Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

OVER THE TOP

Summer 2016

www.gvgo.ca 4376 Hwy 35N Cameron Ontario K0M 1G0

President's Message

Phil Joynson

2016 was one for the record books. The giant vegetable community managed to beat the world record for pumpkin (Mathias Willemijns of Belgium with an amazing 2624.6 lb monster), squash (Scott Holub of Eugene, Oregon with a true green 1849.5 lbs. specimen) and closer to home **Todd Kline** broke the **Canadian record** with a 1877 lber at the Port Elgin Pumpkinfest and our own **Ryan Hoelke** managed to set a new **Ontario record** with a 1803 lb pumpkin at the Woodbridge Fair weigh-off. Did you hear we had record heat and drought conditions? Over all I think we had fewer pumpkins at the weigh-offs but the ones that were brought in were some beauties.

1877 Kline – Canadian record

One Ton Challenge

After talking with growers and weigh-off site officials I can state that the **"One Ton Challenge"** was a great success. Although no one managed to get to that 2000 lb mark in Canada, we created some buzz around the weigh-offs with the growers, audience and the media. I think a true marker of the success of our contest was the new personal bests set by some of our veteran growers. I doubt that this was an accident on their parts. The jackpot will be going up another $500 in 2017 with a possible $6000 to be won by any Canadian GVGO member. Also, don't forget about our **"Set a new personal best contest"** we ran this year. $800 is on the table to any Ontario grower that improved their own personal best by the most pounds and can prove it. If you feel you might have a shot at this prize then send us an email for your shot at the cash. We can't be chasing growers around to find this data so the onus is on the growers to come forward with the hard numbers.

GVGO seminar

The GVGO spring seminar was to be held in Erin this spring but there was issues with the hall rentals for the venue. We have to make alternative arrangements and I've taken a poll amongst the executive as to where they would like to see it held. I'll be doing some emailing over these next few weeks as to getting some site volunteers. Right now the fall back location will once again be in Solina but to be fair we'd prefer a more western site to balance out the drive times for the membership. There was also some talk about making the seminar more interesting for membership and just doing awards, product distribution, club business and then a forum of growers asking questions with other growers. I'm sure most of us would like to figure out what Mr. Kline and Mr. Hoelke are doing in their patches that we aren't!

GPC "Big Show"

As you may have heard, the GPC "Big Show" will be held on March 17-19 at the **Marriott Gateway hotel** (The old Fallsview) in **Niagara**, Ontario. This will be the first time the GPC will be back in Canada since the break with the Post Elgin committee. This will be a GPC event only. Make sure you make reservations soon as I have a feeling this may very well be the most attended event ever for the GPC. There will probably be more Ontario growers there than ever attended before. It's always a great break from the winter blahs and helps get your pumpkin juices flowing! Hope to see you all there.

Seed packages

Seeds are now being accepted for next year's GVGO seed pack for 2017 distribution. John Nieuwenhoff will be putting together the seed package. As with last year we will accept all seeds from pumpkins over 900 lbs. and any other seeds from giant vegetables. John would also prefer pre-wrapped seeds that are labelled. For growers that do send in wrapped seeds you get a bonus offer. John will send you a list of the seeds that he received and you can choose 10 seeds that you'd like to see in your seed package. Send in your seeds to…..

John Nieuwenhoff
37 Stewarttown Rd.
Georgetown, Ontario
L7G 4S5

Memberships

The GVGO is now accepting 2017 membership renewals and new members. The cost of joining the club is the same as usual $30 Canadian for single membership and $40 for family membership. This fee is the same for Ontario members and out of province members as well. Be sure to get your membership in soon to guarantee a club seed package as well as other benefits. The easiest way of signing up is through the club website using PayPal however you can send in a cheque to Jane Hunt through the mail. Just a tip to the wise: If you get your renewal in early, you tend to get more and better seeds in your seed package. We try to even seed counts out and the quality of the seeds but as a rule we seldom get enough seeds so that every grower gets that particular seed. Stragglers tend to get thinner seed packets. That's just a numbers thing and can't be avoided.

Seed Auction

As you know, the GVGO has run a seed auction each year on BP.com to raise funds. This project has become harder and harder each year due to competition from other clubs doing the same thing. We discussed this at length during our last GVGO seminar and it was left up in the air as to whether we were going to continue to run an auction. After a summer of thinking it over Chris Lyons has decided to continue this tradition for at least one more year. Thanks go out to Chris (with some help from Phil Hunt) for running this sometimes trying endeavour. Chris and Phil are now on the hunt for some primo seeds for our auction roster. **Please take the time and go through your seed collection and donate a seed or two for the GVGO fund raising effort.** We're looking for seeds that have been proven to produce big fruits that other growers would be willing to buy.

Kirk Chenier

Finally, we have heard some sad news just this last week. Former GVGO president Kirk Chenier has suffered a stroke after knee replacement surgery. At the time of writing this, Kirk has made a bit of a rally and hopefully all the news we hear next will be positive news. Kirk is still a youngish guy and in over all pretty good shape so I'm sure he can beat this like he defeated cancer. All our hopes and prayers go out to Kirk and his family.

Phil Joynson

GVGO News

2017 GVGO Memberships

It's that time of year to sign-up or renew your 2017 GVGO membership.

Memberships are still only $30 per year for single member & $40 for a family membership

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario (GVGO) memberships run from January 1st - December 31st each year.

Pay by **March 31st/2017**, to ensure you get your **GVGO seed package**. You will receive over 15 packages of seeds from giant pumpkins & many other giant varieties, worth well over $100, along with 3 issues (Nov, Feb & July) of one of the sport's best newsletters. You also get:

- ✓ Free admission to the 2017 GVGO seminar & meetings
- ✓ Grower supplies at discount prices distributed at yearly GVGO seminar
- ✓ 10% discount on soil analysis from A&L Canada Labs in London, Ontario.
- ✓ 3 of the world's most informative competitive growing newsletters.
- ✓ Free admission to the GVGO patch tours
- ✓ Full Voting Privileges, with eligibility to hold office (Ontario members only)

To pay your 2017 GVGO dues, you can use **PayPal, e-transfer or by mail with a check/money order.**

For PayPal use: gvgogrowers@gmail.com
for E-Transfer use: gvgogrowers@gmail.com

Or by mail to:
Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario (GVGO)
c/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer
4376 Hwy 35 N
Cameron, Ontario
Canada
K0M 1G0

We appreciate your continued support over the many years & look forward to you joining us for another great season in 2017. Enjoy the off-season.

Cheers,
Jane Hunt

GVGO Seed Packs

It's that time of year again. I've offered to take over the **GVGO membership seed packs** for this year and I really hope to make it one of the best ones yet. We had a lot of great pumpkins and other giants grown by GVGO members this year and I hope to be able to include most of them in the membership packs. We are really **in need of** giants other than pumpkins as well, so if you grew **Tomatoes, Long Gourds, Field Pumpkins, Squash, Watermelon**, or any other giant veg please send those in too. Once your seeds are dried and ready to go, please send them to:

John Nieuwenhoff
37 Stewarttown Road
Georgetown, Ontario, CANADA
L7G 4S5

I would really appreciate if the seeds could be **individually labelled and packaged** but if you have great seeds and not enough time to package them yourself feel free to send them in bulk and we will package them up for you. If sending in bulk, clearly label the bag with what you would like on the label and how many seeds you are sending. If you are sending in seeds and have any **special requests** for types of seeds you would love to receive in your pack please **include that** as well. This is a great way to get your seeds distributed around the globe and this one of the biggest reasons growers join our club. So let's all help out to make this one of the greatest seed packs out there. Any questions? My email is pumpkin1088@outlook.com.

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Editor's Note

Congratulations to all who feel they deserve it after a year of blood, sweat and tears in the patch. Personally I try to keep it restricted to the first two.

For once it paid off that I live on the other side of the ocean as it meant I could interview new world record holder Mathias Willemijns in his native language. What you get is a translation.

The downside of living over here is I miss out on the Canadian weigh-offs, making it a bit more difficult to get pictures and information for the newsletter. Feel free to send me pictures, articles, or whatever you wish for me to include in the newsletter. You can contact me by email through: giantveg@hotmail.com.

In the Spring issue we hope to have an interview with Ryan Hoelke, who had an amazing year, so stay tuned.

Wishing you all the best in your preparations for next year.

OTT 5 x 2 = 10

You know you are having a bad season when:

5. The first thing you meet when you visit your patch are ducks and frogs.
4. The weigh-off officials enter your AG in the field pumpkin class.
3. The watermelons in the grocery store are bigger than yours.
2. The GVGO patch tour avoids your patch.
1. You already start planning for next season in July.

You know you are having a good season when:

5. The neighbours down the road complain about the light reflection off of your pumpkin.
4. Your giant red current wins the tomato class.
3. Your trailer proves to be too small.
4. The Wisconsin growers include you in their patch tour.
5. After the weigh-offs you're on such a high you forget to make plans for next year.

Congratulations to the Veitch family on their new Canadian cucumber record @ 12.23 lbs.

Weigh-off Results

Bracebridge

PUMPKIN

1	1,400.50	Jarvis, Joel
2	1,257.50	Barber, Frank
3	1,251.50	Kline, Todd
4	1,204.00	MacKenzie, Bob
5	1,120.00	Langridge, Dan
6	1,096.50	Warner, Jeff
7	1,095.00	Kyle, Norm
8	1,050.00	Veitch, Nathan
9	1,049.50	Bryson, Jim & Kelsey
10	999.00	Nieuwenhoff, John
11	926.00	Yeates, Chris
EXH	920.00	Yeates, Chris
12	909.50	Timm, Brant
13	861.00	Langridge, Shannon
14	838.00	Montgomery, Greg
EXH	768.50	Yeates, Chris
15	747.50	Nieuwenhoff, Richard
16	666.00	Langridge, Sarah
17	519.50	Locke, David
18	473.50	Vincent-McGill
19	467.00	Blanchard, Stephen
20	434.50	Sprathoff, Fred
21	202.00	Veitch, Brad

SQUASH

1	959.00	Kline, Todd
2	951.50	Jarvis, Joel
3	837.00	Kyle, Norm
4	225.00	Langridge, Shannon
5	176.50	Montgomery, Greg

LONG GOURD

1	128.50	Veitch, Nathan
2	118.13	Nieuwenhoff, John
3	111.75	Jarvis, Joel
4	107.00	Kline, Todd
5	81.00	Kyle, Norm

TOMATO

1	6.10	Sproule, Harley
2	5.70	Timm, Brant & Brandon
3	5.58	Nieuwenhoff, John
EXH	4.98	Sproule, Harley
4	4.50	MacKenzie, Bob
EXH	4.08	Sproule, Harley
5	4.00	Veitch, Nathan
6	3.22	Kline, Todd
7	2.87	Montgomery, Greg
8	2.26	Blanchard, Stephen
EXH	2.08	Blanchard, Stephen

WATERMELON

1	80.50	Kline, Todd

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	122.50	Veitch, Nathan
2	91.00	Montgomery, Greg
EXH	88.10	Veitch, Nathan
3	78.00	Kline, Todd
4	77.50	Nieuwenhoff, John
5	77.00	MacKenzie, Bob
6	60.51	Langridge, Dan

Pembroke

PUMPKIN

1	1,407.00	Kline, Todd
2	1,293.00	Cheam, Glenn
3	1,257.50	Timm, Brant & Brandon
4	1,143.00	Hoelke, Ryan
5	1,117.00	McLaughlin, Ashley
EXH	1,046.50	Cheam, Glenn
EXH	957.00	Timm, Brant & Brandon
6	810.00	Reid, James

SQUASH

1	1,082.50	Kline, Todd
2	109.50	Reid, Jim

WATERMELON

1	95.50	Kline, Todd

LONG GOURD

1	134.38	Eaton, Alan
2	134.00	Kline, Todd
3	129.81	Eaton, Sharon

TOMATO

1	5.16	Kline, Todd
2	5.08	Timm, Brant & Brandon
3	4.98	Harley, Sproule
EXH	4.92	Harley, Sproule
EXH	3.43	Timm, Brant & Brandon
4	3.20	Reid, James
EXH	2.99	Timm, Brant & Brandon

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	58.00	Reid, James
2	55.00	Hugli, Will
3	35.50	Hugli, Heidi

Slave River Valley

PUMPKIN

1	1,207.00	Cronk Don
2	1,134.00	Johnson, Ben
3	1,109.00	Spivak, Tim
EXH	973.00	Cronk, Don
EXH	954.00	Spivak, Adrienne
4	806.00	Forresta, Vincent
5	740.00	Mclean, Brad
EXH	716.00	Johnson, Ben
6	664.00	Forresta, Kayler
7	624.00	Hill, Ron
8	447.00	Mclean, Cliff
EXH	404.00	Forresta, Cayson
9	274.00	Klages, Gary
EXH	178.00	Klages, Gary

SQUASH

1	761.00	Johnson, Ben

TOMATO

1	1.93	Johnson, Ben
2	1.60	Forresta, Vincent

Wallaceburg

PUMPKIN

1	1,512.40	Butler, John
2	1,450.70	Hain, Fred
3	1,207.30	Thompson, Travis
4	1,057.50	Balkwill, Craig
5	1,045.60	Bourne, Lonnie
6	970.30	Johnston, Art
7	693.00	Farrell, Tom
8	649.20	Powell, Jessie

LONG GOURD

1	121.50	Butler, John
2	108.75	DeMars, Mike
3	103.00	Johnston, Art
EXH	101.88	DeMars, Mike
4	98.00	Hain, Fred
5	93.25	Balkwill, Craig
6	85.75	Bechard, Bill

TOMATO

1	3.80	Butler, John
2	3.76	DeMars, Mike
3	3.40	Hain, Fred
EXH	2.95	DeMars, Mike
4	2.95	Bechard, Bill
5	2.77	Johnston, Art
6	1.27	Leveille, Stella
7	1.12	Leveille, Laylah

Ben Johnson's pumpkin finished second at the Belluz Farms weigh-off in Slate River Valley.

Port Elgin (Saturday)

PUMPKIN

1	1,877.00	Kline, Todd
2	1,626.00	Jarvis, Joel
3	1,567.50	Lyons, Chris
4	1,536.50	Tessier, David
5	1,351.50	Dettweiler, Paul
6	1,342.00	Warner, Jeff
7	1,301.00	Wray, Ron&Aaron
8	1,152.50	Hain, Fred
9	1,127.00	Butler, John
10	1,010.50	Walker, James
11	996.50	Hartwick, Milford C.
12	991.50	Fisher, Doug
13	981.00	Boutet, Lionel
14	976.00	Philpott, Ken
15	910.00	Bromse, Christina
16	740.50	McCallum, David
17	730.00	Aasman, Mike
EXH	724.50	Veitch, Nathan & Jennifer
18	658.50	De Jager, Tony
19	604.50	Hicks, Ryan
EXH	217.00	Twelves, John
20	206.00	Twelves, Lexi

SQUASH

1	1,117.50	Kline, Todd
2	883.50	Butler, John
3	762.00	Boutet, Lionel
4	686.50	Court, Douglas
5	675.00	Jarvis, Joel
6	563.50	Politeski, Ingrid

LONG GOURD

1	140.50	Kline, Todd
2	119.50	Lyons, Chris
3	117.50	Court, Douglas A.
4	112.25	Mitchell, Marvin
5	111.50	Jarvis, Joel
6	110.50	Veitch, Nathan&Jennifer
7	106.50	Butler, John
8	95.50	Court, Louise
9	94.00	Hain, Fred

TOMATO

1	4.38	Court, Douglas A.
2	4.37	Kline, Todd
3	4.15	Veitch, Nathan&Jennifer
4	4.12	Court, Louise
EXH	3.75	Veitch, Nathan&Jennifer
5	3.66	Lyons, Chris
6	2.91	Hain, Fred
7	2.83	Butler, John

WATERMELON

1	199.50	Mitchell, Marvin
2	96.52	Kline, Todd
3	86.42	Court, Douglas A.
4	74.75	Court, Louise
5	40.42	Jarvis, Joel

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	102.00	Veitch, Nathan & Jennifer
2	75.83	Court, Douglas A.
3	73.64	Kline, Todd
4	70.23	Butler, John
5	68.90	Court, Louise
6	65.40	McCallum, Dave
7	64.00	Twelves, Lexi
8	62.69	Twelves, John

Port Elgin (Sunday)

PUMPKIN

1	1,548.50	MacKenzie, Bob
2	1,052.00	Court, Doug
3	1,021.50	Dettweiler, Paul
4	990.50	Fisher, Doug
5	975.50	Court, Louise
6	949.50	Clease, Brian
7	914.50	Ashton, Courtney
8	813.00	Fisher, Cathy
9	775.00	Ashton, Braeden
10	747.00	McCallum, Dave
11	725.00	Walker, Elizabeth & Rebecca

12	614.50	Shipp, Kelton
13	588.00	Falconer, Trent
14	507.00	Douglas, Tony
15	454.00	Twelves, Lexi
16	409.00	Shipp, Kelton
17	369.00	Layton, Karen
18	308.00	Layton, Denim
19	268.00	Dalgliesh, Barb
20	259.00	Twelves, John

SQUASH

1	869.00	Nieuwenhoff, Richard
2	844.00	Court, Doug
3	742.00	MacKenzie, Bob
4	643.00	McCallum, Dave
5	547.50	Ashton, Courtney
6	440.00	Twelves, Lexi
7	336.00	Layton, Denim
8	239.50	Ashton, Tamri

LONG GOURD

1	123.50	Court, Doug
2	123.00	Mitchell, Marvin
3	117.00	Marshall, MJ
4	114.25	Hartung, Dennis
5	114.00	Ashton, Courtney
6	100.75	Ashton, Braeden
7	98.75	Ashton, Tamri
8	80.75	Clease, Brian
9	74.50	Court, Louise
10	46.25	Twelves, Lexi
11	44.50	Twelves, John

TOMATO

1	3.62	Court, Doug
2	3.57	Ashton, Courtney
3	3.56	Ashton, Braeden
4	3.50	Ashton, Tamri
5	3.44	Court, Louise
6	3.25	MacKenzie, Bob
7	3.13	Marshall, MJ
8	2.87	Hartung, Dennis
9	2.28	McCallum, Dave
10	1.14	Twelves, Lexi

WATERMELON

1	180.50	Mitchell, Marvin
2	160.50	Thompson, Travis
3	156.00	Thrower, Laura
4	123.50	Court, Doug
5	72.42	Court, Louise
6	46.00	Ashton, Tamri

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	110.00	Twelves, Lexi
2	90.50	Clease, Brian
3	78.71	MacKenzie, Bob
EXH	78.69	Cleave, Brian
4	76.56	Court, Doug
5	76.50	Court, Louise
6	74.80	Ashton, Courtney
7	69.00	Twelves, John
8	66.60	Ashton, Tamri
9	65.40	McCallum, Dave
10	62.17	Shipp, Kaleb
11	60.90	Ashton, Braeden
12	36.00	McCallum, Dave

Wellington

PUMPKIN

1	1,800.50	Hoelke, Ryan
2	1,499.00	Timm, Brant & Brandon
3	1,111.50	Kyle, Norm
4	1,098.50	Lyons, Chris
5	1,080.50	McLaughlin, Ashley
6	1,034.50	Reid, James
7	902.00	Langridge, Shannon
8	854.00	Vincent, Mcgill
9	853.00	Marshall, Jean
10	830.50	Langridge, Sarah
11	802.00	Clement, Dan
12	771.00	Langridge, Annette
13	752.50	Langridge, Dan
EXH	737.00	Langridge, Dan
14	675.50	Ho, Tan

1800.5 Hoelke

SQUASH

1	1,079.50	Kline, Todd

LONG GOURD

1	104.25	Marshall, Jean
2	99.00	Doug, Court
3	91.33	Kyle, Norm
4	82.00	Hoelke, Joanne

TOMATO

1	3.72	Timm, Brant and Brandon
EXH	3.62	Timm, Brant and Brandon
2	3.26	Court, Doug
3	3.21	Marshall, Jean
4	3.10	Joynson, Phil
5	3.08	Court, Louise
6	2.94	Lyons, Chris
7	2.83	Kline, Todd
8	2.75	Reid, James
9	2.34	Kyle, Norm
10	2.18	Fox, Mark

WATERMELON

1	139.50	Court, Doug
DMG	155.50	Marshall, Jean

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	108.00	Lyons, Chris
2	92.50	Kline, Todd
3	87.00	Reid, James
4	71.00	Marshall, Jean
5	70.00	Langridge, Shannon
6	67.50	Court, Doug
7	60.00	Fox, Mark
8	57.50	Ho, Tan
9	56.50	Langridge, Annette
10	53.00	Langridge, Dan
11	52.00	Langridge, Sarah

Erin

PUMPKIN

1	1,218.00	Nieuwenhoff, Richard
2	1,215.00	Dettweiler, James
3	1,165.00	Dettweiler, Paul
4	940.00	Mcquay, Dave
5	916.00	Cleaview, Acres
6	904.00	Nieuwenhoff, John
7	846.00	McClure, Roy
8	728.00	Beirnes, Kevin
9	626.00	Jammer, Mike
10	608.00	Nieuwenhoff, Larissa
11	591.00	Leslie, Ken
12	566.00	Wheildon, Conrad
13	483.00	Family, Sarmazian
14	466.00	Family, Hayden
15	437.00	Robertson, Susan
16	382.00	Marshall, Curtis
17	362.00	McQuay, Kaden
18	326.00	Ayers, George
19	295.00	Chapman, Chuck

SQUASH

1	513.00	Cleaview, Acres
2	392.00	Jammer, Mike

LONG GOURD

1	117.00	Hartung, Dennis
2	107.50	Cleaview, Acres
3	101.75	Nieuwenhoff, John
4	75.50	McClure, Roy

TOMATO

1	3.30	Nieuwenhoff, John
2	1.78	Wheildon, Conrad
3	1.55	Wheildon, Arlene

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	104.00	Cleaview, Acres
2	87.00	Mcquay, Dave
EXH	84.00	Cleaview, Acres
3	82.00	McQuay, Aaralyn
3	82.00	McClure, Roy
EXH	81.00	Cleaview, Acres
EXH	81.00	Cleaview, Acres
5	76.00	Nieuwenhoff, John
EXH	68.00	Cleaview, Acres
6	55.00	Marshall, Curtis
7	54.00	Ayers, George

Woodbridge

PUMPKIN

1	1,803.00	Hoelke, Ryan
2	1,722.00	Kline, Todd
3	1,586.00	Lyons, Chris
4	1,539.00	Johnston, Art
5	1,419.00	Bryson, Jim & Kelsey
6	1,378.00	Tessier, David
7	1,337.00	Butler, John
8	957.00	Jarvis, Joel
9	951.00	Kyle, Norm
10	826.00	McCallum, Dave
11	780.00	Vincent, McGill
12	666.00	Jarvis, Kristine
13	241.00	Mavrou, Theodore
EXH	131.00	Dimario, Eric

1803 Hoelke

SQUASH

1	1,013.00	Montgomery, Greg
2	846.00	Schweigert, Paul
3	786.00	McCallum, Dave
4	580.00	Nieuwenhoff, John
5	545.00	Butler, John

LONG GOURD

1	127.50	Lyons, Chris
2	108.44	Johnston, Art
2	108.44	Butler, John
4	98.00	Nieuwenhoff, John
5	78.50	Cleaview Acres

TOMATO

1	4.02	Hunt, Jane & Phil
2	3.55	Lyons, Chris
3	3.45	Nieuwenhoff, John
4	2.84	Butler, John
5	2.71	Kline, Todd
6	2.67	Johnston, Art
7	1.49	Schweigert, Paul
DMG	4.47	Sproule, Harley
DMG	4.12	Catapano, Frank
DMG	3.95	Kyle, Norm

WATERMELON

1	75.00	Kline, Todd

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	92.00	Cleaview Acres
2	88.00	Johnston, Art
EXH	83.00	Cleaview Acres, Bryan
3	78.00	Montgomery, Greg
3	78.00	McCallum, Dave
5	68.00	Lyons, Chris
6	54.00	Schweigert, Paul

The Royal Fair results and other Canadian results will be published in the Spring issue of the newsletter.

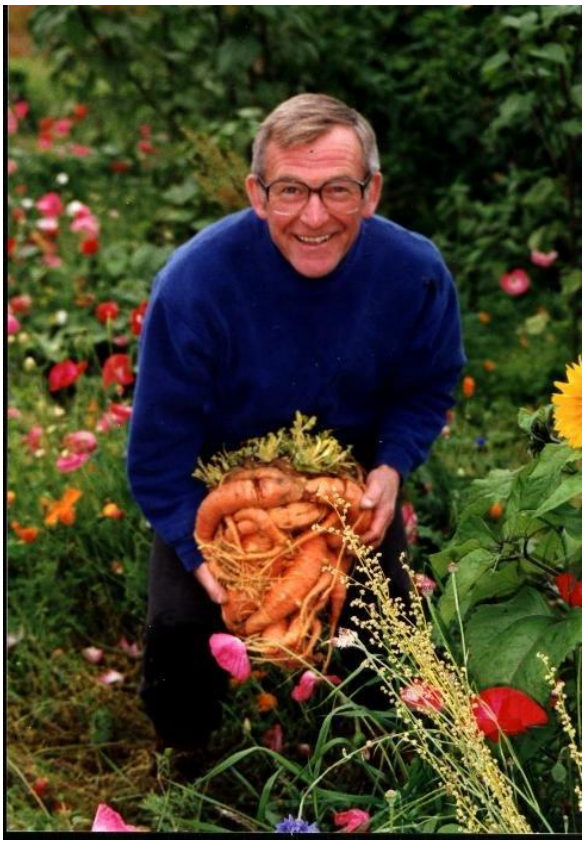
Sneak preview of the Royal:

Norm Craven won the Grand Champion Giant Vegetable Exhibitor Award

Featured Giant Vegetable

HEAVY CARROT

Carrots are the easiest and cheapest type of giant vegetable to grow, and one of the hardest to grow a world record with. Carrots take up little space, the seed is cheap and readily available, they do not require artificial heat, thrive on fresh air and can be grown outdoors. Yet the old carrot record took 16 years to be broken. In 1998, John Evans grew a carrot weighing 19lbs. The record held till 2014 when Peter Glazebrook grew one weighing one pound more.



John Evans

SEEDS AND SOIL

There are many types of carrots, even many different colours. For heavy carrot purposes, it is important to use so-called winter carrots with broad shoulders and a long growing season. It is best to use Dutch varieties such as Flakkee or Berlicumer. The Dutch were the ones who cultivated the traditional white and yellow wild varieties into the orange ones we know today.

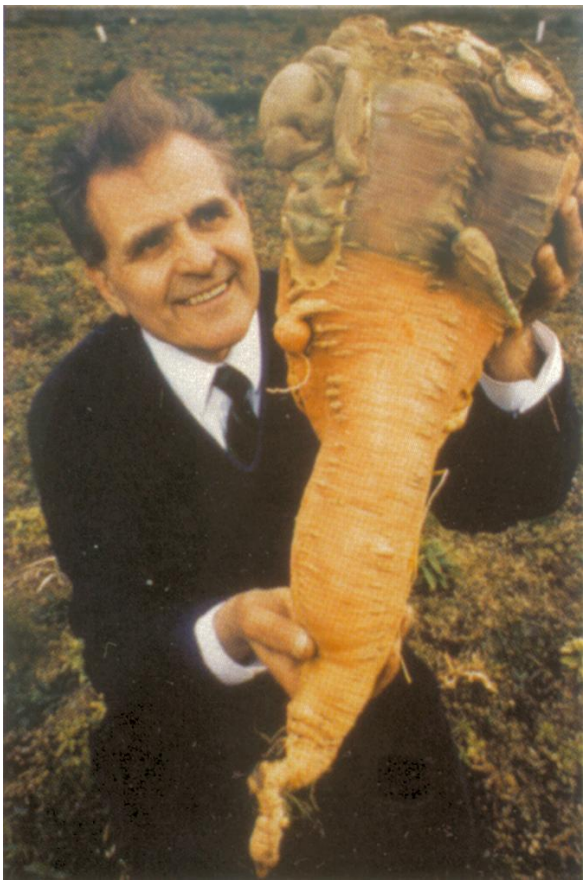
There are basically two ways to grow giant carrots: the single root way and the multiple root way. Either way, sowing starts in late winter. This can be done out in the garden with enough protection or inside at room temperature with sufficient lighting. The clue is to start a whole bunch of seeds and pick out the strongest ones. Start them out in a six-inch tall pot or raised bed. The ideal growing mixture is 1/3 sand, 1/3 soil and 1/3 peat. The soil must be deeply cultivated and contain a high content of humus or organic material, with a pH of around 6.5-7.0. The benefit of a raised bed is that the soil does not compact as easily and there is less chance of rotting, which giant carrots do quite easily.

It is best to sow seeds every few weeks from January to March as an insurance policy for bad weather, etc. That being said, the longer they grow, the better. It is a good idea to grow about 6 seeds for each growing position. The growing positions should be about 2 feet away from each other in each direction.

Peter Glazebrook

THE SINGLE ROOT WAY

Single root carrots look much better and can still get extremely heavy. There is less chance of rotting, though they still don't like too much water. Some growers start them off in 6 inch tubes inside and then transplant them later into the final position, without disturbing the roots. The benefit here is the longer growing season without a check made when transplanting.



Bernhard Lavery and his single root record

THE MULTIPLE ROOT WAY

The clue here is to transplant the carrot while cutting off the tip. This will cause the main root to stop growing and trigger the hair roots to thicken up. You get a tangled up mess with a bit bigger chance of rot developing amongst the roots, but many growers have been very successful with this method.

The method is quite simple. You dig up your seedlings when they are about 5-6 inches tall. You carefully shake the soil off and select the strongest looking plant and cut off the bottom inch from the main root. You then make a deep hole in the ground with a cane and carefully transplant your mutilated carrot into it. Water it gently every day until the carrot plant has fully recovered.

Ian Neale

FEEDING

Don't give the plant extra feeding until it has well-established itself. In the summer you can give it a balanced feed (say 20-20-20) once a week in the evening. Never let your soil dry out or get too wet. This will cause splitting and ultimately rotting. If necessary protect it from rain.

HARVESTING

Be careful when taking these things out of the ground. You don't want to break any of the side roots. It is best to take away the soil near the carrot with your fingers. You can carefully hose the carrot off with lukewarm water while holding it by the foliage. Submerging it into water can cause it to split.

The carrots should be clean and in sound condition (that is no wet rotten parts). The foliage must be cut off as close to the shoulder as possible.

Dan MacCoy's carrot 2016

DISEASES

Carrot root fly is the deadliest enemy of the carrot. The fly lays its eggs alongside the root, and these eventually hatch into white maggots which bore into the carrot and cause rotting along its whole length. Carrot flies generally fly no higher than a few inches, so raised beds will help. There is also special carrot fly netting available and otherwise apply insecticide powder or granules to the whole growing area, a week after the seeds have been sown and add on whenever needed.

Carrots affected by carrot fly

Slugs, snails and woodlice can also be a problem. While woodlice like seedlings, slugs and snails will even take bites out of the carrot itself.

Flashback

by Bradley Wursten

A few years ago mycorrhizal fungi entered the big pumpkin scene. Some growers thought they were now implementing cutting edge science. Some of us, less trendy growers, sat back and smiled, and that for two reasons. First of all, mycorrhizal fungi is already a natural occurrence in most soils and secondly, its use in horticulture goes way back. To the nineteenth century to be precise. Our flashback takes us back to 1960 when pretty much everything you need to know about mycorrhizal fungi was already known.

Ever since the mycorrhizal association was first defined and named by A.B. Frank (1885), the first interest aroused by this symbiotic association between fungi and the roots of higher plants has been maintained.

Although detailed discussion of mycorrhizal fungi might appear somewhat irrelevant to the study of root-disease fungi, yet those interested in the general biology and evolution of root-infecting fungi can ill afford to neglect the symbiotic fungi. The difference between root-disease fungi and mycorrhizal fungi is thus one of degree rather than of kind; the most essential difference lies in the destructive disorganization of host tissues by the pathogens, with its inevitable sequel of secondary invasion by weak parasites and saprophytes. The mycorrhizal fungi are not a homogeneous group with respect to host/parasite relationships, but in the ectotrophic mycorrhizal fungi there is evidence for the view that the fungi are dependent on the host plants for essential carbon supplies, and are thus indubitably parasites. Nevertheless, the unquestionable benefits, at least on certain soils, suggest that mycorrhizal rootlets are more efficient in absorption of nitrogen and mineral

salts than are uninfected rootlets with an equipment of root hairs. This implies that the balance of nutritional exchange between host and parasite benefits both equally. Such a symbiosis could not be attained without reduction of destructive disorganization of host tissues to the absolute minimum. Moreover, mycorrhizal rootlets seem to remain longer functional, and are less subject to certain types of pathogenic infection, than uninfected rootlets. The mycorrhiza is thus a symbiosis for defence as well as for nutrition.

Excerpts from: *Biology of Root-Infecting Fungi* by S.D. Garrett (1960).

Scientific Report

Manure

Many of us use manure in the patch. Most of us probably simply add what we feel is right, which could be good thing, but not necessarily. I've seen the two extremes at our community garden and neither are particularly successful. Too much and the plants burn or produce too much foliage. Too little and the growth gets stunted.

It is best to get a soil test and have them tell you what to add. But even then, if you use manure, it doesn't come with a manual telling you how much to add in order to reach the levels stated on the lab test.

The problem with manure is that the composition varies per farmer and even per season. The type of bedding, amount of moisture and urine, the age, etc. make it quite difficult to produce an average composition of the elements. Different sources give quite different numbers. These all affect the weight of manure as well. Below are averages, which could vary significantly from what you might have. Especially pig manure is all over the charts, depending on the amount of slop, slurry or whatever else you want to call it.

Another problem is that no soil starts out with a 0% reading, meaning that the amount of fertilizer needed cannot be known without a soil test. It is best to get a reading just before planting as (winter) precipitation will cause a decrease in the elements, meaning you will be adding too little in the spring if you base your fertilizer on a fall test (unless you grow indoors).

Another problem with manure (which is also a benefit), is that it doesn't release all of its contents in the first year. Generally speaking manure emits 50-75% of its goodies in the first year and the rest in the next one or two years, depending on the type. Root crops like second-hand manure (already in the soil for at least one year), but crops like pumpkins are fine with fresh manure, preferably spread in the fall. Old manure will have a totally different composition than fresh manure.

Composition organic fresh manure (in %)

Manure	OM	N	P	K	MgO	CaO
Cow	20	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.4
Horse	25	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.2	0.2
Sheep	32	0.8	0.4	0.7	0.2	0.3
Chicken	30	1.7	1.8	1.8	0.3	3.0
Pig	16	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.2	0.9
Mushroom	20	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	2.5
Dried Cow	50	2.0	1.4	1.4	0.7	4.0

Requirements in kg/100m2

Plant	N	P	K	MgO
Pumpkin	1.3	1.2	1.0	0.5
Tomato	1.8	1.0	2.5	0.5
Long gourd	1.5	0.7	2.0	0.5

Requirements in lbs/1000ft2

Plant	N	P	K	MgO
Pumpkin	3.1	2.8	2.4	1.2
Tomato	4.3	2.4	5.9	1.2
Long gourd	3.6	1.7	4.7	1.2

Weight manure*

Manure	kg/m3	lbs/cubic yard
Cow	800	1350
Horse	740	1250
Chicken	550	930
Mushroom	300	500
Dried Cow	850	1425

** sheep and pig manure vary too much to get an accurate estimate*

Calculating manure requirements.

Example:

Metric

If a pumpkin plant needs 1.3kg of Nitrogen per 100m2 and cow manure only has 0.5% Nitrogen per kilo (ie. 0.005kg), than you need 1.3kg/0.005kg = 260kg of cow manure per $100m^2$.

Adding 260kg of cow manure will also provide 0.78kg of P (260x0.003), which is too little (1.2kg needed) meaning you have to add extra P.

The 260kg of cow manure will also provide 1.3kg of K (260x0.005), which is a bit too much, but nothing to worry about.

The same amount of cow manure will also provide 0.26kg of MgO, which means you will also have to add Magnesium.

260kg of cow manure is equal to 260/800 = $0.325m^3$.

Imperial

If a pumpkin plant needs 3.1 lbs of Nitrogen per 1000ft2 and cow manure only has 0.5% Nitrogen per lb (ie. 0.005lbs), than you need 3.1lbs/0.005lbs = 620lbs of cow manure per $1000ft^2$.

Adding 620lbs of cow manure will also provide 1.9lbs of P (620x0.003), which is too little (2.8lbs needed) meaning you have to add extra P.

The 260kg of cow manure will also provide 3.1lbs of K (620x0.005), which is a bit too much, but nothing to worry about.

The same amount of cow manure will also provide 0.62lbs of MgO, which means you will also have to add Magnesium.

620lbs of cow manure is equal to 620/1350 = 0.46 cubic yards.

Featured Grower

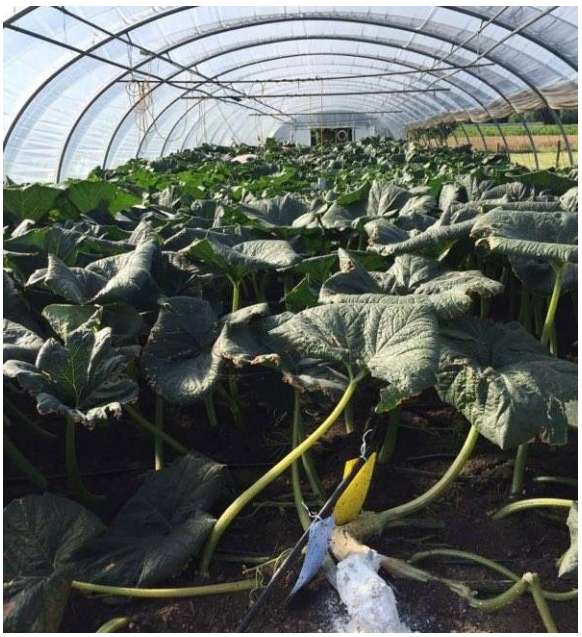
Mathias Willemijns

My name is Mathias Willemijns. I am 24 years old and have been growing giant pumpkins for eight years. Since two years, my brother Bruno has been helping me.

Mathias (left) and Bruno (right) with 3 of their 4 pumpkins over 2000 lbs.

I work as a greenhouse technician at the provincial test centre for vegetable growing in East Flanders, Belgium. I am responsible for the climate control, plant protection and judging the tests our vegetables undergo. So my job feels like a very big hobby!

1. Can you describe your garden? How large is your greenhouse and how much space do you have per plant?



We grow our giant pumpkins in a polytunnel 26 feet wide, 130 feet long and 10 feet high. Each plant gets 26 ft x 32 ft to grow. We start each season with four plants per plot. The strongest and fastest plant survives.

2. When do you start sowing and how many plants to you begin with? When do you put the plants in the patch?

We always sow on my birthday… April 2nd. We start with about 32 seeds (8 per plot) and ten days later the best 4 per plot are set out in the patch. We like to get the plants into the soil as soon as possible so they are forced to go looking for water and nutrients right away. We hardly do any watering the first month. The plant needs water stress in order to force it to make more roots. We don't mind the first leaves wilting a bit during the first few weeks.

3. How warm is it in your tunnel during the day and at night? How to you adjust that?

We don't have any automatic climate monitoring system but we try to take the right decision how much to open up the tunnel each day based on the weather forecast and temperature and RV meters in the greenhouse. We can manually roll up the sides of the tunnel about 7 feet. Furthermore, both ends of the tunnel have large doors and a window. In addition we have a fan that can blow the entire 130 feet in length. The fan is positioned at the front of the tunnel, at the height of the window allowing enough new cool air to be brought into the greenhouse. During the plant growth phase, it is important to have warmer nights (day and night temps are allowed to be similar). So during this period the tunnel never gets opened fully.

During pollination it is important that the temperature doesn't get above 23°C. If this does happen, you can be pretty sure your pollination hasn't taken. Starting then, we ventilate more by opening up the tunnel more. Once the fruit is growing, you want to create a larger day/night temperature difference to stimulate fruit growth. In this phase it happens that we open up the tunnel completely during the night.

4. Can you tell us something about your fertilizer program? Do you use BigStem, anthesis or mycorrhizal fungi?

We use soluble fertilizers in different compositions. It is difficult to say how often and how much. We don't fertilize every day, so no trickle feeding here. We manually add it to a 1000l water container. We never exceed the recommended doses (maximum EC of 2mS/cm). Which composition, how much and when, depends on the plant, soil and weather conditions. As of yet, we haven't used BigStem or anthesis. We do use endo-mycorrhiza.

5. How often do you give water and how?

This is a difficult question for us. The amount of water given is different for each gardener. It differs from soil to soil. We garden on a light sandy loam soil which is very aerated. As we have mentioned, we hardly ever give water in the first month after planting out… true water stress for the plant. Then we slowly build it up by giving water through our drip tape system

which is connected to our 1000l container. As the plant grows we open up more and more drip tapes (we only give water and nutrients to where the vines are). On really warm days we give up to 500l of water per plant per day. On lesser days, about 125-250l water per plant.

If we get a longer cold or rainy spell, then we sometimes refrain from watering for a few days. We regularly check the moisture content of our soil by drilling down about a foot deep.

6. When do you pollinate and how far down the main vine?

We try to pollinate in the 2nd or 3rd week of June. We cover the males the evening before just like we do the females. The next morning we pollinate between 7:30 and 8:00 and cover the female flower again for the next two days. This way we are 100% sure no other pollen has made its way in. We try to get a fruit growing about 13-16 ft down the main vine.

7. What did you do differently this year than other years?

In comparison to last year we didn't make many changes. In 2016 we installed a larger ventilator and changed the position of the drip tapes. We used to have 15 separate tapes, each 130 feet long. The big disadvantage was that we couldn't provide each plant with different nutrients or amounts of water and the soil where nothing was growing also received water and nutrients. In 2016 we changed the direction so now we have 79 drip tapes, each 26 feet long. Each tape has its own manual tap which we can open or close. Besides that, I have spent more time monitoring diseases, pests and nutrient insufficiencies.

8. Do you test your soil before and/or during the season?

In the fall of 2015 I had a total analysis made of each patch. This fall (2016) I'll have a mixed sample of the entire tunnel analysed. I won't get it test again in the spring.
During the season it can occur that I have sick plant parts tested if I'm not sure what it is.

9. What are your plans for 2017? Are there things you want to change?

In 2017 we are going to grow in the same fashion. The only change will be putting new plastic on the tunnel. The current plastic is 3 years old and is losing its quality and has a build-up of green residue which is getting difficult to clean off. In the greenhouse industry we say,

"1% less light is, at the end of the season, 1% less produce per square meter."

Thank you for taking your time to share this information with us. We are looking forward to seeing what next year brings you.

The top-3 winners at the European weigh-off in Ludwigsburg, Germany

Mathias is the only grower to have ever grown four pumpkins heavier than 2000 lbs, and he did it in one year! His all-time average top 5 weight is now 2141 lbs, making him the most successful pumpkin grower in the world.

1	2,624.60	Willemijns, Mathias	2145 McMullen	1872 Willemijns
5	2,095.50	Willemijns, Mathias	1684 Willemijns	1872 Willemijns
8	2,063.50	Willemijns, Mathias	1872 Willemijns	2145 McMullen
10	2,048.10	Willemijns, Mathias	1861 Cutrupi	1872 Willemijns

2048 Willemijns at the Dutch weigh-off

Don't forget to renew your GVGO membership! Information on page 2.

Congratulations to Don Crews for finishing first in the world in the field pumpkin class! Even if it meant taking one-and-a-half pumpkins to the scales!

And congratulations on all the other ones that made it over 100 lbs.

WE NEED YOUR SEEDS!

It's what makes the GVGO tick.
Send them to:
John Nieuwenhoff
37 Stewarttown Road
Georgetown, Ontario, CANADA
L7G 4S5

Analytical Report

Although many growers grew a personal best this year (great job!), Canada is still losing the giant pumpkin battle. Perhaps it is safe to say, the battle is as good as lost. Just five years ago quite a few of us made it into the top 50 in the GPC listing, but those days are gone. For some reason we just couldn't keep up. And the bad news doesn't stop there.

The same thing has happened with squash and tomato. And while we can blame the Europeans for taking our spots on the pumpkin list, we can't blame them for the losses in these last two categories.

Long gourds are a bit of a different story. Five years ago we didn't really count, and now we lead the world, though both us and the Americans are losing their places in the top 25 to the Europeans. But there is better news.

After a slight dip last year, Canada is back in the race in the field pumpkin division, thanks to Nova Scotia, Alberta and even Saskatchewan. But with the Dutch now GPC and fearsome competitors, the question is who is going to pay the price.

Top 50 Pumpkins

Year	Canada	USA	Europe	Other
2012	6	39	4	1
2013	3	43	4	0
2014	0	43	7	0
2015	1	41	8	0
2016	3	36	11	0

Top 25 Squash

Year	Canada	USA	Europe	Other
2012	10	11	3	1
2013	8	13	4	0
2014	5	17	2	1
2015	3	18	4	0
2016	7	15	3	0

Top 25 Field Pumpkins

Year	Canada	USA	Europe	Other
2012	6	19	0	0
2013	7	18	0	0
2014	9	13	3	0
2015	5	20	0	0
2016	7	13	5	0

Top 25 Long Gourds

Year	Canada	USA	Europe	Other
2012	7	18	0	0
2013	12	11	2	0
2014	11	14	0	0
2015	14	9	2	0
2016	10	9	6	0

Top 25 Tomatoes

Year	Canada	USA	Europe	Other
2012	7	12	6	0
2013	7	12	6	0
2014	4	15	6	0
2015	4	19	2	0
2016	5	18	2	0

Statistics

All 1000lb+ pumpkins grown in Canada in 2016

	1877	Kline, Todd	QC
	1803	Hoelke, Ryan	ON
	1800	Hoelke, Ryan	ON
	1722	Kline, Todd	QC
	1626	Jarvis, Joel	ON
	1611	Tessier, David	QC
	1586	Lyons, Chris	ON
	1567	Lyons, Chris	ON
	1548	MacKenzie, Bob	ON
	1539	Johnston, Art	ON
	1536	Tessier, David	QC
	1512	Butler, John	ON
	1499	Timm, Brant & Brandon	ON
	1450	Hain, Fred	ON
	1447	Daryl Tingley	NB

	1419	Bryson, Jim & Kelsey	QC
	1407	Kline, Todd	QC
	1400	Jarvis, Joel	ON
	1378	Tessier, David	QC
	1368	Ansems, Catharina	NS
	1365	Crews, Donald	AB
	1351	Dettweiler, Paul	ON
	1350	Ansems, Gerard	NS
	1342	Warner, Jeff	ON
	1338	Lukes, Milan	MB
	1337	Butler, John	ON
	1312	Ansems, Catharina	NS
	1301	Wray, Ron & Aaron	ON
	1293	Ansems, Gerard	NS
	1293	Cheam, Glenn	ON
	1257	Barber, Frank	ON
	1257	Timm, Brant & Brandon	ON
	1251	Kline, Todd	ON
	1220	Tingley, Maureen	NB
	1218	Nieuwenhoff, Richard	ON
	1215	Dettweiler, James	ON
	1207	Thompson, Travis	ON
	1207	Cronk Don	ON
	1204	MacKenzie, Bob	ON
	1202	Ansems, Andrew	NS
	1196	Warner, Jeff	ON
	1172	Carley, Scott	BC
	1165	Dettweiler, Paul	ON
	1160	Ansems, Frank	NS
	1152	Hain, Fred	ON
	1152	Quatrouillettes, Les	QC
	1143	Hoelke, Ryan	ON
	1134	Head, Ray	NS
	1134	Johnson, Ben	ON
	1132	Zaychkowsky, Eddy	AB
	1127	Butler, John	ON
	1122	Reid, Jeff	NS
	1120	Langridge, Dan	ON
	1117	Mclaughlin, Ashley	ON
	1111	Kyle, Norm	ON
	1109	Spivak, Tim	ON
	1102	Banman, Cornie	MB
	1098	Lyons, Chris	ON

	1095	Kyle, Norm	ON
	1088	Ebbett, Charles	NB
	1080	McLaughlin, Ashley	ON
	1077	Dixon, Andrea	BC
	1057	Balkwill, Craig	ON
	1053	Ansems, Frank	NS
	1052	Court, Doug	ON
	1050	Veitch, Nathan	ON
	1049	Bryson, Jim & Kelsey	QC
	1046	Cheam, Glenn	ON
	1045	Bourne, Lonnie	ON
	1045	Zaychkowsky, Jennifer	AB
	1036	Love, Janet	BC
	1034	Reid, Jeff	NS
	1034	Reid, James	ON
	1030	Ansems, Fred	NS
	1029	Dixon, Glenn	BC
	1029	Banman, Henry	MB
	1021	Dettweiler, Paul	ON
	1010	Walker, James	ON
	1009	Ebbett, Gail	NB
	1007	Kenneally, Brian	NS

Average top 5 weights per Canadian weigh-off in 2016

Ontario	Woodbridge	1614
Ontario	Port Elgin (Sat)	1591
Ontario	Wellington	1318
Ontario	Bracebridge	1262
Ontario	Wallaceburg	1254
Ontario	Pembroke	1243
Nova Scotia	Waterville	1208
Nova Scotia	Windsor	1177
Ontario	Port Elgin (Sun)	1117
Manitoba	Roland	1115
Ontario	Erin	1091
Quebec	Becancour	1076
British Columbia	Langley	1054
Alberta	Smoky Lake	1053

Ontario	Slate River Valley	999
Nova Scotia	Millville	844
New Brunswick	Neguac	829
New Brunswick	Edmundston	701

All-time 10 heaviest Ontario grown pumpkins

#	Grower	Lbs	Year
1	Ryan Hoelke	1803	**2016**
2	Ryan Hoelke	1800	**2016**
3	Chris Delaney	1684	2012
4	Jeff Warner	1683	2015
5	Phil & Jane Hunt	1678	2009
6	Brant & Brandon Timm	1675	2014
7	Greg Montgomery	1641	2011
8	Joel Jarvis	1626	**2016**
9	Chris Lyons	1586	**2016**
10	Chris Lyons	1567	**2016**

Top ten average: 1674.3 lbs

Top 10 per region 2016

California once ruled the world. And so did Wisconsin, but this year it was Belgium. A region is usually indebted to one or two growers that do very well and a number of growers that do quite well. This year it was Mathias Willemijns who grew 4 pumpkins in the 2048 – 2624 lb range and a bunch of other Belgian growers that grew in the 1600-1800 lb range.

Before we write off Wisconsin, they lost by a mere 0.1 lbs. As for California, they finished fourth. Ontario had their best year ever.

Luc Berren's 1801 lber won the Belgian weigh-off

Top 10 averages for 2016

1st place: Belgium – 1883.1 lbs
2nd place: Wisconsin – 1883.0 lbs
3rd place: Pennsylvania – 1799 lbs
4th place: California – 1709 lbs
?th place: Ontario – 1593 lbs

New Euro Records

Ian and Stuart Paton broke the **United Kingdom** record three times. Their heaviest, off the 1975 Wallace, weighed in at **2252 lbs**, making it the 4th heaviest pumpkin ever weighed.

Matthias Würsching broke the **German** record. His **1986 lb** pumpkin was grown off the 1781 Zywiec.

Left: 1986 Würsching; Right: well, you know…

Arnold Horde broke the **Dutch** record at **1706 lbs**. The old record was his 1520 pounder. The new **Slovenian** record is 1536 lbs, grown by **Janko Lovse**. **Micheal Byrne** broke the old **Irish** record. His 1166 lb pumpkin was the first Irish pumpkin over 1000 lbs.

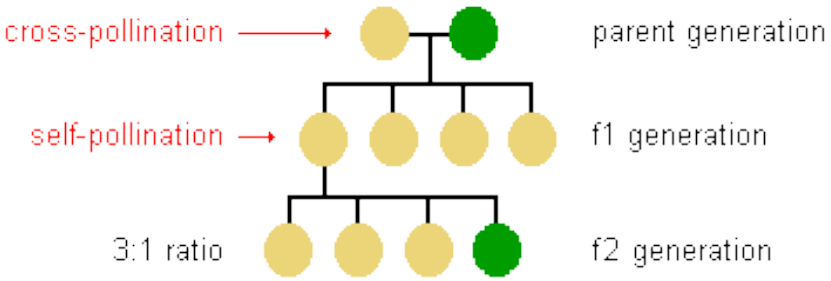
World Record Squash

Congratulations to Scott Holub on his phenomenal new world record squash, weighing in at 1844.5 pounds. Not to provoke controversy, but in all honesty Scott grew the ultimate green coloured Atlantic Giant. And to do so he brilliantly applied the Mendelian Law of Genetics. It took several years, but the result was certainly worth it.

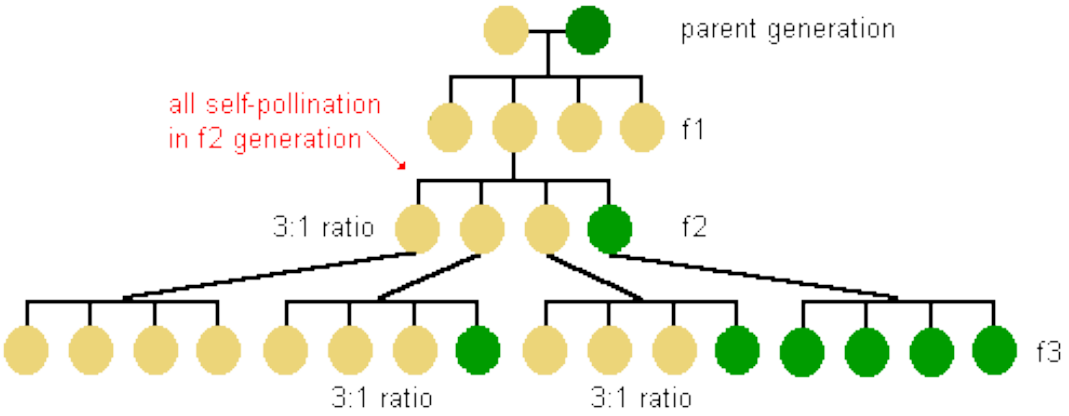
Gregor Mendel was a 19th century creationist monk who disproved both Darwin and evolutionists in the field of genetics. What he discovered is called the Mendelian Law of Genetics.

The contemporary evolutionist theory was that when two different species were cross-pollinated, a blend occurred. Mendel proved that this was not the case, but that each of the parents passed on their traits and one of them would be dominant and the other not, yet both traits would be passed down. In the F2 generation, for every four progeny, one would contain only the dominate genes, two would contain both, but exhibit only the dominate genes and the fourth would only contain the non-dominate (ie. recessive) genes.

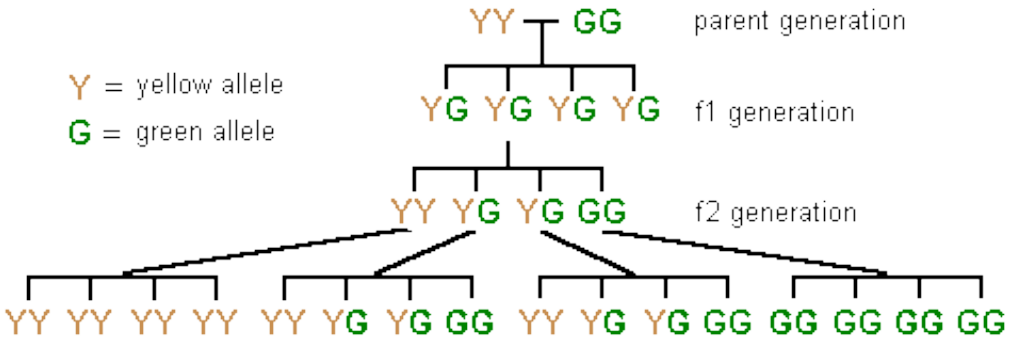
If a pumpkin (yellow) were crossed with a squash (green), the first generation would all have the colour of the dominant pumpkin. In the next generation, one of them would be green.



This is only true if each of the generations is self-pollinated. Things get a bit more complex in the F3 generation. The first of the set of four will continue to produce only pumpkins. The two sets that were half/half will produce 3 pumpkins and 1 squash. Of these one will be completely pumpkin, two half/half and one completely squash.

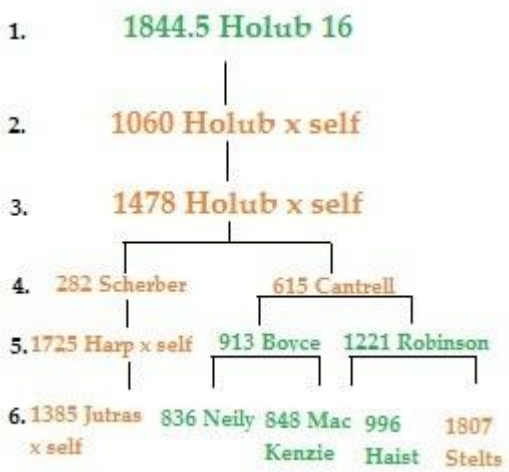


The above illustrations only show what the result is in colour. The illustration below shows what is really happening. The parent generation is not yet “contaminated”, meaning that both genes are the same, either both yellow or both green. The next generation is half/half, yet, and this is what the Mendelian law is, in the next generation, three will be yellow, but only one will be identical to the grandmother, that is pure pumpkin. Two will still be half-breeds, and one will be equal to the grandfather, that is pure squash.



The complicated part is that a pumpkin and a squash have many traits. These traits are randomly dominant or not. Seed colour, seed size, fruit size, fruit shape, stem size, etc, etc are all independent of each other, meaning that while the mother colour is dominant, the mother fruit shape might not be. This leads to an enormous possible diversity, in which the progeny will all have the traits of the parents and grandparents, but not in the same combination.

If we take a look at the family tree of the 1844.5 Holub, then we see immediately that it is dominated by pumpkin parents. Even the squash line is “contaminated”, in this case by the 1807 Stelts. We also notice that Scott had to self-pollinate several generations in order to get what he was looking for.



The maternal side is completely pumpkin. Because the male side is cross-pollinated, weird things can happen. In this case, the orange gene

from the 1807 Stelts showed up, as expected, in the F2 generation, in the form of the 615 Cantrell. Of all the Cantrell seeds grown, most produced orange, but two would have carried on the squash recessive genes and one would have carried on the green colour. This last one turned out to be 1578 Holub WR from 2014. Now the interesting thing is that the 1578 carried on the green gene to its progeny, but not the size (recessive gene from the pumpkin) and has now turned out to be a very mediocre seed.

The seeds from the 1844.5 should produce 75% squash and 25% pumpkins, yet two of the 3 squash producers will have pumpkin genes. The question that cannot be answered is if the 1844.5 has also passed on the size of the pumpkin genes. Genetically speaking the 1844.5 can produce big and small pumpkins, but also big and small squash. Whatever the case is, the 1844.5 is a pumpkin qua size and a squash qua colour. It is neither a true squash, nor a true pumpkin, but a green AG.

2624.6 Willemijns Growth Chart

Seed: 2145 Mcmullen
Cross: 1756 Howell/Joliviette x 1625 Gantner
Sown: 2/apr
Planted: 12/apr
Pollinated: 11/jun
Pollinater: 1872 Willemijns

Date	DAP	C	BS	SS	OTT		EW GPC		DG GPC	
		cm	cm	cm	cm	in	kg	lb	kg	lb
01 jul 16	20	169	119	117	405	159,4				
06 jul 16	25	232	148	149	529	208,3	94,0	207,2	3,8	8,3
11 jul 16	30	301	186	184	671	264,2	188,0	414,5	18,8	41,4
16 jul 16	35	354	212	207	773	304,3	286,0	630,5	19,6	43,2
21 jul 16	40	399	230	234	863	339,8	393,0	866,4	21,4	47,2
26 jul 16	45	442	252	249	943	371,3	505,0	1113,3	22,4	49,4
31 jul 16	50	471	268	274	1013	398,8	611,0	1347,0	21,2	46,7
05 aug 16	55	498	278	283	1059	416,9	681,0	1501,3	14,0	30,9
10 aug 16	60	522	287	295	1104	434,6	748,0	1649,1	13,4	29,5
15 aug 16	65	541	293	301	1135	446,9	799,0	1761,5	10,2	22,5
20 aug 16	70	556	293	306	1155	454,7	826,0	1821,0	5,4	11,9
01 sep 16	82	578	304	312	1194	470,1	888,0	1957,7	5,2	11,4
07 sep 16	88	586	307	317	1210	476,4	911,0	2008,4	3,8	8,5
16 sep 16	97	589	317	321	1227	483,1	937,0	2065,7	2,9	6,4
26 sep 16	107	597	315	323	1235	486,2	948,0	2090,0	1,1	2,4
07 okt 16	118	601	325	334	1260	496,1	986,6	2175,0	3,5	7,7