumpkins weight"*

As pumpkin weights began climbing well above 500 pounds, it became necessary to create a more reliable system and Len (with his engineering background) was the man for the job.

## Len and his 1056.5 Pumpkin



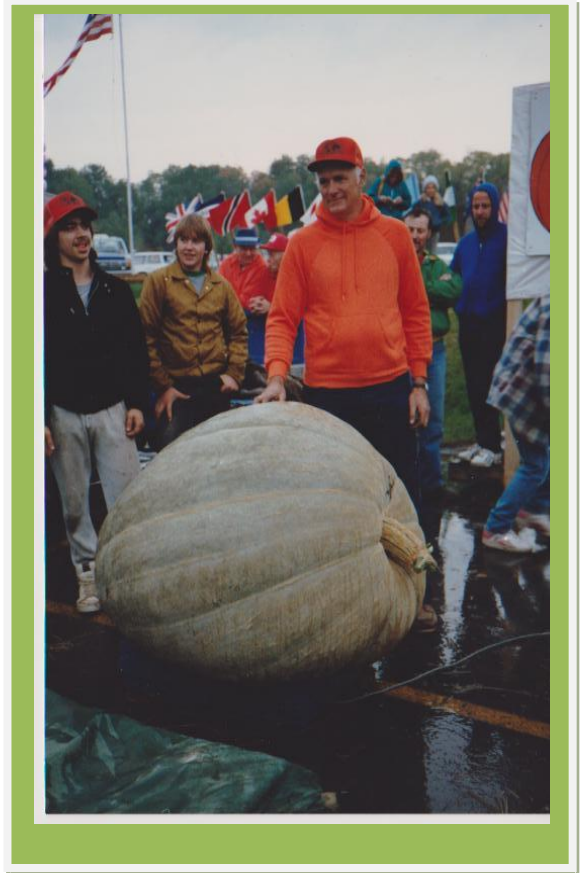
He lost his biggest pumpkin that year at 593 pounds to a split in early September. Just 78 pounds short of the World Record, it's projected weight (had it survived) was over 700 pounds, which would have been the first ever. Len would end up weighing his 2nd best pumpkin at 590 pounds finishing 2nd in the world with a new state record.

1988 marks the year Len made big advances in the hobby. His new World Record squash weighing 653.5 pounds would be the first modern day plant to be pruned with vines buried. I recall thinking he was being foolish burying the vines on his best plant with the thought they would all rot in the soil. He was not afraid to take chances and the gamble paid off. So much so that in a few short years everyone was pruning and burying their vines.

*"foolish burying vines on his best plant, thought they would rot in the soil."*

His big squash would end up on the David Letterman show and make an appearance on the "top 10" list.

Len continued to collect circumference data and completed his first Cir. estimation chart that year. It was published officially on 4/9/89.



**Len's 653.5\* squash**

1989 produced Len's 2nd World record squash at 743 pounds. The first year of the 700 pounder. Len took his pruning to a new level by removing every other side vine on his WR squash plant. Along with buried vines, this new record convinced many growers of the validity of this method.

He also began experimenting with seed germination, including his bubble method that became popular with germinating older seeds by agitating them in oxygenated water.

1990 would see Len harvesting his 3rd World Record squash in a row at 821 pounds. The very first 800 pound fruit weighed and largest ever grown...pumpkin or squash. His backup squash would end up at 807 pounds, also smashing his old record.

## WR Squash



### 821 Stelfflug 90

Around this time there was concern that perhaps a 1000 pound pumpkin couldn't be grown because of the thought that the strength-to-weight ratio of living things decreases as size increases. Basically the theory was that a 1000 pound pumpkin couldn't support its own weight.

He went out and performed many tests using his pumpkins at different stages of maturity to determine their structural strength. His conclusion was that not only did the pumpkins strength NOT decrease, but actually increased the bigger they got. He put to bed concerns that we were at the pumpkins limit at 800 pounds and predicted 1000 pounds was around the corner.

I recall visiting and seeing pumpkin pieces and weighing equipment all over the place. It was quite a sight. He informed me at this time his ultimate goal was to grow a 1000 pound pumpkin before retiring...an "out there" goal at the time.

## *Len & Howard worked to create the OTT chart*

This year would also mark his interest in creating the Over-The-Top weight estimation chart that is used today. I had a long talk with Howard Dill at the end of 1989 where he described his 3 way measuring system for determining his biggest pumpkin. Len immediately saw the potential with this method and began collecting data to work with. I believe Howard was the first to actively record OTT measurements as far back as 1988.

Len purchased new property and soon sold his old house and land. 1990 would be the last year growing on his established soil. To this day, I believe had he

decided to stay longer, the world might have seen the first 1000 pounder a few years earlier.

1991 brought a new set of challenges in Len's patch. Rocky clay soil in this new location was a far cry from the established patch he left. Although his magical seasons of the 80's weren't repeated, he had some memorable years. His 645 in '91 finished 8th in the world and he almost won a 4th straight squash championship before losing his big squash to blossom split at 580 pounds in late August.

Len's new OTT chart was published for the first time on 2/27/91, making it the new standard method soon to be used by every serious grower.

In 1993 he entered the 7th largest pumpkin in the world at 752.5 pounds and began new endeavors in the form of energy fields. Visiting his 50 acre property, you wouldn't find one big patch, but a series of small gardens in different locations based on their energy fields with the help of a water douser. Although this practice brought a few smiles of disbelief in the pumpkin world, it was an example of Len always thinking out of the box. I'll never forget walking from patch to patch.

## *"Len's first OTT chart was published on 2/27/91."*

1994 he would enter the 10th largest pumpkin in the world at 786 pounds. During these years he also introduced the use of systemic insecticide to many growers in the form of Imidacloprid to combat squash vine bores.

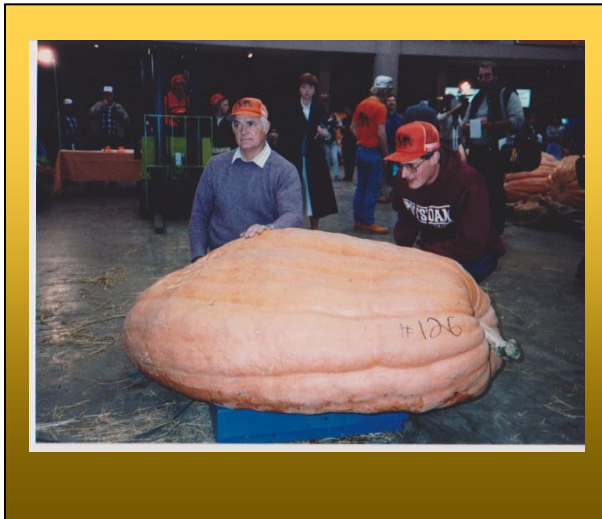


### Squash Flower & Bud 2011

It wasn't until 1998 that he achieved his most satisfying moment.... and biggest disappointment at the same time. I received a call that he had just picked his big one (fear of splitting at a rib section). To his shock, the pumpkin weighed 1060 pounds on his home scales...just 1 pound short of the World Record 1061 of

'96. The pumpkin was officially weighed at an early contest in Canfield Ohio at 1056.5 pounds and ended up 2nd in the world and 3rd all time. The pumpkin was

found to be solid as a rock and well over the charts. Most who saw that pumpkin growing believe had he left it on the vine, the world would have seen the first 1100 and possibly 1200 pound pumpkin. It was a case of not knowing what he had. At the end of the day, he accomplished his ultimate goal of breaking 1000 before just about everyone else.



### **1056.5 Stellpflug 98**

In the early 2000's Len continued experimenting with things...such as pumpkin crack healing in hopes of preventing the common problem of splitting.

Len continued growing big pumpkins before retiring from competition in 2006. His last revision of the OTT chart was completed in 2008, leaving it in the hands of others for the future.

Here are a few personal memories of Len I won't forget.....

*-His initials are "LBS"...how cool is that?*

*-Endless energy...would complete a regular day's work by noon.*

*-Waking me up at 9am on Saturday morning in '86 and explaining half the day was over.*

*-At 70 years young he was still picking 400 pound pumpkins and moving them with a wheel barrel by himself. His strength was truly impressive.*

*-Trips to the State Fair with him and his homemade stands to display our pumpkins and squash...and having free reign at the fairgrounds before they officially opened.*

*-Our trip to Guelph Ontario to enter his big watermelon...which took up the back seat of his car.*

*-Driving home with him and his 821 record squash and suddenly losing the brakes and flying past the intersection (scary moment). And then having to sit back while he used the emergency brake the rest of the way home....pins and needles.*

*-He made #6 on David Letterman's top 10 list.*

*-Watching him dig a 20' homemade well with no power tools or equipment...just what looked like a modified shovel. Took him weeks I recall. One inch of soil at a time.*

*-Building his new home at 65+ years old.*

*-Popping wheelies on his old ford tractor when he picked "a good one" and using sand bags on the front hood for support.*

*-And of course helping him pick his big squash and him helping me pick mine.*

*I have a lot of great memories of Len and his limitless energy. He most certainly was a big part in the sudden jump of weights we started to see in the 80's and he shared everything. He will be missed!*

# *Stellpflug OTT Chart*

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## Maple Syrup

**"Manganese (Mn) is found in *maple syrup*;  
...thought to be a component of the vital  
oxidative enzyme called,**

**Superoxide Dismutase (SOD).**

**SOD disarms DNA damaging free radicals.**

**Antioxidants: compounds that neutralize  
free radicals, or unstable oxygen molecules,  
that damage cells, plant tissues. They  
maturity and hasten senescence, risk of  
disease and lowered fruit weights."**

# GVGO Top Ten List

## Top Ten T-Shirt and Bumper Stickers for 2013

By *Phil Joynson* 

10. All my other T-Shirts have pumpkin stuff on them too!
9. Real men wear knee pads.
8. I have a bigger one at home.
7. I do more spraying than Maaco.
6. If this truck is loaded with a pumpkin, I can't see you.
5. If you have money left over after the growing season then you're not doing it right.
4. Honk if you love "Big Melons".
3. If you can read this sticker than my pumpkin trailer fell off.
2. I've combined my two favorite hobbies; Now I drink pumpkin beer!
1. Five (5) months spent toiling in the patch for five (5) minutes on the scale...Time well spent!

# Growing 101 Skills to Garden By



As featured in the July 2013 USA edition of *Maximum Yield*

*By Russ Landry*

## *Learn how to match your skill level with desire.*

Ushering in another bright new summer season it might be time to set in place a roadmap for growers listing several aspirations to achieve this coming sun filled season. With that in mind, here is an extended list of what every grower new and seasoned alike should know -- but might not. Following these few very basic guidelines will eventually help you to grow bigger and better flowers, fruits or vegetables with ever increasing yields.

Veteran Gardeners know that skills, effort and knowledge undoubtedly help to form a hearty plump green thumb. Experience growers know these fundamental lessons aren't learned in college, or on a web site. Rather these are tiny tidbits of proficiency and information are gathered together over several years observing plants growing in Mothers Natures own backyard. In Growing 101 there is no soil test to analyze and no water test to review. There is no pH to monitor and no nutrients to add. These are the plain and simple lessons every grower should know and hold close to them.

## *Spend more time than you think working the garden.*

It could be said in many different ways. "Be a fertile and dedicated grower". "Avoid in-season couch potatoitis." All the points are the same. Everyone needs to learn this as

soon as possible! It's extremely important to spend lots of capital in the form of sweat equity. Become enthusiastic and invest your skills and knowledge in the many laborious chores all season long. Unfortunately, you can't turn to a web site, to get this lesson accomplished. Learning from reading teaches us how to grow by providing a knowledge base. However no one will do the backbreaking hard work for you. Planting, growing and harvesting a garden is difficult, muscle taxing and simply hard work. This is definitely your plain old-fashioned shovel and dirt encrusted hands that produce amazing results. Consider this to be flower or vegetable gardening the way your grandparents did it in days gone by. The old fashioned way of getting down on your hands and knees to pull out those pesky weeds will provide better results.



Here are three ways to impart this lesson into the patch:

- **Match your skill level with desire and availability.** Each year newer growers set lofty goals their skill set and commitment level cannot match. An extra hour spent in the garden in early summer weeding is often worth more in additional yields in September. Strive to improve your skills and efforts with determination. Building better soil or providing a healthier stress free growing environment is a better influence on your plants and this takes time.
- **You must earn it.** If you want grow something that thrives you must work at it. Due diligence in the garden works wonders, your knowledge and skills will build with each passing day. If you're a newer grower

and want to be a better gardener tell yourself you must pay for this with the price of time and experiences.

- **Tend fewer plants in adequately sized areas.** The two biggest mistakes most growers make in growing are too many plants within areas that are too small. Most grower's rookie and seasoned veterans are tricked into thinking their areas are a Garden of Eden. Growers often spend more efforts or more chores on too many plants thus diluting care. To make sure you don't end up "time growing poor," consider these guidelines:
  - *Don't become over exuberant and do not plant anything unless you plan to devote the entire growing season to it.*
  - *Don't spend time wasting your gross resources on too many plants. The plants will only be smaller, more unruly to control and become laden with disease.*
  - *Don't over extend yourself purchasing every supplement known to mankind. Resources are better spent on equipment then chasing every new fangled thingy.*
  - *If you are doing something you don't find is plant productive, you're swimming against the tide. Stop and rethink the process.*

*"Too many plants within areas that are too small"*

**You are your own best resource.** These days, many people ask, "What can I do to become a better gardener" The short and quick answer: Become focused at what you do best. The key here is to become a fervent lifelong learner. There are three ways to apply this:

- **Read and study.** It could be about seeds or soil or whatever you choose. Become interested and devoted, to the many different aspects of this hobby by reading! The best way to light a fire is to actually experience it

and tend it. The best gift you can give yourself is the love of learning. The fact that awareness and can lay the foundation to a great garden is no secret.

- **Learn to love growing for the long haul.** The most difficult garden problems tend to be multidisciplinary, and they typically are not solved quickly. Soil issues quickly come to mind as being difficult to grasp and slow to resolve. It takes time to learn soil management and growing techniques. Growing teaches us to be patient, organize your thoughts on paper and think logically while recording everything you do for future reference.
- **Build a plant and seed portfolio.** Building a modest collection of plants allows for diversity. Growers need not enter the poor house chasing the latest and greatest seeds. You should also know something about every seed you fling earthward or transplant you give a new home to. Each seed holds its own story. As the pedigree unfolds each of your plants may need special care that only you can harvest. Golfers call this local knowledge. Gardeners call it understanding your conditions and what your plants specific needs and requirements are.



- **Become dedicated to the chores.** Growers don't come predisposed to be great growers. We have all kinds of psychological baggage that prevents us from propagating for the best yields. In short, we form conclusions prematurely while trying to resolve plant

growth problems. Growers become overconfident in their own abilities and are prone to take inappropriate action in times of plant stress. Often a grower will become uncertain in how take care of a plants ills; sometimes forgetting the past and becoming a “More-on”. Adding more is often the wrong thing to do. Ignore your urges to treat plants with over care. Refrain from adding products or nutrients out of impulse. You must identify, correct, learn and remember your mistakes so they are not repeated. To counteract these flaws guide you’re growing decisions by these two rules:

- **Be patient.** Don't add any supplements either by foliar or soil and apply them spontaneously. Nature tends to nurture plants along and so should a grower. Test and wait at least a few days before broadly applying questionable new products. Go light on the application while testing products and experimenting. This allows you to introduce new untested products in a safe manner. It also nullifies your emotional more-on impulses.
- **Be committed.** Tend every seedling you plant until the end of season. This commitment will likely assist you to carefully consider and research the myriad of growing problems you will encounter. Learn to read the leaves and what the plants require. Gaining valuable experience over the seasons pays dividends in growing better crops.



**Learn the lingo and master it.** A common adage holds that it takes four hours a day, seven days a week, for 10 years to achieve mastery – this however assumes you actually spend those hours wisely, get feedback, and track your performance. Learning the language of gardening and the jargon will help in communicating with others. Understanding the basics of plant biology and soil structure allows the grower to enhance results and achieves the best plant healthy outcomes. Do not settle for anything less, leave no stone unturned in searching for solutions to the problems you may encounter.



**Network.** Join in and don’t be timid. Become involved. Join a club; contribute to the collective of growers in your area. A great place to start looking for other growers is the internet. It doesn’t stop there! Networking and mentoring are great ways to analyze plant skills and help develop new connections. Plan to attend shows, groups, conventions, seminars and garden tours and above all learn from others. Go to message boards, chat and blog. Soaking it all in will only boost your growing ability. The most important part is that you surround yourself with those who are the best at what you want to become great at. As they say, it is hard to soar like an eagle when you hang with a bunch of turkeys.

**Invest in equipment.** Time and equipment are much more valuable than supplements and seeds. Although any tractor will diminish with age, new or used growing

**J. Russell Landry**

*Russ Landry is the former Vice President of the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth and its competitive weigh-off sites held worldwide. He is now the current Co-President of the Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario (gvgo.ca). Russ grows giant pumpkins, tomatoes and squash. He has written numerous articles featuring methods to increase vegetable size and fruit yield.*



## Memberships and Benefits



## ***GVGO Single Membership...\$30 CAD***

- *Full Voting Privileges, with eligibility to hold office.*
- *Entry into club seminars & meetings*
- *10% discount on soil analysis from [A&L Canada Labs](#) in London, Ontario*
- *Seed giveaway - (approx 5 + seeds)*
- *3 newsletters*
- *Entry into patch tours*
- *Eligible for the GVGO Championship Trophy-Largest pumpkin (Ontario Residents Only)*

*There is no shortcut in  
growing the best garden*

One final piece of advice from a master grower comes from [Al Eaton](#) in Ontario Canada. He is a grower of enormous giant pumpkins and after growing the world record pumpkin of 1,446 pounds he commented. "There is no silver bullet in growing these things." In a nutshell there is simply no shortcut in growing the best garden possible. By following these few rules and assuredly as the autumn's chilly nights begin to arrive, you'll be well down the garden path of a much deserved and hard earned bountiful harvest come fall.



# GPC Update:

by Dave Stelts

## The Big Show "Honouring the past, preparing for the future"

**The GPC 2014 Edition of 'The Big Show' will be in Orlando, Florida at the [Holiday Inn](#). The seminar will be held February 21st and 22nd, 2014.**

### Agenda

Friday, February 21, 2014

- 12pm - 4pm session
- 6pm - 12am networking room with assorted beverages & snacks

Saturday, February 22, 2014

- 9am - 3pm session including lunch buffet
- 6pm - 12am awards dinner, awards show, & networking with snacks

### Registration and Rate Information

- Registration Form will be available soon. Rates are:
- \$175 - full convention including lunch Saturday & awards dinner
- \$200 - *full convention if room is booked outside of GPC block*
- \$40 - Lunch (Saturday) Only
- \$60 - Dinner and Awards Show (Saturday) Only
- Hotel reservations can be made by calling 866-253-2182 and ask for the "great pumpkin commonwealth rate" or "PKP". You can also make your reservation online at the [Holiday Inn](#) site. Be sure to use the following information when you make your reservation:

Booking Link: Great Pumpkin Commonwealth  
Booking Code: PKP

- **The GPC asks that you make your reservations using our room block. This allows the GPC to offset costs and keep them as low as possible to our attendees.**

# Great Pumpkin Commonwealth

## 2013

### Prize List:

OVERALL	SQUASH	G o t Y	OTHER	Master Grower
1) \$1,000 <sup>A,B</sup>	1) \$500 <sup>A,C</sup>	1)\$1000	1)\$300 <sup>E, D</sup>	1)\$500
2) \$700	2) \$300	2)\$750	2)\$200	2)\$300
3) \$500	3) \$100	3)\$500	3)\$100	3)\$200
4) \$300		4)\$300		
5) \$200		5)\$200		
6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> \$100 ea.		6 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup> \$100 ea.		
11 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> \$50 ea.				

- A- Also large engraved plaque  
 B- New World Record Pumpkin bonus: \$500  
 C- New World Record Squash bonus: \$500  
 D- 2013 [Featured vegetable bonus](#): \$1000 for Tomato  
 E- \$100 World Record bonus





## *Pumpkin Cruise IV*

The next cruise is scheduled around the 2015 GPC conference, on **THE REGAL PRINCESS**, March 1, 2015 sailing. This will be Princess' newest ship! It debuts in November 2014, so we will be among the first to enjoy all the newest features.

Start thinking Pumpkin Growers!

The itinerary is as follows:

- March 1 - Depart Fort Lauderdale
  - March 2 - Princess Cays
    - March 3 - sea day
    - March 4 - St Thomas
    - March 5 - St Maarten
    - March 6 - sea day
    - March 7 - sea day
  - March 8 - Fort Lauderdale



For pricing and info Contact: Joan Gibson 330.222.2215 [ptcounselor@msn.com](mailto:ptcounselor@msn.com) [www.gibsonstravel.com](http://www.gibsonstravel.com)



# Soil Testing

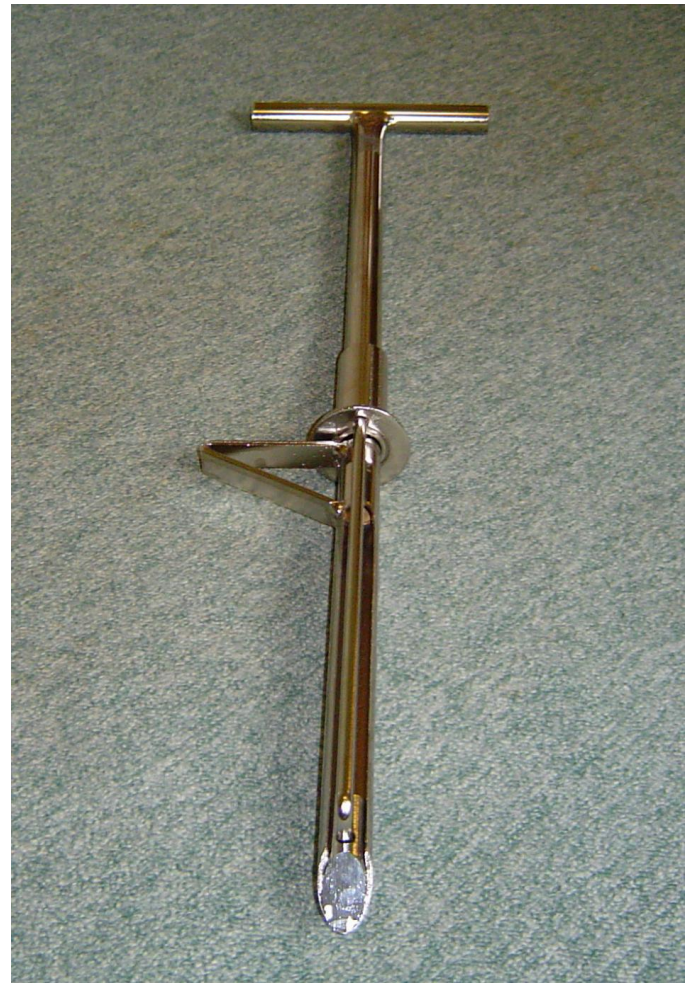
by: John Vincent

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Soil tests can be intimidating, especially to the novice grower. I always say it's hard to get where you want to go, if you don't know where you are or where you are going! I think it's very important to start with a test and monitor on a regular basis.



You can test your soil in either the fall or spring. Personally I like to add my organics in the fall, till in and let the whole thing 'stew' over the winter, then sample in late April as soon as the patch is dry enough I can work it over once. Weather you test in fall or spring is not important, other than you should always test at the same time of year for comparisons, especially for soil pH which tends to be higher in the fall.



*" test at the same time of year for comparisons, especially for soil pH which tends to be higher in the fall. "*

Taking a good representative sample is the first step. Collect your samples from several points around your patch, ideally collecting from 8 to 10 spots Use a plastic pail of possible, especially if testing for micronutrients. The use of a soil probe is recommended.

Many growers don't have this equipment. Use a shovel. Take a slice down to tillage depth. Usually in field conditions, this is 6", however in the pumpkin patch; this may be 8" or 10". Take your slice and carefully take a vertical sample, which may be a chunk of soil 2 or 3" square and the length of the slice. Whatever size you use, it is important to take all cores the same way and of the same amount of soil. Remove any large debris or stones from the sample and uniformly mix the samples.

From that composite sample, take approximately 2-3 cups of soil and place in a zip lock baggie. It is important that you don't ship a lump of mud. If it's that wet, don't sample.

Send your sample to a reputable soil test lab. I recommend A&L labs in London, Ontario. If you are a GVGO member, you will receive a 10% discount. There

are basically two tests for you to choose from. The basic test (SB1), and the complete test (SB1+S7) which includes micronutrients. I usually take a complete test every two or three years to get a handle on my Micro levels; otherwise I just do the basic test. Mark your sample 'Giant Pumpkins'. They will make recommendations in pounds of plant food per 1000ft<sup>2</sup>.

	pH	OM	Bicarb P	K- ppm	Mg- ppm	Ca-ppm	Ca:Mg	Ca:K	CEC
Range	6.6-6.9	7-11%	160-200	330-500	270-400	3000-4000	10-12	8-10	17-22
Base Saturation				4-7%	13-18%	68-72%			

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## *8Lbs of GPC Giant Tomato*



Could be worth \$4,500 in 2013. Hopefully some lucky GVGO member will collect this cash prize for the biggest and first official World Record GPC tomato ever over 8 pounds.



# Giant Tomato Seeds

**NOW on Sale!**

Price & seed packs offered for sale

\$10.00 ea. 4.90 Nieuwenhoff 12 > 4.62 Timm x self. 3/pkg.  
9.00 4.19 Montgomery 12 > 5.07 Boudyo x self. 6/pkg.  
8.00 4.04 Johnston/Butler 12 > 7.33 Hunt x self. 5/pkg.  
7.00 3.81 Sundin 12 > 4.91 Lyons 11 x open. 20/pkg.  
7.00 3.78 Vincent 12 > 4.91 Lyons 11 x open. 8/pkg.  
7.00 3.61 Sundin 12 > 4.91 Lyons 11 x open. 20/pkg.  
7.00 3.72 Vincent 12 > 7.33 Hunt 10 x open. 8/pkg.

Please add \$5 for shipping & handling to each order

PayPal to [gvqogrowers@gmail.com](mailto:gvqogrowers@gmail.com)

Email Direct transfer to [gvqogrowers@gmail.com](mailto:gvqogrowers@gmail.com)

or by mail & check to

please list seed description with payment.

C/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer

4376 Hwy 35 N

Cameron, ON. Canada.

K0M 1G0

# Tomato Chart

CC"	Est. Weight	CC"	Est. Weight	CC"	Est. Weight
15	1	23.5	4.73	26.25	6.19
16	1.5	23.75	4.85	26.50	6.37
17	1.75	24	5	26.75	6.56
18	2	4.25	5.12	27	6.75
19	2.5	24.5	5.25	27.25	6.94
20	3	24.75	5.37	27.5	7.13
21	3.5	25	5.5	27.75	7.31
21.5	3.75	25.25	5.63	28	7.5
22	4	25.5	5.75	28.25	7.69
22.5	4.25	25.75	5.87	28.5	7.88
23	4.5	26	6	28.75	8.06

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Kim Leonard: is with great sadness that we hear of the passing of Kim Leonard. Kim peacefully passed away in early July. She had been fighting a tumour for 12 strong years. Kim will be sadly and greatly missed by all and we send our condolences to Darrell, Justin and Tyler.*

<http://www.simcoe.com/article/56620>

The Great Pumpkin

Author: Katherine Elphick

... Kim Leonard, a Wyevale resident and giant fruit and veggie enthusiast. The 33 year old has even heard of growers who sing or talk to their pumpkins for good luck. You name it, and they will try it.

For the past five years, Leonard, along with her husband Darrell, 36, have been growing larger-than-life gourds, pumpkins and squash in their half acre garden. The pair used to compete separately, but this year they're working as a team...

...The off-beat sport is a natural fit for the family who own and operate Huronia Nurseries (near Wyevale). In the fall, they travel to various weigh-offs around the province to compete.

Leonard received top prize for her 1,080-pound squash at Port Elgin last fall...

It's a learning process with lots of trial and error, explains Leonard, who spends up to two hours per day with her family tending to the gigantic creatures. Sometimes if you really fuss over one plant, the one you've left alone will do better. Patience and tender loving care are also required. The giant pumpkins and squash in Leonard patch get covered up nightly to stay warm. They get more blankets than the kids, she chuckles.

Wishing Darrell, Justin & Tyler our support.



## GVGO SEED Auction

The GVGO Executive

**The GVGO auctioneers** are actively seeking proven seed donations for this fall's coming auction season. Donations can be brought with you on the patch tour. Phil Hunt or Pat Watson will be happy to include them in this coming year's auction events.

Please mail your seeds to

[karenpat@sympatico.ca](mailto:karenpat@sympatico.ca)

Telephone: 519-641-1607

Mailing address: Pat Watson  
PO Box 25, Komoka, ON.  
N0L 1R0



**gvgo.ca**

[http:// GVGO.ca](http://GVGO.ca), Web site problems resulted in a software programming problems that took the site down for a time in late July. After a thorough cleaning and updating the message board site has undergone a new look. The exact cause of the problem is unknown. However several steps have been taken to ensure it doesn't happen again in the future.

Thank you all for your patience

## GVGO Folks on the Move

### Executive Update

- Kirk Chenier is retiring from the club moving onto family matters. Thanks Kirk for all your efforts.
- Sally Hunt is moving onto bigger things as well. Our pumpkin fest lady and newsletter editor is passing her chores on.
- Pat Watson takes over additional duties as seed coordinator, running all pumpkin seed collection and sales from the web site.
- Russ moves from web seed auction coordinator to his additional roll with wife Shannon as newsletter editor. Russ continues his current duties as co-president and Tomato seed coordinator for sales & distribution.
- Phil & Jane Hunt, John Vincent, Chris Lyons, Phil Joynson, & Russ Landry assume additional duties of the newly created web auctions team.
- Mike Demars, assumes the role of stats collection for grower of the year and award plaques as well as Ordering plaques for the seminar
- Chris Lyons is now keeping track of the growers patches for categories over 1000 lbs along with product ordering and dividing up amendments.
- Phil (007) Joynson is also adding duties to his co-president function and is now ordering GVGO jackets, t-shirts etc from *Embroidery Plus* in Peterborough he is also looking after the hall of fame and life membership plaques.

# Fractals

*Recent published research suggests that a Fractal growth-type of pattern may result in increased weight gains and fruit size.*

*Fractal growth patterns of the AGP are basically replicating the shape and vein structure of the leaf in a pruned and fully developed plant.*

*This new pattern results in a plant that effectively mimics the shape and structure of a fully developed leaf in a full grown canopy.*

*However this technique is theoretical and largely unproven. The efficiency of fractals in nature along with peer reviewed studies seem to indicate a growing evidence that results may surprise growers.*



## *Secrets from Glenn Huffman's Patch*

*See Glenn's giant on the patch tour.*

### 1,009 Huffman 12

Female: 560 Huffman (1059 Vincent x 901 Hunt)

Male: 1647 Marsh (1488 Marsh x 1544 Reiver)

Started: Apr 21

Planted: May 15

Pollinated: June 30 x 1,488 Marsh (1306 Jutras X 1407 Wolf)

**280lbs OTT** est. on July 30, 13.

### 1,488 Marsh 09

Female: 1306 Jutras

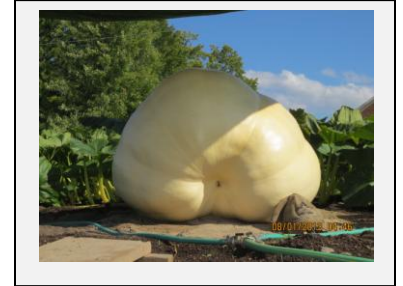
Male: 1407 Wolf

Started: Apr 21

Planted: May 15

Pollinated: July 1 x 845 Huffman (1404 Bryson x 560 Huffman)

**267 lbs OTT** est. on July 31, 13.



# *GVGO 2013 Patch Tour*

Saturday Aug. 24th 2013

**1st stop 8:30 - 10:00 am, Glenn & Jim Huffman,  
1156 Burr Rd.**

From 401 hwy. take hwy. 62 south to Burr Rd.

**2nd Stop 10:30 - 11:30 am, Langridge Family Farms.  
Dan, Annette, Shannon and Sarah  
249 Sandy Hook Rd**

Head back east on Burr Rd turn south on hwy 62.

Continue onto Bloomfield Main St. Hwy 33.

At the roundabout take 1st exit onto sandy Hook rd.

**3rd Stop and Lunch 12 pm, John & Susan Vincent,  
Brian & Noah McGill  
1538 County Road 15**

From Sandy Hook Rd. head west 400m

At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Loyalist Pkwy/Hwy 33. for 3.5k

Continue onto Picton Main St/County Road 49, 280m

Turn Left onto Johnson St. 1.1K

Continue onto County Rd 5 12.3k

Turn left to stay on County Rd 5 350m

Take the 2nd right onto County Rd 15 7.1 k

Turn left onto Northport St.



Good Luck & safe driving see you all at the patch tour

# 2013 GROWER OF THE YEAR

Here are the numbers you will need to get you there

Will you make this list

<b>PUMPKINS</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>SQUASH</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Jim/Kelsey Bryson	1753.5	20	Jason Aldred	1077	10
Chris Delaney	1684.5	19	John Vincent	993	9
Harley Sproule	1522	18	Joel Jarvis	949	8
Joel Jarvis	1464.5	17	Bob/Elaine MacKenzie	905.5	7
Jim/Kelsey Bryson	1456	16	Shannon Langridge	861	6
<b>CABBAGE</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>TOMATO</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Pts</b>
John Vincent	112.2	5	Butler/Johnston	5.50	5
John Vincent	99.0	4	John Nieuwenhoff	4.90	4
John Vincent	96.5	3	John Vincent	4.51	3
<b>WATERMELON</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>Giant Field Pumpkin</b>	<b>Weight</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Bryan Mailey	178.5	5	Jen/Nathan Veitch	101"	5
Chris Delaney	177.0	4	John Twelves	96.5"	4
Doug Court	176.5	3	Doug Court	95.5"	3
Bryan Mailey	167.0	2	Chris Lyons	94.0"	2
Travis Thompson	166.5	1	Chris Lyons	91.0"	1
<b>LONG GOURD</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Pts</b>	<b>TALL CORN</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Pts</b>
Al Eaton	122.88"	5	Butler/Johnston	294.25"	5
Todd Kline	120.0"	4	Butler/Johnston	260.0"	4
Todd Kline	117.25"	3	Butler/Johnston	257.5"	3
<b>TALL SUNFLOWER</b>	<b>Length</b>	<b>Pts</b>			
Jeff Warner	254.5"	5	Jeff Warner	237.5"	4



# GPC Rules

GPC Rules to grow by

## Article II Fruits and Growers

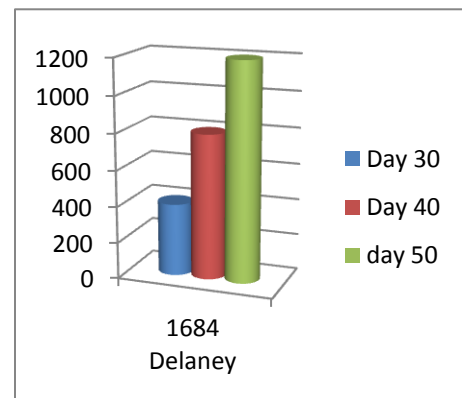
1) The entry must be exhibited by the grower or team. In the case of an emergency where the grower or team cannot be present to exhibit the entry, the site coordinator, club/grower representative, and site representative will make a determination regarding the validity of a grower or team's absence.

A) "Grower" is defined as a person who has grown and cared for the entry from planting to harvest.

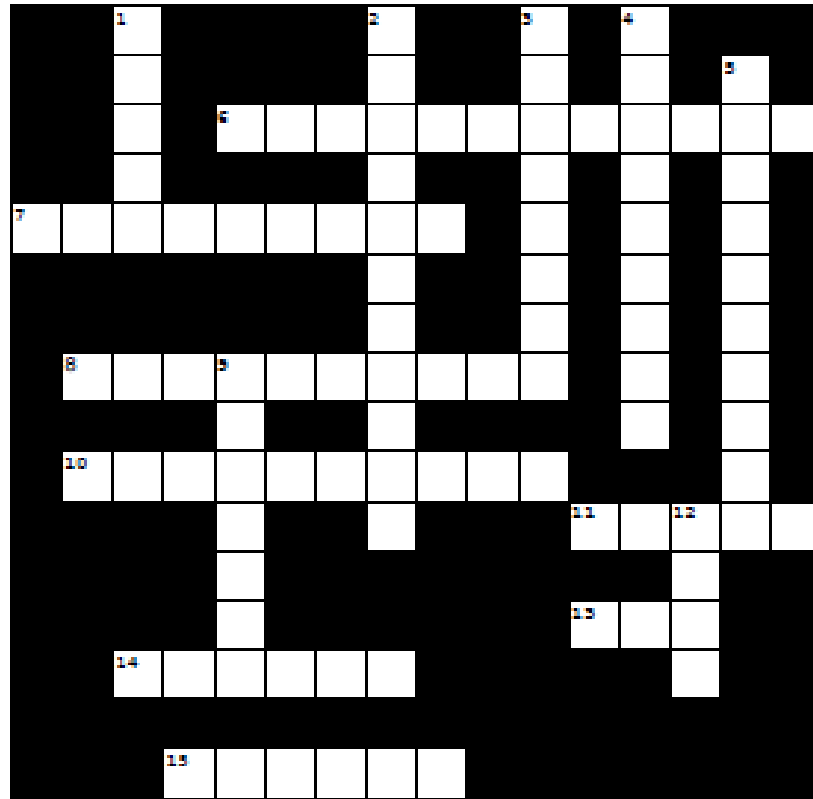
B) "Team" is defined as any two or more "Growers" who exhibit.

## Master Grower Levels

**Pumpkin - 1400 lbs**  
**Squash - 1150 lbs**  
**Long Gourd - 120"**  
**Field Pumpkin - 120 lbs**  
**Watermelon - 200 lbs**  
**Tomato - 4.5 lbs**  
**Cabbage - 60 lbs**  
**Corn - 275"**  
**Sunflower - 250"**



# GVGO Summer 2013



## Across

- 6 George Lloyd weighed his Japan bound pumpkin at this Weigh Off
- 7 First Canadian to grow Pumpkin over 1000 lbs
- 8 Only soccer comes ahead of this Weigh Off
- 10 Best Parade at a Weigh off
- 11 Best Pulled Pork at a Weigh Off
- 13 West Coast Supplier of Myco
- 14 Past Pumpkin WR Holders
- 15 Great South Western Ontario Weigh Off

## Down

- 1 Last Weigh off in Ontario
- 2 Newest Weigh Off in Cottage Country
- 3 Weigh Off with Pumpkin Boat Race
- 4 Weigh Off that gave away a truck for first prize once
- 5 Newest Hall of Fame inductee
- 9 Won Saturday Port Elgin Weigh Off 2012
- 12 Weigh Off at one of the oldest county Fairs

# Big Momma

## Eligible Pumpkin Seeds

1753 Bryson 2012 (1382 Bryson x 1647 Wallace)  
1684.5 Delaney 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1818 Bryson)  
1657.6 Bryson 2011 (1725 Harp x 1468 Stevens)  
1522 Sproule 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1807 Stelts)  
1456 Bryson 2012 (1404 Bryson x 1495 Stelts)  
1411 Cronk 2012 (1650 Sproule x 1166 Chappelle)  
1408 Kline 2012 (1566 Rodonis x 1404 Bryson)  
1386 Nieuwenhoff 2012 (1381 Swarts x 1404 Bryson)  
1379.5 Banman 2011 (1489 Kline x 1121 Raflant)  
1356 Timm 2012 (1267.8 Timm x 1404 Bryson)  
1347 Warner 2012 (1723 Marshall x 1658 Young)  
1320 dmg Kline 2012 (1641 Montgomery x 1566 Rodonis)  
1314 est Bryson 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1807 Stelts)  
1313 Matesa 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1404 Bryson)  
1302 Kline 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1404 Bryson)  
1282 Lyons dmg 2012 (1161 Rodonis x 1381 Checkon)  
1274 Crews 2012 (1081 Crews x 1634 Werner)  
1242.5 Banman 2012 (1379.5 Banman x 1372.8 Lloyd)  
1233.5 Sproule 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1404 Bryson)  
1215.5 Banman 2012 (1379.5 Banman x 1372.8 Lloyd)  
1211 Preis 2012 (965 THE x self)  
1187 Johnson 2012 (1059 Vincent/McGill x self)  
1166 Chappelle 2011 (1404 Bryson x 1350 Starr)  
1163.5 Timm 2012 (1404 Bryson x self)  
1149 Preis 2012 (1647 Wallace x 1331 Preis)  
1148 Reid 2012 (1226 Checkon x 1133 Kline)  
1146.6 Hoelke 2012 (1641 Montgomery x 1657 Bryson)  
1133 Vincent 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1404 Bryson)  
1127 dmg Kline 2012 (991 Urena x 1404 Bryson)  
1091 Bryson 2010 (1544 Revier x 1333 Young)

1076.5 Hunt 2012 (1329 Hunt x 1404 Bryson)  
1067.5 Matesa 2012 (1249 Matesa x 1495 Stelts)  
1058 Chappelle 2011 (1350 Starr x 1055 Chappelle)  
1057 Bryson 2011 (1618 Bryson x 1476 Bryson)  
1037 Rusenstrom 2012 (924 Veitch x 1657 Bryson)  
1030.5 Kline 2012 (1650 Sproule x 991 Urena)  
990 Cavanagh 2012 (1119 Mailey x self)  
990 Crews uow 2012 (1634 Werner x 1244.5 Rea)  
940 Montgomery 2012 (1161 Rodonis x 1404 Bryson)  
935 Rusenstrom 2012 (1133 Kline x 1264 Kline)  
926 Loucks 2012 (1170 Vincent/McGill x self)  
922 Rusenstrom 2012 (1430 Kline x 1185 Kline)  
918 Cavanagh 2012 (1430 Kline x 1185 Kline)  
883.5 Watson 2012 (1404 Bryson x 1180.4 Watson)  
844 Preis 2012 (905 Preis x self)  
808 Nieuwenhoff 2012 (1266 Nieuwenhoff x 1381 Swartz)  
805 est dmg Watson 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1180.4 Watson)  
800 Lyons 2012 (1381 Checkon x 1161 Rodonis)  
695 Johnson 2012 (1176 Lombardi x 1059 Vincent/McGill)  
628 Crews uow 2012 (1244.5 Rea x 1634 Werner)

## Squash

1153 Kline dmg 2012\* (1002 Jarvis x 1486 Jarvis)  
993 Vincent 2012\* (1002 Jarvis x 905 Vincent-McGill)  
900 est. dmg. Johnston/Butler 2011\* (800 Nealy x 992 Jonston/Butler)  
713 Timm 2012\* (950 Timm x 1037.5 Jarvis)  
711 Chenier 2012\* (1002 Jarvis x 1037 Jarvis)  
699 DeMars 2012\* (1037 Jarvis x self)  
660.5 Preis 2012\* (1037.5 Jarvis x 536 Preis)  
609 Jarvis 2012\* (1002 Jarvis x self)

# Weighoff Dates

Sun, September 22, 2013

[Festival Provinciale de la Citrouille Geante de Neguac](#)

Sat, September 28, 2013

[AVGVG Glad Gardens](#)

Sat, September 28, 2013

[Hugli's Blueberry Ranch Weigh-off](#)

Sat, September 28, 2013

[Gentilly](#)

Sat, October 5, 2013

[Windsor-West Hants Pumpkin Festival](#)

Sat, October 5, 2013

[Port Elgin Pumpkinfest](#)

Sat, October 5, 2013

[Millville Pumpkin Festival](#)

Sun, October 6, 2013

[Port Elgin Pumpkinfest \(Sunday\)](#)

Thu, October 10, 2013

[Erin Fall Fair Giant Pumpkin Weighoff](#)

Sat, October 12, 2013

[Woodbridge Fair International Giant Pumpkin Weigh-off](#)

Sat, October 19, 2013

[Prince Edward County Pumpkinfest](#)

## **Non GPC**

**BlueWater Growers & Throwers – Sept 22nd, 2013** [bwqt.ca](http://bwqt.ca)

**Norfolk County Fair, Simco weigh off** - Tues. before Thanksgiving

**Keene Pumpkin Fest – October TBD, 2013** [www.thekeenepumpkinfestival.com](http://www.thekeenepumpkinfestival.com)

**Royal Winter Fair November TBD, 2013** [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org)

# *Kahuna's Keys*

What has become of the hobby after a 2012 season that saw records fall and weights elevated to seemingly unbelievable levels. Here are a few questions and answers that may help to solve where you, other growers and the hobby are headed this summer.

**Q.** How do you keep them growing?

**A.** Keeping the growth rates up well into September is a very vital skill. Delaying the onset of plant death or senescence can be achieved in a number of ways.

**Keys:** Use cytokinines including kelp meals and liquid kelps, drenched or foliar applied. Also consider ethylene blockers like John Vincent's Relief product. Anti-Oxidants are also important to keep the plant young. Sprays of maple bud syrup and ascorbic acids are thought to work well. Finally hormones like, NAA and IBA work wonders to keep roots actively growing.

**Q.** How big is a really big mater? how fast do they grow?

**A.** This is an easy one. A really big mater can reach the size of a volley ball and they can grow an 1" in circumference each day at the peak of the growth cycle. A 25" CC Mater will be about the 5 pound mark and a record breaker will need to be 28' CC or better to collect the GPC grand prize.

**Keys:** Treat them just about the same as AGP. Start them early or late. Grower may have a better chance in cooler weather, as blossoms often fuse together in lower air temperatures.

**Q.** Just heard Kirk Chenier is retiring from the club what will he do next?

**A.** Kirk is just fine and after a long tenure as a director, president and valued member he is moving on focusing on family. Kirk was the gate keeper of the world's best and most informative growers club (GVGO) for several years. He is a tremendous grower and friend. As a Leader of the

club he devoted years and years of his time in helping others grow bigger pumpkins. We wish him well. Many. many thanks to our own "Captain KIRK".

**Keys:** Huge volunteer efforts, Generosity way above and beyond. Truly he is a man with a huge growers heart, always helping and assisting new growers to build the GVGO into the great Canadian commonwealth that it is today.

**Q.** What is a Blossom End Split and what causes it? Is there any way to prevent it from happening.

**A.** Blossom End Splitting or BES is not caused by a parasitic organism but is a fruit disorder associated with low concentrations of calcium and carbohydrate products in the fruits distal or rear end at the blossom.

**Keys:** Preparation, planning, soil testing, leaf testing and supplementing are extremely important. There is nothing more beneficial to an AGP than available Calcium (Ca) in the soil. Drench and or foliar feeding Ca works wonders for wall thickness and increase weights to chart.

**Q.** How do you control the growth of powdery mildew on plants in August? Is there an organic way to control this scourge on my plants.

**A.** Like nothing else above powdery mildew or PM will halt growth of an AGP. Phosphites work tremendously well and are considered organic.

**Keys:** Products such as TKO, Phortress, Quad 9 and Rampart are some of the many types available. They can be applied foliar or drenched every 7 to 10 days. Mix with fulvic acid for greater intake in the leaves and be sure to spray both the bottom and top of the leaf.



# Woodbridge Fair

**International Giant Pumpkin Weigh-off**  
GPC Premium Member, since 2006

**woodbridgefair.com**

## *Weigh off Prize List.*

Supported by

**"Team Lunatic"**

**\*\$6,000 in cash prizes**

hidden weight cash prizes

AGP = \$1,500 1<sup>st</sup>, 500 2<sup>nd</sup>, 300 3<sup>rd</sup>, 200 4<sup>th</sup>, 100 5<sup>th</sup> &  
50, 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> place

Squash = \$500 1<sup>st</sup>, 300 2<sup>nd</sup> & 100 3<sup>rd</sup>

Long Gourd, Tomato, Water Melon, Field Pumpkin,  
Cabbage, Tall Corn & Tall Sun Flower.

All 7 above categories = 150 1<sup>st</sup>, 100 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 50 for 3<sup>rd</sup>

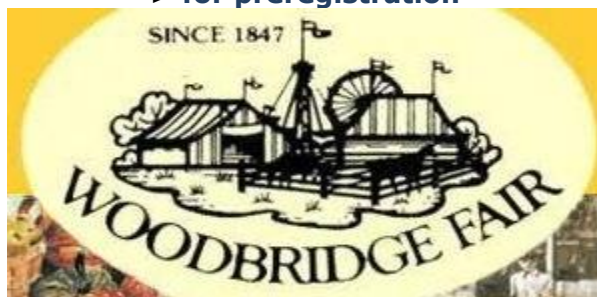
**Date: Saturday October 6<sup>th</sup> 10am**

**Load In: 8am, Weigh-Off begins at 10 am.**

**Entry Fee: \$20. Includes, free lunch + \$5 for family & friends.**

**Address: Porter Ave. Woodbridge, Ontario.  
Just North of the tracks on Kipling Ave**

**Contact: Bryan Mailey [bmailey@ruralwave.biz](mailto:bmailey@ruralwave.biz)  
> for preregistration**



**Canada All Time,**

## **Top Ten List of Pumpkins**

**By Phil Hunt**

<b><u>Placing</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Weight</u></b>	<b><u>Hometown</u></b>
1.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1818.5	Ormstown, QC
2.	Carl Graham	1,811	Donkin, NS
3.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1,753	Ormstown, QC
4.	Gerard Ansems	1,727	Kentville, NS
5.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson**	1657.6	Ormstown, QC
6.	Chris Delaney	1,684.5	Pickering, ON
7.	Phil & Jane Hunt *	1678	Cameron, ON
8.	Harley Sproule***	1650.8	Ormstown, QC
9.	Greg Montgomery	1641.4	Port Carling, ON
10.	Claude Colbert	1,630	Sainte-Croix, QC

# Erin Fall Fair

## GPC Giant Pumpkin Weigh-off

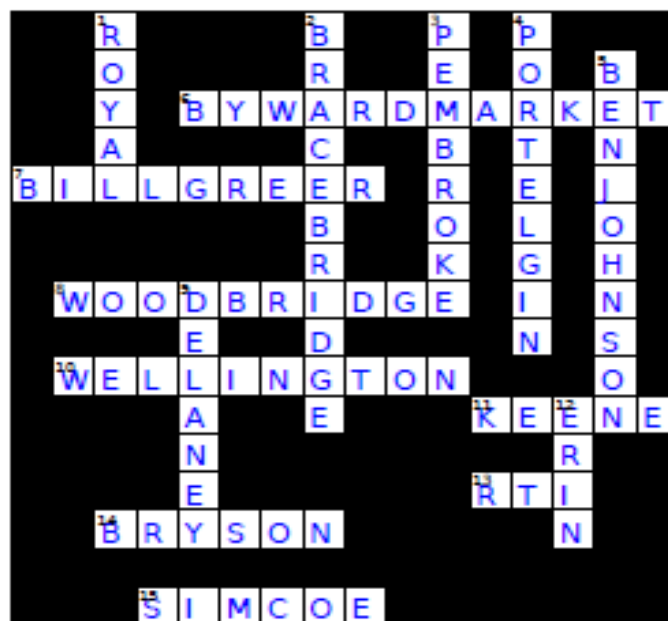
Thursday October 10, 2013. 7pm  
in the Show Barn

*Also at the same time and place is a  
"Unique" Giant Vegetable Weigh-off where  
14 Different types of giant vegetables will  
compete head to head for \$500 first prize.*

*For complete rules, prize money, directions  
and other information please visit our  
web site at*

**[www.ErinGiantPumpkinGrowers.weebly.com](http://www.ErinGiantPumpkinGrowers.weebly.com)**

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# GVGO Annual seed Sale is now on.

**Limited quantities are still available.**

Please add \$5 for shipping & handling to each order

PayPal to [gvgogrowers@gmail.com](mailto:gvgogrowers@gmail.com)

Email Direct transfer to [gvgogrowers@gmail.com](mailto:gvgogrowers@gmail.com)

or by mail & check to

please list seed description with payment.

C/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer

4376 Hwy 35 N

Cameron, Ontario

Canada

K0M 1G0

## 1753 Bryson 2012

1382 Bryson x 1647 Wallace

13

\$45

Add to Cart 

## 1684.5 Delaney 2012

1495 Stelts x 1818 Bryson

13

\$45

Add to Cart 

## 1522 Sproule 2012

1818 Bryson x 1807 Stelts

12

\$30

Add to Cart 

## 1456 Bryson 2012

1404 Bryson x 1495 Stelts

12

\$25

Add to Cart 

## 1408 Kline 2012

1566 Rodonis x 1404 Bryson

12

\$25

Add to Cart 

## 1386 Nieuwenhoff 2012

1381 Swarts x 1404 Bryson

12

\$20

Add to Cart 

## 1347 Warner 2012

1723 Marshall x 1658 Young

12

\$20

Add to Cart 

## 1320 dmg Kline 2012

1641 Montgomery x 1566 Rodonis

12

\$20

Add to Cart 

## 1314 est Bryson 2012

1818 Bryson x 1807 Stelts

12

\$25

Add to Cart 

## 1313 Matesa 2012

1495 Stelts x 1404 Bryson

25

\$20

Add to Cart 

## 1302 Kline 2012

1818 Bryson x 1404 Bryson

12

\$15

Add to Cart 

## 1657 Bryson 11

1725 Harp x 1468.5 Stevens

35

\$45











Add to Cart 

## 1650 Sproule 11

1421 Stelts x 1185 Kline

35

\$45

<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1641 Montgomery 11</b> 1566 Rodonis x 1185 Kline	35	\$45
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1430 Kline 11</b> 1264 Kline x 991 Urena	35	\$20
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1427 Jarvis 11</b> 1219 Jarvis 10 x 1236 Harp 09	35	\$15
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1329 Hunt 11</b> 1080 Hunt x 1161 Rodonis	35	\$15
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1312 Sproule 11</b> 1185 Kline x 1468 Stevens.	35	\$20
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1294 Sproule 11</b> 1468 Stevens x 1185 Kline.	35	\$15
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1246 Vincent* 11</b> 1035 Aten 10 x 935 Vincent 10	35	\$15
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1203 Joynson 11</b> 1229 Sundin x 1185 Kline	35	\$15
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1032 Lyons 11</b> 925 Lyons x 1161 Rodonis	35	\$15/2 seeds
<a href="#">Add to Cart</a> 	<b>1030 Landry 11</b> 1148 Landry 10 x sib	35	\$10

## We get letters

I read with great interest every article and every growers diary on Big Pumpkins. It didn't take long to realize that many of the comments and grower diary's I found very interesting and helpful were members of the GVGO.

Members were not only helpful in giving a novice advice and help to decipher genetics and growing methods but GVGO members were extremely generous in sharing seeds.

Also there were no attacks or put downs from obviously more talented growers when greenhorns just that each of you has been asked over and over.

There are some really great growers, with tremendous knowledge, skill and the willingness to make that available to others.

As I enter my seventh season of growing Giant Vegetables.... I am very happy to report that I have done quite well in many categories at our local weigh-off.

Any success I have had as a grower belongs to all the great men and women of the GVGO and other clubs on Big Pumpkins who share their talents, secrets while offering advice and giving seeds freely.

Thank you GVGO, I am so glad to be a member and to know each of you through our phone conversations and club newsletter!

Canadians are great people!

Phil Wellington