



# OVER THE TOP

Fall 2015

[www.gvgo.ca](http://www.gvgo.ca)

4376 Hwy 35N

Cameron

Ontario

K0M 1G0

## President's Message

By Phil Joynson

Another growing season has come and gone. Most weigh-offs in Ontario seemed to have some heavy fruits this year but the number of fruits seemed to be down. I think the issue is that we have so many venues to show our pumpkins. This is a great situation for the growers as it cuts down on travel times and being able to compete for more prize money at your choice of weigh off sites. I know of many GVGO growers who managed to bring in new personal bests in 2015.

The Ontario weigh offs were again dominated by the Quebec growers. Between Harley Sproule and Todd Kline, they won all but two of the GPC sanctioned weigh offs in Ontario. Congratulations to these guys. Not only are they great growers but you couldn't find two nicer guys.

### Some housekeeping to address...

We again are asking for "Proven" seeds for **auction**. If you have "Hot" seeds that you aren't planning on growing, why not donate them to the GVGO for fundraising purposes. If you don't have seeds to donate, please plan on bidding for seeds. More information is available in **GVGO News**, here below.

The GVGO will be putting together **seed packages** for membership distribution. This is the thing that sells memberships. Don't hoard those seeds from your fruits. Get them

into the growing community where they have a chance of seeing dirt. We're asking for sound seeds from pumpkins better than 800 lbs, squash over 700 lbs and all other giant veggie seeds are welcome! Send your seeds to:

Phil Joynson

23 Potter's Lane, Enniskillen

Ontario Canada L0B 1J0

As you know, the club has been awarding "**Master Grower**" jackets to growers who entered 3 or more veggies that met Master Grower standards at Ontario weigh offs. If you met these standards and would like a jacket, please let me know what fruits you qualified, when and where. I'll then be asking for a jacket size.

In closing I must inform you **Mike "Zeke" DeMars** has decided to trade his garden hoe for a fishin' pole. Mike was always one of those go-to guys for the club and was always there for the club when he was asked. Mike has handled the huge task of sorting, packaging and distributing the seed package these last few years. On a personal level, I'll

really miss Zeke who was always quick with a laugh and a joke or two.

**Thanks Mike!**

Have a great time reeling in some fish on Lake St. Clair.

*Phil*



## Editor's Notes

Fall is always an exciting time. It's when we see the fruits of our labour, though they don't always reflect the amount of labour we put into our fruits. It is always interesting to see the responses of growers when their giant specimens hit the scales or the measuring tape. Some are glad to have anything at all while others are disappointed if they grow anything less than a world record.

Nonetheless, weigh-offs are when we get to meet other people obsessed with the same hobby and who are able to understand our own jargon. Who else knows what we mean with sag lines (or Dill rings) and OTT?

Speaking of OTT, you might have noticed this issue of the OTT looks quite different than the past ones. That's my fault. It's my attempt to step into Russ Landry's shoes. We would like to thank Russ for all the work he put into the past newsletters and his many scientific explanations.

I'm afraid I have to confess I don't live in Ontario, and to be honest not even in Canada, yet in the past I was fortunate enough to meet several of you at the Cornerstone and Wellington weigh-offs.

I was born and raised in the Hamilton area. Grew giant veg for a local fair in the 80s and immigrated to The Netherlands on my own in 1991. I returned to the madness in 2004, growing at a community garden. In 2007 I grew a European record pumpkin and a world record squash. Two years later

I grew a world record marrow and in 2011 a European record long gourd.

In 2008 I became the founding president of the European Giant Vegetable Growers Association and was their board member and newsletter editor until 2012. Enough about me.

We have decided to publish a number of standard columns and articles in each issue of the newsletter as well as pictures, articles and information based on the season. So expect to see: President's Message, Over the Top 10, Scientific Report, Flashback, Featured Grower, Featured Giant Vegetable and GVGO News.

I wish you all a relaxing winter break and lots of enjoyment preparing for the new



season. Unless you are growing onions. Then you should have started long ago...

*Bradley Wursten*

## World Record Leek



*Paul Rochester (United Kingdom) poses with his new 23lb 4oz world record leek.*

# GVGO News

## MEMBERSHIPS

Memberships run from January 1st - December 31<sup>st</sup>, so don't forget to renew yours before **January 1, 2016!**

Check out the website for information or send your dues and any correspondence to:

**Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario**  
C/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer  
4376 Hwy 35 N  
Cameron, Ontario  
Canada  
K0M 1G0

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

**SINGLE MEMBERSHIP \$30 CAD**  
**FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$40 CAD**  
**OUT-OF-PROVINCE MEMBERSHIP \$30 CAD**

Check out <http://gvggo.ca/membership.html> for details.

## SEED DONATIONS

We need your seeds for our seed packages. With about 250 packages to fill we welcome anything you can spare.

Please send your packaged seeds to:

Phil Joynson  
23 Potter's Lane  
Enniskillen, ON  
L0B 1J0  
Canada

Thank you for your donations and support!

## SEED AUCTION

Jane & I (Auction Committee) & our fundraiser auction co-ordinator Chris Lyons want to put out a plea to all GVGO members & growers for donations of top-rated seeds (best of today's proven and popular seeds) for our only fundraiser of the year. I'm asking you, as a member to really dig deep & be generous. Remember the GVGO supports 8 weigh offs in total, so our commitment to these sites is very important.

So we're hopeful our members will answer our call for donations of these top quality proven seeds. Your help & support is very important & gratefully appreciated. Please send your donation to Chris Lyons ASAP. Thank you very much in advance.

### Send seeds to:

Chris Lyons  
330 McCowan Rd. #1816,  
Scarborough, ON  
M1J 3N3  
Email: [Lyonspum@aol.com](mailto:Lyonspum@aol.com)

Any questions, contact Jane & Phil Hunt at: [gvggo@i-zoom.net](mailto:gvggo@i-zoom.net)

## AUCTION DATE

Our auction will take place at: [www.bigpumpkins.com](http://www.bigpumpkins.com) (auction chat room)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016**  
**2:00 pm EST (20.00 CET)**

We wish all growers everywhere, all the best. Take care & thank you very much for considering to support the GVGO.

*Jane & Phil Hunt - GVGO Eastern Rep, Auction Committee*

*Chris Lyons, Auction Coordinator*

## OVER THE TOP 10

By Phil Joynson

### Lies, Lies, Lies.

10

“Honey, I’ll be in the garden for 10 minutes.”

9

“It looks like it will go heavy to the charts Bob.”

8

“We actually grow entirely organically. “

7

“With the prize money I pretty much break even.”

6

“I find competitive growing very relaxing.”

5

“Honest officer, I was peeking into people’s windows and not stealing bagged leaves.”

4

“Next to my family, I value my seed collection above all else.”

3

“I spent less than \$1 a pound growing that pumpkin.”

2

“I’m taking next year off from growing.”

1

“I didn’t spend all that money on pumpkin seeds... I’ve been fooling around with another women and have developed a drinking problem.”

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## World Record Cuke



*It took 12 years to break it, but David Thomas (United Kingdom) finally broke Al Cobb’s heavy cucumber record at 28.4lbs (12.9kg).*

# 4-H Potato Club and Giant Vegetable Club

*By Kelly B. Crawford*

On Sunday, September 20th, 2015, at 11:00am the Durham West and East Potato Club, and the Durham West Giant Vegetable Club had their **Achievement Day** at the Wilfred Community Hall.

Members needed to have their entries in place before 11:00am because that is when the judging started. All potato members hurried to get their best potatoes in groups of three to enter the different potato classes. We had Yukon Gold, Russian Blue,



Russet Burbank, Nicola Novella, Rode Eersteling, Fingerling, and two kinds of Amarose and Banana. The veggie members scrambled to get their heaviest vegetables dirt free and presentable to show.



Abbi Shier had the heaviest beet at 15 lbs 6 ozs, beating all previous records, the heaviest gourd, and carrot. She tied me for

the heaviest tomato. Abbi tied her brother Daniel Shier for the heaviest giant pumpkin. Daniel had the heaviest field pumpkin. Rebecca Crawford had the heaviest onion at 8 ozs, and the tallest sunflower at 12'4". The tallest corn was grown by Haley and Carter Ashton at 12'4" ft. Katelynn Crawford had the heaviest swede at 31.6 lbs.



Abbi won the trophy with 33 points, I came in second with 27 points, Kate came in third with 24 points, and Daniel came in fourth with 21 points.

After everything was weighed and judged, and the victors chosen, the locals took part in an auction with the vegetables and potatoes grown by the 4-H'ers, leaders, and other locals. Our auctioneer was Kevin McGuckin, and vegetables got auctioned off at the speed of light.

Thanks to Dorothy, the 4-H members got the opportunity to give away the money raised by the auction to the nicest family in need. Matt & Shirley Ostertag have a lovely 3 year old, Landon, and on December 13 Shirley gave birth to twins, Aubree and Chase. For some reason Chase couldn't digest food. All parents would understand how scary it is when your newborn can't/won't eat. Just the other day Chase hit 13 pounds! Though this may seem like a small feat, climbing the mountain over 10 pounds was hard. We 4-H'ers are super

proud of the little guy. We were able to raise \$820 for the family.



We are all very happy with our success and the success of the family. We keep them in our prayers and hope them health in the future.

## All Time Top 10 Ontario Pumpkins

1. Chris Delaney - 1684.5 (2012)
2. Jeff Warner - 1683.5 (2015)
3. Phil & Jane Hunt – 1678.0 (2009)
4. Brant & Brandon Timm – 1675.0 (2014)
5. Greg Montgomery - 1641.4 (2011)
6. Phil & Jane Hunt – 1545.0 (2013)
7. Paul Dettweiler - 1499.6 (2014)
8. Joel & Justus Jarvis – 1497.0 (2013)
9. Chris Lyons – 1484.0 (2015)
10. Phil & Jane Hunt – 1472.0 (2013)

## EDITOR'S SEED PICK 2016

I'll stick my neck out and name two Canadian seeds from 2015 I would like to have in my patch next year.

1. **1683.5 Warner** (2002 Hawkley x 2032 Mathison) – 8% heavy

The father produced a pumpkin that was taping 1600lbs at the beginning of September, but unfortunately developed a hole.

2. **1654.5 Sproule** (1873 Steil x 2032 Mathison) – 17% heavy

The father produced the 1653.5 Sproule and went 12% heavy. I like the heavy genetics on both sides and the fact that he seemed to get the maximum out of both in the conditions he grows in.

Now if I can get my hands on both seeds, I will have to give one to my wife to grow. Which one will it be? Does it matter? I guess it will be a flip-a-coin decision.



*Ryan Hoelke lets the 1202 Kline\* loose on a 1979 Oldsmobile Cutlass Salon.*



# Weigh-off Results

## Huglis Blueberry Ranch, Pembroke

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1549.8 Kline, Todd
- 2) 1439.6 Timm, Brant & Brandon
- 3) 1258.8 Maclellan, Keith
- 4) 1251.1 Marsland, Larry & Debbie
- 5) 1221.3 Barber, Frank
- 6) 1196.0 Rusenstrom, Mike
- 7) 1132.0 Cheam, Glenn\Meagan
- 8) 1094.5 Clement, Dan
- 9) 1074.7 Reid, James
- 10) 1046.0 McLaughlin, Ashley
- EXH 660.3 Timm, Brant & Brandon

### SQUASH

- 1) 1202.6 Kline, Todd

### LONG GOURD

- 1) 141.31 Kline, Todd
- 2) 129.25 Eaton, Alan
- 3) 128.75 Eaton, SHARON
- 4) 109.44 Timm, Brant & Brandon

### TOMATO

- 1) 6.22 Bryson, Jim & Kelsey
- 2) 4.62 Timm, Brant & Brandon
- EXH 4.58 Timm, Brant & Brandon
- 3) 4.03 Reid, Jim
- EXH 3.53 Timm, Brant & Brandon
- 4) 2.91 Fox, Mark
- 5) 2.10 Kline, Todd
- EXH 1.90 Kline, Todd

### FIELD PUMPKIN

- 1) 90.00 Rusenstrom, Mike
- 2) 87.00 Rusenstrom, Gavin
- 3) 62.00 Rusenstrom, Reese
- 4) 58.00 Rusenstrom, Jenn
- 5) 51.00 Reid, James
- 6) 47.00 Hugli, Heidi
- 7) 46.00 Hugli, Will
- 8) 41.00 Kline, Todd

## Wallaceburg Kinsmen Pumpkinfest

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1137 Hain, Fred
- 2) 1015 DeMars, Mike
- 3) 969 Cook, George
- 4) 951 Demaiter, Jeremy
- 5) 919 Jarvis, Joel
- 6) 919 Powell, Jesse
- 7) 853 Nieuwenhoff, John
- 8) 719 Weber, Scott
- 9) 703 Gervais, Julian
- 10) 617 Watson, Pat
- 11) 590 Johnston, Art
- 12) 487 Pritchard, Andrew
- 13) 468 Cooper, Bob
- DMG 1328 Jarvis, Joel

### LONG GOURD

- 1) 126.75 Hain, Fred
- 2) 108.00 Butler, John
- 3) 99.75 DeMars, Mike
- 4) 93.12 Balkwill, Craig
- 5) 85.50 Nieuwenhoff, John
- EXH 78.30 Balkwill, Craig

### TOMATO

- 1) 4.01 Butler, John
- 2) 3.16 Nieuwenhoff, John
- 3) 3.01 Johnston, Art
- 4) 2.91 Hain, Fred
- 5) 2.74 DeMars, Mike
- 6) 2.02 Bechard, Bill
- 7) 1.67 Jarvis, Joel



*Nathan and Jenn Veitch and their 6.30lb tomato entered at Early Tomatoes.*

## Bracebridge Agriculture Society Fair

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1032.0 Kyle, Norm
- 2) 928.0 Barber, Frank
- 3) 924.5 Yeates, Chris
- EXH 832.0 Yeates, Chris
- EXH 819.0 Yeates, Chris
- 4) 809.5 Veitch, Nathan
- 5) 585.5 Locke, David
- 6) 478.0 Montgomery, Greg
- DMG 1,724.0 Hunt, Phil & Jane

### LONG GOURD

- 1) 149.50 Eaton, Alan **WORLD RECORD**
- 2) 137.00 Eaton, Sharon

**Congratulations to Alan Eaton on his well-deserved WR long gourd!**

### TOMATO

- 1) 4.62 Hunt, Phil & Jane
- 2) 4.58 Sproule, Harley
- 3) 4.02 Carter, Ben
- 4) 3.56 Veitch, Nathan
- 5) 2.64 Locke, David

### FIELD PUMPKIN

- 1) 85.00 Veitch, Nathan
- 2) 48.50 Veitch, Brad



## Port Elgin Pumpkinfest (Sunday)

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1157.5 MacKenzie, Bob
- 2) 1088.5 Griffen, Ralph
- 3) 1052.0 Mathonia, Peter
- 4) 875.5 Dettweiler, Paul
- 5) 782.5 Court, Douglas
- 6) 715.0 McCallum, Dave
- 7) 665.0 Layton, Denim
- 8) 640.5 Twelves, Lexi
- 9) 608.5 MacKenzie, Elaine
- 10) 600.0 Twelves, John
- 11) 579.0 Twelves, Kelly & Justin
- 12) 497.5 Ashton, Braeden
- 13) 485.5 Ashton, Madison
- 14) 445.5 Plumsteel, Jamie
- 15) 312.0 Dorozio, Tod

### SQUASH

- 1) 805.5 MacKenzie, Elaine
- 2) 667.5 Court, Douglas
- 3) 621.5 Ashton, Tamri
- 4) 605.0 Court, Louise
- 5) 596.5 MacKenzie, Bob
- 6) 586.0 McCallum, Dave
- 7) 586.0 Ashton, Braeden
- 8) 192.5 Twelves, Lexi

### LONG GOURD

- 1) 101.0 Mitchell, Marvin
- 2) 98.0 Court, Douglas
- 3) 28.0 Ashton, Braeden

### FIELD PUMPKIN

- 1) 109.5 MacKenzie, Bob
- 2) 93.4 MacKenzie, Elaine
- 3) 93.0 Twelves, Lexi
- 4) 92.8 Warner, Jeff
- 5) 87.6 Court, Douglas
- 6) 75.4 Mitchell, Marvin
- 7) 75.0 Twelves, John
- 8) 71.1 Ashton, Madison
- 9) 65.0 McCallum, Dave
- 10) 65.0 Hartung, Dennis

- 11) 64.4 Twelves, Kelly & Justin
- 12) 63.4 Court, Louise
- 13) 60.2 Ashton, Tamri

**WATERMELON**

- 1) 140.5 Mitchell, Marvin
- 2) 107.0 Court, Douglas
- 3) 98.9 Ashton, Braeden
- 4) 85.5 Court, Louise
- 5) 80.6 Ashton, Tamri

**CABBAGE**

- 1) 44.58 MacKenzie, Bob
- 2) 41.60 Warner, Jeff
- 3) 36.90 Court, Douglas
- 4) 34.55 Hartung, Dennis
- 5) 27.99 MacKenzie, Elaine
- 6) 27.35 Court, Louise
- 7) 26.85 Twelves, Lexi
- 8) 21.10 McCallum, Dave

**TOMATO**

- 1) 3.74 MacKenzie, Bob
- 2) 3.67 Court, Douglas
- 3) 3.42 Court, Louise
- 4) 3.41 Ashton, Braeden
- 5) 3.34 Ashton, Tamri
- 6) 3.28 Hartung, Dennis
- 7) 2.92 MacKenzie, Elaine
- 8) 2.15 McCallum, Dave

**SUNFLOWER (plant)**

- 1) 225.0 Marshall, MJ
- 2) 215.0 Warner, Jeff
- 3) 197.5 Mitchell, Marvin
- 4) 159.0 Twelves, Lexi
- 5) 140.5 McCallum, Dave

**SUNFLOWER (head)**

- 1) 23.0 Mitchell, Marvin
- 2) 22.0 Twelves, Lexi
- 3) 20.5 Hartung, Dennis
- 4) 19.0 Ashton, Madison
- 5) 18.0 Twelves, John
- 6) 17.5 McCallum, Dave
- 7) 12.0 Ashton, Braeden



**CORNSTALK**

- 1) 244.25 Mitchell, Marvin
- 2) 202.00 MacKenzie, Bob
- 3) 151.00 Warner, Jeff
- 4) 145.75 Ashton, Madison
- 5) 140.00 Ashton, Tamri
- 6) 129.50 Ashton, Braeden
- 7) 108.00 Twelves, Lexi

**CARROT**

- 1) 7.93 Warner, Jeff

**MARROW**

- 1) 65.75 McCallum, Dave

**LETTUCE (tall)**

- 1) 141.0 Mitchell, Marvin

**RUTABAGA**

- 1) 46.84 Hartung, Dennis



**The top 10 average for Port Elgin this year was 1242 lbs. Last year it was 1372 lbs.**

## Port Elgin Pumpkinfest

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1733.5 Kline, Todd
  - 2) 1683.5 Warner, Jeff
  - 3) 1484.0 Lyons, Chris
  - 4) 1222.0 Hain, Fred
  - 5) 1157.5 Dettweiler, Paul
  - 6) 1115.5 McQuay, Dave
  - 7) 1105.5 Jarvis, Joel
  - 8) 1044.0 Lloyd, George
  - 9) 964.0 Hunt, Phil & Jane
  - 10) 911.5 McQuay, Kaden
  - 11) 883.5 McCallum, Dave
  - 12) 861.0 Wray, Ron
  - 13) 854.5 Johnston, Art
  - 14) 853.5 Cook, George
  - 15) 780.5 Hartwick, Milford
  - 16) 712.0 Butler, John
  - 17) 660.5 Court, Douglas
  - 18) 382.5 Boutet, Lionel
- DMG 1029.0 Nieuwenhoff, John



### SQUASH

- 1) 892.0 Jarvis, Joel
- 2) 836.0 Jarvis, Kristine
- 3) 573.5 Court, Douglas
- 4) 543.0 Boutet, Lionel
- 5) 532.0 Ashton, Tamri
- 6) 395.5 Butler, John

### WATERMELON

- 1) 193.0 Mitchell, Marvin
- 2) 99.9 Court, Douglas

- 3) 92.8 Court, Louise
- 4) 78.9 Ashton, Tamri
- 5) 76.7 Ashton, Braeden
- 6) 54.9 Johnston, Art
- 7) 49.5 Butler, John

### FIELD PUMPKIN

- 1) 106.0 Butler, John
  - 2) 100.5 Nieuwenhoff, John
  - 3) 97.5 Johnston, Art
  - 4) 95.0 Warner, Jeff
  - 5) 91.3 Court, Douglas
  - 6) 85.3 McQuay, Kaden
  - 7) 78.2 Twelves, Lexi & Justin
  - 8) 72.3 McCallum, Dave
  - 9) 67.4 Twelves, John
  - 10) 16.6 Jarvis, Joel
- DMG 95.5 McQuay, Dave

### LONG GOURD

- 1) 127.00 Kline, Todd
- 2) 112.25 Hain, Fred
- 3) 97.00 Court, Douglas

### CABBAGE

- 1) 61.5 Warner, Jeff
- 2) 60.1 Jarvis, Joel
- 3) 43.2 Court, Douglas
- 4) 39.8 McCallum, Dave
- 5) 35.0 Butler, John
- 6) 30.5 Dettweiler, Paul

### TOMATO

- 1) 5.07 Court, Douglas
- 2) 4.62 Lyons, Chris
- 3) 4.40 Hunt, Phil & Jane
- 4) 4.18 Wray, Ron
- 5) 3.63 Court, Louise
- 6) 3.52 Ashton, Tamri
- 7) 3.51 Ashton, Braeden
- 8) 3.38 McCallum, Dave
- 9) 3.23 Butler, John
- 10) 3.07 Johnston, Art
- 11) 2.66 Kline, Todd
- 12) 1.55 Jarvis, Joel

### SUNFLOWER (plant)

- 1) 254.50 Marshall, MJ
- 2) 252.50 Mitchell, Marvin
- 3) 236.50 Johnston, Art
- 4) 228.00 Butler, John
- 5) 224.75 Warner, Jeff

### CORNSTALK

- 1) 303.00 Butler, John
- 2) 294.00 Johnston, Art
- 3) 268.25 Mitchell, Marvin
- 4) 207.00 Warner, Jeff

### BEET

- 1) 26.94 Nieuwenhoff, John (fodder)
- 2) 25.94 Hunt, Phil & Jane (fodder)
- 3) 25.00 Warner, Jeff (fodder)
- 4) 13.92 Nieuwenhoff, John (table)

### BUSHELGOURD

- 1) 128.5 Nieuwenhoff, John

### MARROW

- 1) 92.9 McCallum, Dave
- 2) 39.3 Nieuwenhoff, John

### RUTABAGA

- 1) 56.0 Jarvis, Joel
- 2) 44.8 Nieuwenhoff, John

### CELERY

- 1) 44.5 Warner, Jeff

### CARROT

- 2) 3.72 Nieuwenhoff, John



## Erin Fall Fair

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1,370.00 Nieuwenhoff, John
- 2) 1,284.00 Nieuwenhoff, Richard
- 3) 1,071.00 Cleaview, Acres
- 4) 1,004.00 Mucci, Barrett
- 5) 944.00 Dettweiler, Paul
- EXH 859.00 Jammer, Mike
- 6) 812.00 McClure, Roy
- 7) 777.00 Jammer, Mike
- 8) 699.00 Skiva, Darren
- 9) 687.00 Robertson, Susan
- 10) 590.00 Watson, Amanda & Ben
- EXH 565.00 Cleaview, Acres
- 11) 528.00 Franklin, Robert
- 12) 511.00 Hader, Ryan
- 13) 448.00 Armstrong, Brittany
- 14) 392.00 Reed, Gordon
- 15) 382.00 Mucci, Sirianna & Elijah
- 16) 281.00 Fuller, Elinor
- 17) 245.00 Fuller, Ron
- 18) 188.00 Marshall, Curtis



### SQUASH

- 1) 663.00 Jammer, Mike

### FIELD PUMPKIN

- 1) 147.00 Cleaview, Acres
- EXH 89.00 Cleaview, Acres
- 2) 84.00 McClure, Roy
- 3) 75.00 Nieuwenhoff, Larissa
- EXH 75.00 Cleaview, Acres
- EXH 67.00 Cleaview, Acres
- EXH 65.00 Cleaview, Acres
- 4) 47.88 Smith, Elizabeth
- 5) 23.64 Smith, Jameson

## Woodbridge Fair

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1,653.50 Sproule, Harley
- 2) 1,419.00 Lyons, Chris
- 3) 1,350.50 Joynson, Phil
- 4) 1,184.50 Nieuwenhoff, John
- EXH 1,161.50 Lyons, Chris
- 5) 1,085.50 Sundin, Eric
- 6) 1,073.50 Kyle, Norman
- 7) 1,001.50 Veitch, Nathan & Jennifer
- 8) 986.00 Cleaview Acres
- 9) 951.50 Butler, John
- 10) 902.50 Johnston, Art
- 11) 811.50 Schweigert, Paul
- 12) 566.00 Jarvis, Brooklyn
- 13) 302.00 D'amari, Eric

### SQUASH

- 1) 803.00 Jarvis, Brooklyn
- 2) 321.50 Cleaview Acres
- DMG 801.00 Montgomery, Greg

### LONG GOURD

- 1) 111.00 Sundin, Eric
- 2) 77.00 Schweigert, Paul
- DMG 82.75 Cleaview Acres



### TOMATO

- 1) 4.58 Sundin, Eric
- 2) 4.44 Hunt, Jane & Phil
- 3) 3.95 Lyons, Chris
- EXH 3.72 Sundin, Eric
- 4) 3.21 Johnston, Art

- 5) 3.14 Wheildon, Conrad
- 6) 2.33 Schweigert, Paul
- EXH 1.52 Lyons, Chris

### WATERMELON

- 1) 76.00 Sundin, Eric
- 2) 51.50 Johnston, Art
- 3) 46.00 Butler, John

### FIELD PUMPKIN

- 1) 126.00 Johnston, Art
- 2) 118.00 Cleaview Acres
- EXH 113.50 Cleaview Acres
- 3) 108.50 Butler, John
- 4) 108.00 Lyons, Chris
- EXH 105.50 Cleaview Acres
- 5) 88.00 Wheildon, Conrad
- EXH 75.00 Cleaview Acres
- 6) 73.50 Southwell, Simon
- 7) 58.00 Sundin, Eric
- 8) 51.50 Veitch, Nathan & Jennifer
- EXH 41.50 Veitch, Nathan & Jennifer

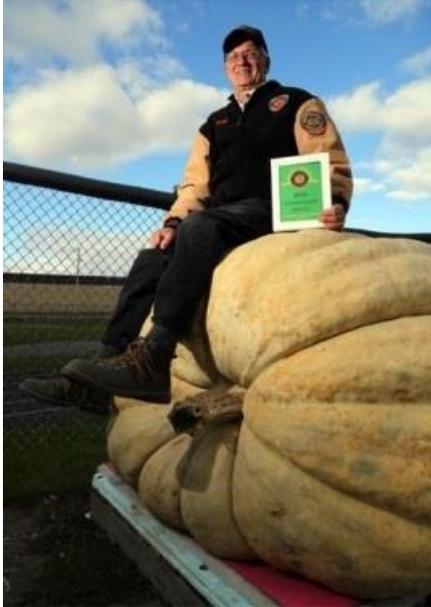
## Prince Edward County Pumpkinfest

### PUMPKIN

- 1) 1,654.50 Sproule, Harley
- 2) 1,332.00 Lyons, Chris
- 3) 1,315.50 Joynson, Phil
- 4) 1,306.50 Reid, James
- 5) 1,232.00 Cavanagh, Gerry
- 6) 1,076.50 Fox, Mark
- 7) 1,011.00 Hickey, Ashley
- 8) 989.50 Kyle, Norm
- 9) 861.50 Bell, Chris
- 10) 773.50 Rusenstrom, Mike
- 11) 748.00 Langridge, Dan
- 12) 616.00 Langridge, Shannon
- 13) 605.50 Langridge, Annette
- 14) 569.00 Langridge, Sarah
- 15) 448.00 Desjardins, Mathieu
- 16) 408.50 McGill, Noah
- 17) 382.50 Foster, Connor
- 18) 367.00 Ho, Tan

## SQUASH

- 1) 1,533.50 Kline, Todd **CDN RECORD**
- 2) 771.00 Montgomery, Greg
- 3) 322.00 Langridge, Shannon



## LONG GOURD

- 1) 136.50 Eaton, Alan
- 2) 125.25 Kline, Todd
- 3) 83.13 Timm, Brant and Brandon

## TOMATO

- 1) 5.82 Timm, Brant and Brandon  
EXH 4.08 Timm, Brant and Brandon  
EXH 4.03 Timm, Brant and Brandon
- 2) 3.74 Lyons, Chris

## WATERMELON

- 1) 100.00 Foster, Connor
- 2) 70.00 McGill, Noah
- 3) 52.00 Langridge, Shannon
- 4) 50.00 Langridge, Annette
- 5) 39.50 Desjardin, Mathieu
- 6) 34.00 Langridge, Dan

## FIELD PUMPKIN

- 1) 90.00 Rusenstrom, Reese and Gavin
- 2) 83.50 Langridge, Dan
- 3) 79.00 Lyons, Chris
- 4) 73.50 Desjardins, Mathieu

- 5) 71.00 Langridge, Shannon
- 6) 68.50 Langridge, Annette
- 7) 68.00 Langridge, Sarah
- 8) 67.00 Rusenstrom, Mike
- 9) 65.00 Hickey, Ashley
- 10) 59.00 Ho, Tan
- 11) 52.00 Reid, James

## Royal Fair, Toronto

### 1. Red/Violet Beet Root

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 53.4 lbs **WR pending**
- 2 Karoly Borcsok - 24.4 lbs
- 3 Jennifer Borcsok - 23.8 lbs
- 4 Brenda Mercer - 23.4 lbs
- 5 Rebecca Mercer - 22.8 lbs
- 6 Norm Craven - 19.6 lbs
- 7 Norman K Kyle - 6.8 lbs
- 8 Luke Melnyk - 2.6 lbs



### 2. Cabbage (heavy)

- 1 Jennifer Borcsok - 51.6 lbs
- 2 Joanne Borcsok - 50.6 lbs
- 3 Norm Craven - 43.4 lbs
- 4 Michael Ohlis - 36.4 lbs
- 5 Karoly Borcsok - 31.8 lbs
- 6 Garreth Ohlis - 22 lbs
- 7 Desiree Asanger - 19.8 lbs
- 8 Luke Melnyk - 16.6 lbs

### 3. Flowering Cabbage (diameter)

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 15"
- 2 Karoly Borcsok - 13"

### 4. Carrot (long)

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 93"
- 2 Karoly Borcsok - 74"
- 3 Jennifer Borcsok - 73"

**5. Carrot (heavy)**

- 1 Chris Lyons - 5.6 lbs
- 2 Michal Sofer - 5.4 lbs
- 3 Joanne Borcsok – 4.0 lbs
- 4 Karoly Borcsok - 3.4 lbs
- 4 Norm Craven - 3.4 lbs

**6. Gourd (long)**

- 1 Norm Craven – 123"

**7. Marrow**

- 1 Garreth Ohlis - 65.4 lbs
- 2 Michael Ohlis - 59.8 lbs
- 3 Karoly Borcsok – 27.0 lbs
- 4 Joanne Borcsok - 24.6 lbs
- 5 Jennifer Borcsok - 22.4 lbs

**8. Parsnip (long)**

- 1 Joanne Borcsok – 99.0"
- 2 Karoly Borcsok – 97.0"
- 3 Jennifer Borcsok – 92.0"
- 4 Norm Craven – 51.5"

**9. Parsnip (heavy)**

- 1 Norm Craven – 8.0 lbs
- 2 Joanne Borcsok - 7.6 lbs
- 3 Jennifer Borcsok - 6.8 lbs
- 4 Karoly Borcsok - 6.4 lbs

**10. Potato**

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 5.2 lbs
- 2 Rebecca Mercer - 3.8 lbs
- 3 Frank J Hendy - 3.6 lbs
- 4 Harry Simpson - 3.4 lbs

**11. Giant Onion**

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 2.6 lbs
- 2 Luke Melnyk - 1.6
- 2 Desiree Asanger - 1.6 lbs
- 2 Betty Craven - 1.6 lbs
- 3 Norm Craven - 1.4 lbs

**12. Sunflower**

- 1 Karoly Borcsok – 19.0"
- 2 Joanne Borcsok – 18.5"
- 3 Norm Craven – 14.5"
- 4 Betty Craven – 13.0"

**13. Kale**

- 1 Norm Craven - 8'8
- 2 Betty Craven Collard - 7'8.5

**14. Kohlrabi**

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 51.4 lbs
- 2 Karoly Borcsok - 42.4 lbs
- 3 Rebecca Mercer - 41.4 lbs
- 4 Jennifer Borcsok - 35.6 lbs
- 5 Brenda Mercer – 32.0 lbs

**15. Rutabaga**

- 1 Chris Lyons - 53.4 lbs
- 2 Karoly Borcsok - 50.8 lbs
- 3 Joanne Borcsok – 49.0 lbs
- 4 Jennifer Borcsok - 41.8 lbs
- 5 Rebecca Mercer - 40.2 lbs
- 6 Norm Craven - 37.6 lbs
- 7 Brenda Mercer - 17.8 lbs
- 8 Garreth Ohlis - 16.4 lbs
- 9 Norman K Kyle - 11.8 lbs
- 10 Desiree Asanger - 10.4 lbs

**18. Turnip**

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 18.8 lbs

**19. Corn Stalk**

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 19'4
- 2 Karoly Borcsok - 14'1
- 3 Betty Craven – 12'4.75
- 4 Norm Craven - 12'4

**20. Sunflower Stalk**

- 1 Joanne Borcsok - 14'7
- 2 Karoly Borcsok - 13'9

**22. Fodder Beet**

- 1 Norm Craven - 15.4 lbs

**23. 2015 Royal Giant Pumpkin Or Squash**

- 1 Chris Lyons - 1398.6 lbs
- 2 Michal Sofer - 1315 lbs
- 3 Norman K Kyle - 1055.2 lbs
- 4 Harry Kyle - 1008.8 lbs
- 5 Joanne Borcsok - 915 lbs

## Featured Grower

### Jeff Warner

*Jeff Warner grew the heaviest pumpkin in Ontario this year and some other interesting giant vegetables as well. This is how he did it.*

My name is Jeff Warner. I live with my wife Erica and three year old daughter, Brynn in Englehart, Ontario, which is about two and a half hours north of North Bay. I work on the family farm which is a greenhouse business where we have a garden centre, landscaping, 2 million jack pine seedlings, 15 acres of pick-your-own strawberries and seed potatoes. When I am not at work, I enjoy playing baseball, hockey, woodworking and playing with my daughter.



I got started into the growing of giant vegetables in about 2007 when someone told me that it is too cold where I live to grow these pumpkins, so I ordered some catalogue seeds and started them. The first two years, I thought I grew the biggest pumpkins ever at about 75-100 lbs. I told everyone that it took two of us to move them. Then I heard about Port Elgin Pumpkinfest. So I went and sat in the stands all day. By the end of the day, I said that next year, I am bringing a pumpkin and will get last place but then I can be on the other side of the rope with the growers where I can learn. So that's what I did. The next year, I showed up with a four hundred pounder and was happy to get last but start to meet the growers. I have been going ever since and have been working my way up the rankings to where I was this

year with a second place 1683.5 pound pumpkin.

Growing the giant pumpkins is where most of my energy in the garden goes. All the other giant veggies tend to get whatever the pumpkins get. A few years ago, I built greenhouses over my pumpkin spots. Since I live in a zone 2b, I just felt I couldn't compete without making the plants warmer. Especially my nights get cold. My plants this year were about 800 sq.ft. About 600 of it was in the greenhouse and the rest grew outside. This is the first year that I let them grow outside the greenhouses. The greenhouses are heated in the spring and fall with 220 volt electric heaters, so the hydro guys love me. My goal is to get the plants in the ground by May 5<sup>th</sup>.



I water by hand for the first few weeks then switch to hard walled drip lines once the plants get too big to water by hand. The drip system is all set up by zones and is all turned on and off automatically. There is also a fertilizer injector hooked into the system so they can get fertilizer whenever they get watered. This system takes a long time to hook up in the early summer but works great once I get it going. One of the best things about it is that you get very even water. It is set up to give the pumpkins about 100 gallons of water per day in prime growing time. It gives fifty gallons in the morning and fifty in the evening. My water is from a creek. The only time that I use overhead water is on those really hot July days. On those days, I set it up to run for a few minutes every hour to cool things down.

I start about ten pumpkin plants around the 24-26th of April. The best looking four make it into the ground. I plant one at each end of the greenhouse and let them grow towards each other. When they meet in the middle the

better plant stays and the other gets pulled. That means that I did vine burying on a plant that I eventually will pull but to me, it gives me better odds of having a healthy plant. In the end, I have two plants that I keep. I used to do more but found that I was doing an average job on five plants. When I cut back to two plants, I could do a better job on them.

As for fertilizer, I start within about a week of the plant growing. Sometimes they get 10-52-10 if I have some mixed for the first few weeks. Usually it is just 20-20-20. I try to fertilize at least once a week. At the end of the season, I tend to switch to 15-15-30. All of these are water soluble fertilizers, (yes the blue stuff), and it works great and is easy to work with. At the beginning of the season, I do add some granular 15-15-15 and till it in.

As bad as it is that I have to deal with the cold, the advantage to where I am is that I don't have to deal with the bugs. I have never sprayed insecticides on my pumpkins. I have never seen a squash bug or vine borer before. I sometimes get a little bit of powdery mildew and spray if needed. Usually I only have to spray once or twice and it keeps it under control. That is all of the products I use in the garden. I am a big believer in keeping it simple. Just get out to the garden and do the dirty work. Don't just try to buy a product that you think will do all the work for you. Water, bury vines, weed, cover at night. Just keep the plant healthy as you can.



This year was an exceptionally good year for the pumpkins in my patch, which is nice because last year I lost them both. This year,

the pumpkin that I took to Port Elgin weighed 1683.5 lbs which is more than three hundred pounds more than my personal best and got me a second place. It was from a 2002 Hawkley. I was and still am very happy. I had another pumpkin that measured 1600 lbs three weeks before the weigh-off from a 2032 Mathison. I was hoping to take two but then one day there was that smell we all know too well. Then came the fruit flies. I knew it was over then but couldn't see the bad spot. Finally the bottom blew out and it all turned to mush. Oh well, the other sure made up for it.

I do all of the work in the patch myself because my girls don't like the mosquitoes. There are not really any too serious growers in my area. A few try, then disappear from the hobby. The closest growers that take it serious are a few hours away so it is really hard to get together



to share info and get sneak peaks into other patches. Most of my pumpkin talk is through text or email. I try to talk pumpkins at morning coffee until my wife looks like she is really thinking about something else and just wants me to be quiet.

I like to try to grow anything giant that I can get fairly inexpensive seed for. This year, other than AGs, I did cabbage, rutabaga, beets, carrots, celery, corn, sunflowers and field pumpkins. I did fairly well with most of them. My favourites of these are the sunflowers and corn because they get soooo tall. I also love the mystery part of the carrot because I don't know what is in the ground until I dig it up. I have kept the beet, carrot and celery to see if I can get them to seed next year. Other than the sunflowers and corn, all of the other stuff is right beside the pumpkins so these get similar fertilizer and care as the pumpkins do and then I just hope for the best.

I learned a number of things this year. I will probably try growing bigger plants again next

year. I let the greenhouses warm up more before I opened them up for the day. I lost a bit of control with third stage growth. It was a bit wild looking in the patch. I might let it happen again next year on purpose. Because the one I lost rotted from the bottom, I think I need to get them higher off the ground right from the start. My patch stays pretty wet. I also used a lot of landscape fabric wherever I could which kept the weeds down. This allowed that weeding time to be spent somewhere else.

I am already thinking about what to plant next year. There will be two pumpkins for sure. Sunflowers, corn and carrots for sure. All of the other stuff tends to change in my garden depending on what seeds I can get my hands on. I might drop the field pumpkins and try to build some type of greenhouse over a watermelon plant. Not sure yet, lots of winter to think about that.



I hope all of you growers have a great winter thinking about what to do next year. If you have any questions about what I do in the patch, send me an email.

[aidiejeff@ntl.sympatico.ca](mailto:aidiejeff@ntl.sympatico.ca)

Jeff

## World Record Beetroot



*Joe Atherton broke his own world record for longest beetroot. This year's beetroot measured 7.21 meters (284 inches). He holds the world record for longest beetroot, carrot and parsnip.*

## WE NEED YOUR SEEDS!

Don't forget to send us your seeds this year!  
Please send them to:

Phil Joynson  
23 Potter's Lane  
Enniskillen, ON  
L0B 1J0  
Canada

## European Pumpkins

The top European pumpkins finished, oddly enough, as the numbers 19 to 23 in the GPC listing. Except for the 1861.8, all pumpkins were grown off of Beni Meier's seeds. The 1861.8 had world's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest OTT this year.

19	1,887.20	Meier, Beni	Switzerland
20	1,872.80	Willemijns, Mathias	Belgium
21	1,866.20	Cutrupi, Stefano	Italy
22	1,865.10	Paton, Ian & Stuart	United Kingdom
23	1,861.80	Cutrupi, Stefano	Italy

# Statistics Pages

## All 1000+ Canadian Pumpkins 2015

### 1700s

1733.5 Kline, Todd (QC)

### 1600s

1683.5 Warner, Jeff (ON)  
1654.5 Sproule, Harley (QC)  
1653.5 Sproule, Harley (QC)

### 1500s

1549.8 Kline, Todd (QC)

### 1400s

1484.0 Lyons, Chris (ON)  
1470.5 Beaudin, Ray (AB)  
1439.6 Timm, Brant & Brandon (ON)  
1419.0 Lyons, Chris (ON)  
1415.0 Ansems, Gerard (NS)  
1411.0 Carley, Scott (BC)  
1402.0 Ansems, Fred (NS)



Ray Beaudin's 1470lb Alberta record.

### 1300s

1381.0 Tingley, Daryl (NB)  
1370.0 Nieuwenhoff, John (ON)  
1350.5 Joynson, Phil (ON)  
1348.2 Lukes, Milan (MB)  
1339.0 Chan, Dave (BC)  
1332.0 Lyons, Chris (ON)  
1315.5 Joynson, Phil (ON)  
1306.5 Reid, James (ON)

### 1200s

1284.0 Nieuwenhoff, Richard (ON)  
1283.4 Lukes, Richard (MB)  
1280.0 Tessier, David (QC)  
1277.0 Tessier, Gaston (QC)  
1264.0 Naqvi, Mahmood (NS)  
1261.0 Quatrouillettes, Les (QC)  
1258.8 Maclellan, Keith (QC)  
1251.1 Marsland, Larry & Debbie (ON)  
1237.0 Tingley, Daryl (NB)  
1232.0 Cavanaugh, Gerry (ON)  
1228.0 Reid, Jeff (NS)  
1222.0 Hain, Fred (ON)  
1221.3 Barber, Frank (QC)

1221.0 Gagnon, Famille (QC)  
1209.0 Ansems, Gerard (NS)

### 1100s

1197.0 Riopel, Gerard (QC)  
1196.0 Rusenstrom, Mike (QC)  
1194.0 Muis, Ron (NS)  
1189.0 Carley, Scott (BC)  
1184.5 Nieuwenhoff, John (ON)  
1171.0 Ansems, Catharina (NS)  
1161.5 Lyons, Chris (ON)  
1160.0 Atkinson, Stephen (NS)  
1157.5 MacKenzie, Bob (ON)  
1157.5 Dettweiler, Paul (ON)  
1137.0 Hain, Fred (ON)  
1132.0 Cheam, Glenn\Meagan (ON)  
1124.0 Morin, Mario (QC)  
1120.0 Crews, Donald (AB)  
1115.5 McQuay, Dave (ON)  
1107.0 Riopel, Jocelyn (QC)  
1107.0 Ebbett, Charles (NB)  
1105.5 Jarvis, Joel (ON)  
1103.0 Ebbett, Gail (NB)



The big British Columbia pumpkins ready for the big day.

### 1000s

1094.5 Clement, Dan (ON)  
1088.5 Griffen, Ralph (ON)  
1085.5 Sundin, Eric (ON)  
1076.5 Fox, Mark (ON)  
1074.7 Reid, James (ON)  
1074.0 Quatrouilles, Les (QC)  
1073.5 Kyle, Norman (ON)  
1071.0 Cleaview, Acres (ON)  
1068.0 Dixon, Glenn (BC)  
1052.0 Mathonia, Peter (ON)  
1047.0 Ward, Ed (NS)  
1046.0 McLaughlin, Ashley (ON)  
1044.0 Lloyd, George (ON)  
1042.0 Kenneally, Brian (NS)  
1038.0 Ferguson, Paul (NS)  
1032.0 Kyle, Norm (ON)  
1032.0 Banman, Henry (MB)  
1026.0 Ansems, Andrew (NS)  
1024.6 Banman, Cornie (MB)  
1018.0 Pelletier, Jeff (BC)  
1016.0 Swinimer, Leo (NS)  
1015.0 DeMars, Mike (ON)  
1014.0 Ansems, Frank (NS)  
1011.0 Hickey, Ashley (ON)  
1004.0 Mucci, Barrett (ON)  
1001.5 Veitch, Nathan & Jennifer (ON)

## Canadian Top 10ers

How have Canadians performed over the past few years? How often do we make it in the top 10 listings of the GPC? And which us of make it up there? Are we doing better or worse than in the olden days?

So we decided to crack some numbers from the period 2010-2015 and have come to the conclusion that we aren't any good at growing pumpkins, but are great at tomatoes and long gourds. Ontario isn't bad at squash and the east coast is good at field pumpkins. And except for long gourds, 2015 was a pretty poor year for most of us.

The data used excludes non-GPC results and therefore also results from giant vegetable weigh-offs in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands and pumpkin/squash results from Belgium. Exhibition specimen are included.

*For each table:*

- A = year
- B = GPC top 10 average (rounded off)
- C = number of Canadians in top 10
- D = highest placed Canadian
- E = highest placed Ontarian
- F = top weight Ontarian

### FIELD PUMPKINS

A	B	C	D	E	F
2010	117.0	4	1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	103.0
2011	136.0	4	1 <sup>st</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	99.0
2012	155.0	2	2 <sup>nd</sup>	49 <sup>th</sup>	101.0
2013	140.5	1	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	128.0
2014	183.0	5	1 <sup>st</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	175.0
2015	152.5	1	7 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	147.0

*Ontario growers that made the top 10:*

- Chris Lyons (1)
- John Lyons (1)
- Jane & Phil Hunt (1)
- Cleaview Acres (1)

### TOMATOES

A	B	C	D	E	F
2010	5.16	10	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	7.33
2011	5.44	3	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5.41
2012	5.03	2	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	5.50
2013	6.23	3	8 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	5.22
2014	6.82	2	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	6.89
2015	6.47	3	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	6.30

*Ontario growers that made the top 10:*

- Brant & Brandon Timm (7)
- Chris Lyons (4)
- Jane & Phil Hunt (2)
- John Lyons (1)
- Dennis Hartung (1)
- Russ Landry (1)
- Art Johnston & John Butler (1)
- John Nieuwenhoff (1)
- Greg Montgomery (1)
- Nathan Veitch (1)



*John Lyons at Port Elgin*

### LONG GOURD

A	B	C	D	E	F
2010	120.5	2	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	121.25
2011	126.0	5	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	131.81
2012	125.0	1	8 <sup>th</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	122.88
2013	129.0	7	1 <sup>st</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	131.50
2014	130.5	4	2 <sup>nd</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	128.00
2015	139.4	6	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	149.50

*Ontario growers that made the top 10:*

- Alan Eaton (9)
- Chris Lyons (2)
- John Butler (2)
- Art Johnston & John Butler (1)
- Bryan Mailey (1)
- John Nieuwenhoff (1)

## SQUASH

A	B	C	D	E	F
2010	1001	3	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1019
2011	1143	4	1 <sup>st</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	1486
2012	1039	4	4 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	1077
2013	1106	3	2 <sup>nd</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1233
2014	1262	2	4 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	1204
2015	1204	2	1 <sup>st</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	892

*Ontario growers that made the top 10:*

Joel Jarvis (4)  
 John Vincent (2)  
 Jason Aldred (1)  
 Eric Sundin (1)  
 Jane & Phil Hunt (1)  
 Doug Court (1)



*John Vincent and Joel Jarvis, the Ontario squash kings*

## PUMPKIN

A	B	C	D*	E*	F
2010	1674	1	10 <sup>th</sup>	75 <sup>th</sup>	1376
2011	1703	2	1 <sup>st</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	1641
2012	1810	2	4 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	1684
2013	1850	1	5 <sup>th</sup>	46 <sup>th</sup>	1497
2014	2052	0	54 <sup>th</sup>	54 <sup>th</sup>	1675
2015	2073	0	43 <sup>rd</sup>	59 <sup>th</sup>	1683

*\* exhibition fruit excluded*

## MEMBERSHIP

Don't forget to renew your membership before January 1, 2016.  
 More information on page 3.



*Fabrice Boudyo of France with his 8.37 lb tomato. Harvested a day later and it would have been a world record, but it was developing a soft spot so he had to pick it.*



*It's not the world's largest squash, but possibly the oldest. Students at Canadian Mennonite University germinated and grew this one from 800-year-old seed found inside a vessel during an archaeological dig on First Nations land.*

# Featured Giant Vegetable

## BEETROOT

### PART ONE

What makes a beet a beet? It would seem that all beets originate from *Beta vulgaris maritima*, what we would call today “sea beet”. Through cultivation several different types of beets emerged. Some were cultivated for the use of their leaves, others for the roots and some for the sugar content. Mangolds were cultivated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and quickly became an important source of cattle food. After the introduction of corn, it lost its popularity but is now making its comeback because of its salt tolerance, particularly in Asian countries where the soil has been ruined through irrigation and salt levels are too high for traditional crops.



*Beta vulgaris maritima* (sea beet)

There are several different ways of naming plants. The easiest is to use the system developed in 2004 called the ICNCP (International Code of Nomenclature for Cultivated Plants).

Beets are members of the Amaranth family and adhere to the genus of *Beta*. There are a few species of beets, but the one which interests us is *vulgaris*. The subspecies is also *vulgaris*. The ICNCP then splits them up into groups. This is a bit complicated, because a plant can belong to more than one group. A group consists of plants with a similar trait, for example, variegated leaves, or white flowers. Here is a list of the most common groups for *Beta vulgaris vulgaris*:

- *Altissima* group: sugar beets
- *Crassa* group: mangold/fodder beet
- *Condivita* group: edible/table beet
- *Cicla* group: spinach beet/leaf beet
- *Flavescens* group: chard/swiss chard



Spinach beet



Chard

Fodder beet

These groups can also have subgroups. In the case of *Condivita* there are subgroups including: *Alba*, *Lutea*, *Rosea* and *Rubra*. The subgroups are all based on colour (white, yellow, pink and red). For competition purposes we are interested in the last one:

***Beta vulgaris vulgaris condivita rubra***

Technically speaking any of the other subgroups would be allowed, but none of them seem to grow as heavy as the red ones.

As far as shape is concerned, we discern three types in the *Condivita* group: round, half long and long.



Kevin Fortey – 35lbs (2014)

The round ones are the heaviest. The long ones are used in competition for longest beetroot. The half long ones are also known as cylinder beets.

Within the subgroup of *rubra* there are many varieties and even several different colours, ranging from normal red, through purplish to almost black. Varieties include *Bull's Blood*, *Crosby's Egyptian* and *Cylindra*. Egyptian varieties are flat and not suitable for growing competitively.



*Condivita Alba*  
"Blankoma"

*Condivita Lutea*  
"Golden Burpee"



*Condivita Rosea*  
"Chioggia"

*Condivita Rubra*  
"Bull's Blood"



*Condivita Rubra*  
"Crosby's Egyptian"

*Condivita Rubra*  
"Cylindra"

***Beta vulgaris vulgaris altissima***

Early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century a French scientist discovered sugar crystals in beets, but it wasn't until 1747 that a German named Andreas Marggraf was able to distract the sugar and crystalize it. Through selection, slowly, but surely, the **sugar beet** was developed. Initially it only had 6% sugar content (*sucrose*), but these days that is as high as 17%. Sugar beets are inedible (too hard) and white.

In 1974 a group of sugar beet and hobby growers in the province of North-Holland (Netherlands) started a club called *De Dorstige Biet* (The Thirsty Beet), with the sole intent of growing the world's largest sugar beets. In 2014 there were 274 entries. (In 1995 there were 469.) The winner weighed in at 121lbs while fifth place was still an impressive 112lbs. Club member, Piet de Goede, holds the world record at 156.6lbs (2005). Former Dutch pumpkin grower and club member Jaap Mol held the previous record at 135.8lbs (2001).



*Harvesting sugar beets in The Netherlands*

Mangolds can be orange, red, white, yellow and often are combined with greenish tints. They can be oval or long. They are never dark red/purple like table beets and never round. "Mammoth Red" belongs to the *Crassa* group.



*Fodder beet, red*

*Fodder beet, yellow*



*World Record sugar beet (156.6 lbs)*



*Fodder beet, white with green tint*

***Beta vulgaris vulgaris crassa***

It's called mangel-wurzel, mangel, mangold, fodder beet, field beet and who knows what else. It's related to the sugar beet, but doesn't have the high sugar content. There are multigerm and monogerm varieties. The multigerm varieties produce more than one plant per seed and are useless for commercial growers as they need to be thinned out. The modern monogerm varieties produce one plant per seed and the roots are generally oval and easy to mechanically harvest.



*Field of red fodder beets (The Netherlands)*



**Doug Stevens of the United Kingdom holds the record for heaviest fodder beet. It was grown in 2011 and weighed 141 lbs (63.96 kg).**

# BEETROOT

## PART TWO

### GROWING GIANT BEETS

First of all, beets grown for competition must be of the *beta vulgaris vulgaris condivita* group. Giant beets (let's call them beetroots like the British do) are always dark red/purple and round. Due to their extreme weight they will square up a bit. The bottom is pretty much flat, sometimes with a taproot. Giant beetroots are never long, pointed or oval. If they don't look like these, they aren't competition beetroots.



Ian Neale, world record



Bradley Wursten

### SOIL PREPARATION

Beets like sandy loam. This soil warms up faster in the spring too. The ideal PH-level is 6.5, but beets will do well in anything between 6.0 and 6.8. They will grow in lower or higher PH-levels, but won't grow as big. Lower PH-levels aren't capable of supplying enough nutrients and higher PH-levels can cause disease and other problems.

Prepare raised beds ahead of time. I grow them in ridged rows 15 feet long, three feet wide and about one foot high. First I take off a foot of top soil, loosen up the soil underneath,

add leaves, compost and peat and till it. Then I put back the soil I took off, add the amendments and till it also. Next I add a foot of soil with the same amendments on top and till it too. Beets do not like manure, so don't add it. They also don't react to mycorrhiza fungi, so don't waste your money on it.

I prepare the soil in the fall. In the spring I go through it with a fork and tiller to make sure it is all mixed well and fine enough for planting.

### PLANTING

Normal beetroots take three months from sowing to harvest. Giant beetroots need four months. Starting too early will cause the beetroots to go to seed. Bolting occurs if temperatures fluctuate too much. I actually force a few beetroots into bolting by starting them off early in a greenhouse. This allows me to get seeds in the first year instead of having to wait two years as usually is the case.

Beetroot seeds can be started four weeks before the last day of frost. You will want to protect the seedlings though. I start them around April 15<sup>th</sup>, outside in their permanent place. Tests with transplanting have always produced much smaller beets for me, either because the roots are disturbed too much or the temperature differs too much from inside to outside.

Beetroot seeds generally take 10-14 days to germinate. They will germinate between 50 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. You cover them with ½ to ¾ inch soil. The plants need 3x3 feet. I always grow 4 plants in one 15ft long ridged bed. I start 6 seeds per position, which usually produces about 10 plants. As they grow you thin them out, leaving the strongest. If you have planted them too close together, cut off the ones you don't want, so you don't disturb the roots of the one you want to keep. Watch out for seed rot and damping off if you start too early in the spring!

## GROWING ON

Some growers mistreat the plants to get larger roots. Once you have only two seedlings left after thinning them out, you scratch away the soil around the seedlings, leaving only the tip of the root in the ground. Water them (not too much) and add slug pellets. It is best to do this in the evening when the sun has lost its power. The seedling will think it is about to die and pump more energy into the roots. You'll have to keep the seedling watered and out of bright sunlight for a few days until the plant recovers. Once both beetroots start to visibly swell, you can get rid of the weakest plant. I can't prove it works. I'm not sure how much it differs from transplanting.



## FEEDING

Drenching is the main way of feeding beetroots. Foliar fertilizer can also be applied. Each grower has their own methods, but a standard 10-10-10 is certainly suitable throughout the season.

## PROBLEMS

A too high PH-level and a Boron deficiency will cause heart rot. The beetroot will form a type of cancer and the leaves will wilt. The heart of the beetroot will turn to slush, so consider the beet history.

Slugs and woodlice like young plants. Get rid of them or at least prevent them from attacking the plant. This year I might try netting the

young plants like you do to prevent carrot fly. That might help even out the day and night-time temperatures too.

Too much water or too little or large fluctuations usually cause beetroots to go to seed. So can starting too early or not thinning out on time. You can also blow up beetroots. Keep an eye on your plants and the soil.



Other than that, beetroots are relatively easy to grow. Depending where and how you grow, you might want to consider spraying with an insecticide once every fortnight from the period they are thinned out till harvest.

## HARVESTING

No green is allowed, so I get rid of most of the foliage before harvesting as these plants can be huge. It just makes it easier digging it out. Just before weighing, you can cut off the rest of the foliage. Obviously you will need to wash the beetroot. No rotten parts are accepted.



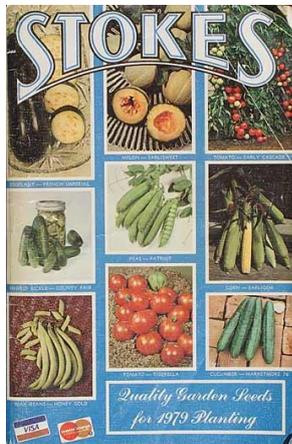
# Flashback

## Back when the World Record was still 3 digits

I guess I must be getting old because when I started growing giant pumpkins, the world record had just broken the 600 lb barrier. I don't know how I knew, but it must have made the newspaper. In any case, after visiting the Ancaster Agricultural Fair for the first time in my life a year earlier, I decided I could grow pumpkins too. Of all the exhibits, I liked the giant veg the most. I didn't see myself baking the best apple crumble or making the best jar of raspberry jam.



My dad had a catalogue from Stokes Seeds in St. Catharines. I ordered the largest pumpkin strain I could find



with the imaginative name of "Atlantic Giant". I slipped in some "Hungarian Mammoth" squash seeds too. And somehow I got hold of some giant sunflower seeds and some of my dad's mangold seeds to boot.

My parents were both born in Holland and both avid gardeners. My mom did the flower gardens, which didn't interest me and my dad did the vegetable garden. I don't think I had a choice about working in the vegetable garden. But my dad was okay with me having part of the garden for some giants. Land wasn't an issue, because we grew in our neighbour's

field. They were Dutch too, and we could use as much land as we wanted, for free.

I grew the pumpkin on an old ash pile. We used to burn the potato leaves and probably the old corn stalks too, but I can't remember that anymore. Somehow I got hold of some slow-release fertilizer sticks which I stuck in the ground all around the main roots.

The evening before the fair started my dad and I got a blanket, slipped it under the pumpkin and tilled it into the Suburban. The fair was only a kilometre down the road. As we unloaded it was clear my pumpkin was the biggest there. My squash too, and my beet and my sunflower. But just before closing time, a biology teacher from Dundas showed up with a much bigger pumpkin.

The next day the results were made known. I had won the squash category, come second in the pumpkin category, won the beet and placed pretty much last with the sunflower. Mine was 19 inches across but curved and they measured in a straight line.



The pumpkin weighed a mere 200 lbs and I sold it to a garden centre that used it for decoration. The year after that I did considerably worse, as there were a lot more contenders with bigger pumpkins

and my beet was judged a mangold, which of course it was, and disqualified. The year after that we lost the land and my short-lived career as a giant vegetable grower died a quick and painful death.

*Bradley Wursten*

## Scientific Report

### NPK for *DUMMIES*

There are three main macronutrients in fertilizers. There are also three secondary macronutrients and several micronutrients. Now forget the last two groups.

The three main macronutrients are called Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium. They are referred to as N, P, K. The K is for Potassium. In some countries Potassium is called *Kalium*, which solves the mystery about the K.

Plants are made up of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. Carbon is available in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), hydrogen is what water is made of (H<sub>2</sub>O) and seeing as oxygen = O, it is available in CO<sub>2</sub> and H<sub>2</sub>O. And that leaves us with nitrogen.

#### The N from Nitrogen

The air we breathe is largely made up of Nitrogen. But it's no good to most plants. They can't use it. But plants need it because it is present in proteins, DNA and chlorophyll. Proteins are the workers in plant cells. DNA carries out instructions concerning development. Chlorophyll is that green stuff that makes photosynthesis happen, the system which absorbs energy from light.

Nitrogen is mainly for leaf growth. Leaves can't take nitrogen from the atmosphere, but it can take it from the soil. Members of the bean family are able to extract nitrogen from the air and hold onto it in nodules in their roots. As the roots decay, they leave behind the nitrogen.



You can apply chemical nitrogen or organic nitrogen to your soil. Chemical nitrogen is made from ammonia. Organic nitrogen is made from blood.

Too little nitrogen means the plant will not grow well and have small leaves. Nitrogen is very mobile and if there is not enough, it will go to the young leaves and leave the old leaves to turn brown and die.

Too much nitrogen will cause the leaves to burn.

#### The P from Phosphorus

Phosphorus is very important for making and transporting sugars and starch. It is very important for the development of roots, so young plants really need it. Phosphorus is also a component of DNA and produces cell membranes.



Phosphorus can be found as a mineral in phosphate rock. Chemical fertilizers use this rock. Organic fertilizers extract phosphate from urine and bones.

Not enough phosphorus will lead to leaves going purple, especially in corn, tomatoes, carrots and lettuce and can be caused by excessive watering and cold temperatures.

Too much phosphorus will block the uptake of iron. This causes leaves to go yellow, which means they no longer work and can be cut off.

### The K from Potassium

Potassium got its name from potash: the ashes of plants. It regulates the use of water in a plant. It opens and closes the pores of leaves. It plays an important role in the evaporation of water from the leaves. Too little P means the leaves will wither.

P also strengthens cell walls and is very important for the fruit.



Potassium is even more important after setting fruit. Too little potassium will lead to weak fruit which will not keep long.

Too much potassium will block calcium and magnesium which means the plant will not grow as well.

Chemical potassium is made from mining and refining potassium carrying salts. Organic potassium can be made from a wide variety of sources including ashes, kelp meal and compost.

*By Bradley Wursten*

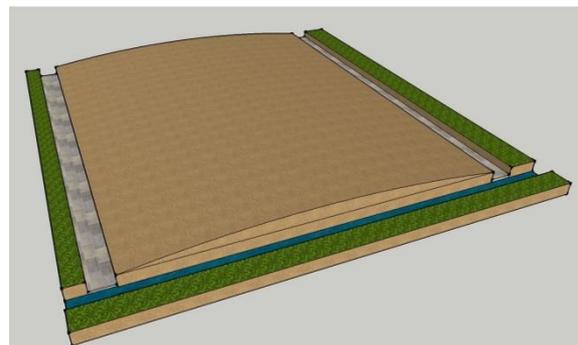
## GARDENING TIP

Any Dutch community garden gardener can tell you how to build a patch that can handle loads of water.

The Dutch have precipitation 236 days per year, almost all of which is rain. In comparison, the rainiest place in Ontario is Guelph with 167 days in which it rains.

As far as amount of rain is concerned, the Dutch get about 80 cm (32") per year.

In any case they have very wet summers. And to keep their patches manageable they have developed the following system.



The entire patch is raised in the middle. The water flows to the sides which is a lowered path of concrete tiles. The tiles slope towards the front (or back) of the patch carrying the water to a ditch. The ditch generally flows into a much larger ditch, which again empties into a river often by means of enormous water pumps. The gardener simply connects his patch to the existing network of ditches.

The concrete tiles are used as paths, except when the whole system overfills. In that case you paddle to your patch, which is still relatively dry seeing as it is higher than the land around it. **The best gardening tip is: always be higher than your neighbour!**

# Climate Analysis



Last year growers from all over the world fell at the feet of Beni Meier of Switzerland. Some growers had already thrown in the towel believing they had proven that greenhouse growing was the only way forward.

But there was nothing special going on at all. Switzerland happened to have the perfect climatic conditions in 2014 and Beni is a great grower. It is something that has happened many times before. Time for an analysis.

On the above mutilated map of the USA and southern Canada you will find an asterisk for every pumpkin that made it into the top 10 list of the year it was grown in. The asterisks are colour coded per year.

Not only can you see that the climate near large bodies of water is more suitable for growing giant pumpkins, you can also see that per year, the big pumpkins move around the country.

In 2010 the top 10 were divided over 7 states and 1 province. A year later California entered the scene. Pennsylvania and Quebec (thanks

to the Brysons) did great as well. 2011 would be the last year that anything big came out of South Dakota.

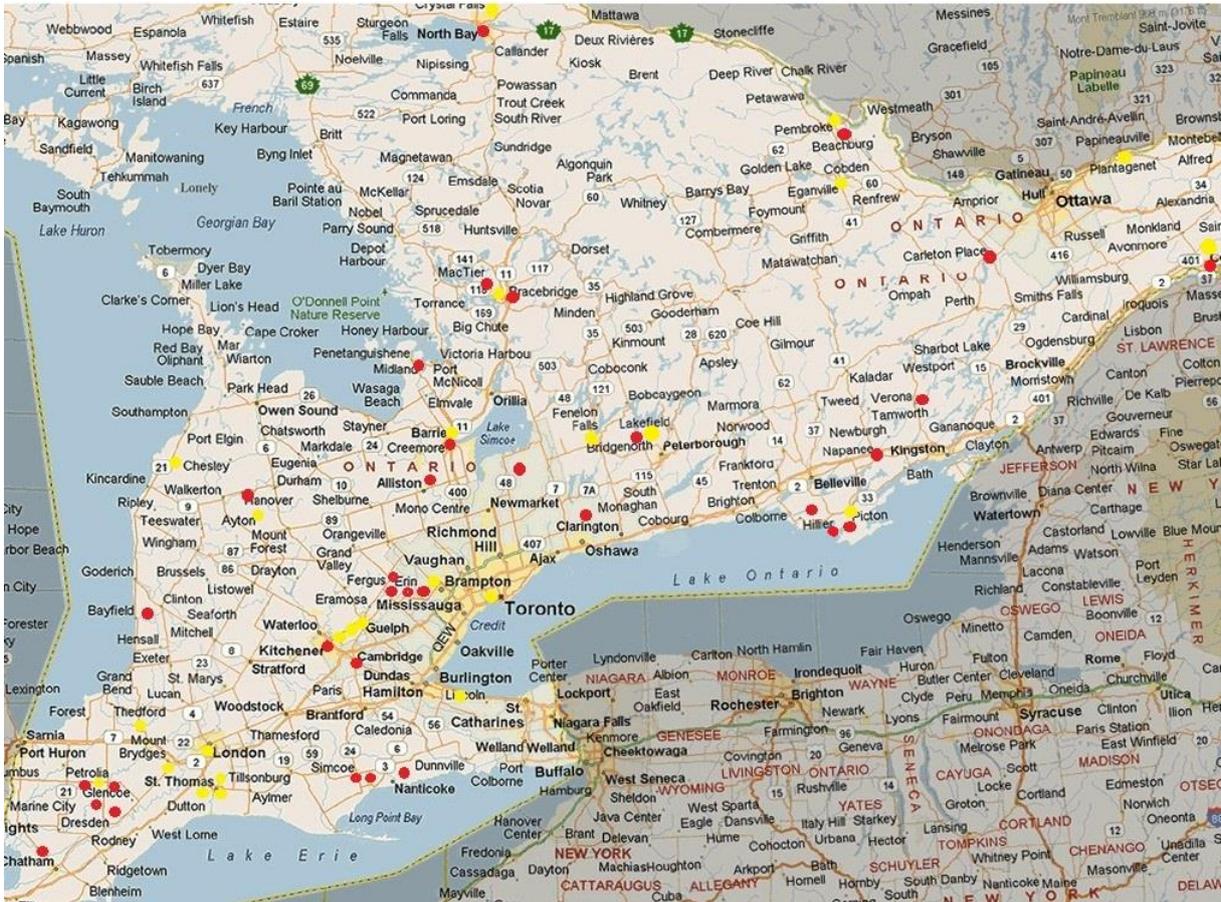
2012 was the year of the coastal regions. On the east it was Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Nova Scotia (the last time for the latter three) and on the west it was Oregon.

For the next two years it would be California that dominated, picking up 5 top places in 2013 and an additional 4 a year later. None of the eastern coastal regions made it into the top 10 that year. 2014 was also the year Europe made a rather impressive entry.

This year it was out with California, out with Switzerland and in with Wisconsin. They took 4 of the top 10 places which is the most ever except for what California had done the two previous years.

Nobody knows where the sweet spot will be next year. But guaranteed, not a single heavy hitter will make the top 10 if the climatic conditions aren't right.

# Where do our growers live?



The red circles depict growers that have grown at least one 800-1000lb pumpkin in the past 3 years. The yellow circles are for growers that have grown a pumpkin over 1200lbs in the past 3 years.

Most of the 1200lb pumpkins have been grown in the stroke of ground running from Toronto, via Kitchener to St. Thomas. Perhaps the biggest surprise is the yellow circle depicting Jeff Warner (1683lbs) that didn't fit on the map but which should be 2½ hours above North Bay. One would expect the ideal spot to be in the wine country around St. Catharines, but unfortunately we don't seem to have any growers there anymore.

*Bradley Wursten*



*Kevin and Gareth Fortey of Wales broke the world record for longest radish (88 inches).*

# A 2015 Long Gourd Story

By: Al Eaton, Richmond, Ontario, Nov. 2015

The origin of the genes that we use in our hobby of growing specialized competitive plants has always been a special interest of mine. When I started growing Long Gourds in 2003, I started recording the ancestors of the seeds that I was using, and in 2015 I was fortunate enough to grow a new world record. Since I have kept "parentage" records of the top LGs over those years I can now trace my 149.5 inch WR back to as far as it is possible to go. Over those 13 seasons there has been a huge evolution in the LG gene pool due to the work of many top growers, and I hope other growers will enjoy seeing their contributions that are behind the new WR.

Listed below are the ancestors of the WR going back 6 generations, and since the male pollinator genes are in the seeds of the WR, those ancestors are included. The LG identity is **149.50 Eaton '15 (139.25 Ansems '13 x 122.88 Eaton '12)**. In 6 generations there are a possible 126 ancestors, but since there are many repeated there are only 25 individual LGs involved, as shown below. The number after the name shows the occurrences.

<b>2014</b>	None	<b>2007</b>	125.75 Urena (24) - #2 world 106.13 Jutras (5)
<b>2013</b>	139.25 Ansems (1) - WR	<b>2006</b>	126.50 Jutras (29) – WR
<b>2012</b>	122.88 Eaton (1) - #1 Canada 123.00 Rumancik (1) 120.00 Kline (1) - #2 Canada	<b>2005</b>	82.00 El-Kassis (8) 104.00 Eaton (8) 107.00 Timm (5) - #4 Ottawa
<b>2011</b>	116.62 Martin (3) – sib to WR 127.50 Kline (2) - #3 world 110.13 Mailey (1)	<b>2004</b>	<b>94.00 Corteso</b> (1) – Italy/Toronto 114.00 Wallis (1) - #2 world 106.00 Eaton (1)
<b>2010</b>	135.00 Jacobus (4) – WR 121.25 Lyons (2) - #4 world (tie) 94.00 Eaton (2)	<b>2003</b>	88.50 Eaton (4) - #1 Ottawa 87.00 Eaton (1)
<b>2009</b>	134.25 Johnston/Butler (14) – WR 127.25 Jutras (3) - #6 world	<b>2002</b>	<b>83.90 Berenji</b> (2) – Serbia
<b>2008</b>	None	<b>2001</b>	<b>91.50 Barlow</b> (2) – WI record

Our Long Gourds (*Lagenaria Siceraria*) originated in Africa and were spread to Europe, Asia and the Americas over many thousands of years. Evolution and selection by humans have evolved many variations and uses. The reader can find lots more interesting information about them on the internet.

My part in this historic adventure started when I crossed the "**83.9 Berenji 02**" with the "**91.5 Barlow 01**", this produced my 87 and 88.5 of 2003. The 83.9 (213 cm) seed came from Dr. Janos Berenji of Novi Sad, Serbia, on the Danube River. He is a noted plant scientist who ran a gourd competition near the city of Novi Sad. The 91.5 was produced by John Barlow of Wisconsin. It can be traced back to the "80 Carlson 99". Dan Carlson, Iowa, tells me his seed was from the P & P Seed Co. and sold as the Collins Long Gourd.

From the above crosses, things began to happen. My friend here, Ron Wallis, grew the "114 Wallis 04" from the 88.5. We took it to the big Toronto Italian competition where he won a one year free lease on a new car. We estimate there were 100 growers at that competition. It was very exciting with TV cameras, a band, Italian language singers, etc. In a few of the following years I twice won the

car too. The 114 also beat the world record "110.63 P. Waterman 94". While there, an Italian-Canadian grower, Mr. Corteso, wanted to trade seeds and I got the "**94 Corteso 04**" seed. Growers there told me all their seed came directly from Sicily and Italy, where they are known as Sicilian Zucchini and/or Cucuzza. On Google check out **Cucuzza** as well as **Serbia Bottle Gourds**.

Next I got another friend here, Tony El-Kassis, to grow some plants including the Corteso seed, which he crossed with my "87 Eaton 03".

This set us up with good genes from the 3 different "gene pools" and the 3 LGs that are solely behind the 2015 world record. I want to emphasize that Ron Wallis, Tony El-Kassis and Brant Timm were 3 local friends that grew the seed that helped produce some of this good offspring. As far as I know these 3 LGs were unrelated for years, maybe even centuries.

The next big step was the WR "126.5 Jutras 06 -- 104 Eaton 05 x 82 El-Kassis 05". This started a string of world records through the "127.56 Urena 07", the "134.25 Johnston-Butler 09", the "135 Jacobus 10" and the "135.94 Martin 11".



The world of genes can work in mysterious ways due partly to the fact that seeds in a LG are somewhat different from each other. The most awesome recent crosses were by Fred Ansems, Nova Scotia, when he crossed 2 seeds from Dave Rumancik, Ohio, with a seed from Todd Kline, Quebec. Fred produced the WR "139.25 Ansems 13" and #2 in the world "137.50 Ansems 13", on different mothers. These Kline and Rumancik seeds have entirely descended from the three seeds highlighted above. The Ansems seeds are outstanding mothers and are now dominating the modern LG gene pool as can readily be seen in the GPC listing at [bigpumpkins.com](http://bigpumpkins.com).

To sum up, this is just a hobby, but a fascinating one that brings a lot of satisfaction. Take note that the LG record has increased on average about 4"/year over the time of this report and it will continue to rise, but at a lesser rate over the coming years. It would not be the same without good records, good friends to trade seeds with and the listings that show the results on BP.com, where the world's best LG growers can compare their creations each year.

## Analytical Report

So I recently received an email from a European grower stating that the Europeans will never be able to match the Americans because of the sheer number of them that grow pumpkins.

The same seems true of Canadian growers. There just aren't enough of them. And many of them don't have the excellent climate many American states have. This is not true of Europe. There are many countries that have ideal climates for growing pumpkins. Just not enough interest as pumpkins are not native to Europe.

So I took a look at all of the 1000 lb plus pumpkins (GPC and non-GPC) grown this year throughout the world and did the maths. This is what slowly evolved and it did not look good for Canada or Europe for that matter.

<b>1500+</b>	<b>Total: 139</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Europe</i>	15	10.8
Belgium	4	2.9
France	1	0.7
Germany	4	2.9
Italy	2	1.4
Switzerland	2	1.4
United Kingdom	1	0.7
New Zealand	1	0.7
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.6</b>
United States	119	85.6
<b>1350-1499</b>	<b>Total: 105</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Europe</i>	18	16.8
Belgium	2	1.9
France	1	0.9
Germany	2	1.9
Netherlands	2	1.9
<b>Canada</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10.3</b>
United States	87	81.3

<b>1250-1349</b>	<b>Total: 91</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Europe</i>	10	11.0
France	3	3.3
Germany	6	6.6
United Kingdom	1	1.1
<b>Canada</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15.4</b>
United States	67	73.6
<b>1100-1249</b>	<b>Total: 156</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Europe</i>	16	10.3
Austria	2	1.3
Belgium	2	1.3
France	2	1.3
Germany	5	3.2
Italy	2	1.3
Netherlands	1	0.6
Slovenia	1	0.6
Switzerland	1	0.6
<b>Canada</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18.6</b>
United States	111	71.2
<b>1000-1099</b>	<b>Total: 140</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Europe</i>	24	17.1
Austria	3	2.1
Germany	5	3.6
Italy	7	5.0
Netherlands	4	2.9
Slovenia	1	0.7
Switzerland	4	2.9
<b>Canada</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>19.3</b>
United States	89	63.6
<b>1000-2230</b>	<b>Total: 631</b>	<b>100%</b>
USA	473	74.7
<i>Europe</i>	88	13.9
<b>Canada</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>13.6</b>
Germany	22	3.5
Italy	11	1.7
Belgium	8	1.3
France	7	1.1
Netherlands	7	1.1
Switzerland	7	1.1
Austria	5	0.8
Slovenia	2	0.3
United Kingdom	2	0.3
New Zealand	1	0.2

The lower the weights go, the better the Canadian percentages get, and that is not a good thing. At 1500-2230 lbs, only 3.6% were grown by Canadians, while 10.8% were grown by Europeans. In the lowest category, Canada has an overwhelming

19.3%, which is way too high seeing as only 13.6% percent of growers are Canadian.

But the European I got the email from was certainly not wrong about the sheer number of American growers. Three-quarters of all (serious) growers come from below our border. But what would happen if we all had the same population? I mean, no changes to the ratio of growers to non-growers in a country, and no changes to the climate or whatever. Simply sheer numbers.

<i>Equalized population</i>	<b>Total: 631</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Canada</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>28.8</b>
USA	112	17.7
Slovenia	75	11.9
Switzerland	67	10.6
Belgium	56	8.9
Austria	46	7.3
Netherlands	31	4.9
Germany	21	3.3
New Zealand	17	2.7
Italy	14	2.2
France	8	1.7
United Kingdom	2	0.3

The results are obvious. If we Canadians had just as many inhabitants as the USA, we would have dominated the pumpkin results. Just saying...

In real truth, some of the European countries are really amazing, especially Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland and the Netherlands. In those countries there are less than 10 growers in total per country.

But no time to pat ourselves on the back. We need to get up there in the top category. Buy a greenhouse, move to St. Catharines, get a friend and neighbour to grow. Let's get 'em.

## Photo Collage



## New Products

### BigStem

*Every so often new products show up on the market aiming to boost pumpkin weights. This season there were two: anthesis and BigStem. Matthew DeBacco hopes to explain anthesis in our next newsletter. This time university student Tanner Conway explains BigStem.*

I will start this article by giving a little background about myself. My name is **Tanner Conway**. I am twenty-one years old. A nine-year grower from southern Minnesota and I have a personal best of 1170 pounds (hopefully next year will be much larger). I currently study horticulture at the University of River Falls in Wisconsin.

While doing my studies at the university I became very interested in tissue culture where I learned and gained a vast amount of knowledge about PGR's (plant growth regulators). My professor, Dr. David Zlesak, really took me under his wing and taught me everything I wanted to know about how hormones affect different factors of the plant. I would like to thank him for all he has done to help me to come up with my product BigStem. While my professor and I were doing research on plants in tissue culture we became aware of a sugar naturally made in the plant called **trehalose**. We learned about the effects it had from another university and started to look more into it. We discovered both through research and are own findings that adding trehalose to the growing media greatly reduces the stress factors of the plant. These factors include,

but are not limited to, a higher tolerance of abiotic stress, improved growth performance under drought related conditions, better controlled uptake of both hormones and nutrients to the plants.

Trehalose's biggest effect seems to be keeping the plant healthier by greatly reducing a lot of the common stress factors found in the plant.

This led to my idea of creating a product that contained trehalose that could help the people of the GPC grow bigger pumpkins. I started to brainstorm the idea with my professor and I came up with the product BigStem which has 250 ppm of trehalose and 50 ppm of cytokine. The cytokine was something I added because light part per million (ppm) is proven to help keep cells healthier and keep leaves from sunburning which I believed to be another crucial factor to add growth late in the season. While working on the product I talked with a few growers who suggested that people apply the product to the stem area. This is due to the stem being one of the most, if not the most important parts of the plant. The stem acts as a pressure valve allowing growth to go into the pumpkin. Applying the product to the stem should help regulate the pressure of flow going into the pumpkin reducing the chances of getting a split from surges in the growth. This idea led to the name of the product as BigStem. With the idea that applying it to the stem would help turgor pressure regulation it also seemed clear that applying it to the stump of the plant was also a good idea. This way it helps regulate the growth to

reduce chances of a foamy stump. The rest of the product, after being applied to these two key areas, would then be sprayed onto the leaves as well.

Now that you have a background of what BigStem is made out of and how it works, how do you go about applying it to the plant and how many times a session do you need to apply it? I will start by saying that I have not got all testing done on when to apply it but because this product is aimed at reducing stress, the best predictions I can give to as when to apply it to have the best success would be: one application at day two, the next application at day thirty, and the last application at day seventy. These to me seem to be key stages in the fruit development and applying BigStem at these stages will in theory greatly reduce stress factors of the plant and cause a better and longer growth cycle.

The testing of this product is still very new as only two people used it this past session, myself and Josiah Brant. We both seemed to have much success with it as he grew two large pumpkins: one at 1965 lbs and the other at 2185 lbs using BigStem. I myself grew a new personal best of 1170 lbs with only one application. My test pumpkin split on me as I applied a too high concentration of BigStem on it. This pumpkin was pollinated July 22nd and was still doing twenty-four pounds a day when it split going into the second week of September. Had it made it, it could have been a great pumpkin!

Thank you for reading about my product BigStem. It will be for sale this session at

\$15 a set so \$45 to get the three applications. Each application needs to be stored in a refrigerator until ready to use. Each application is set up to be mixed with one gallon of water and needs to be used within 24 hours of being mixed for the hormone to take effect. If you have any further questions about BigStem or would like to order some for next year please feel free to contact me.

[tanner.n.conway@gmail.com](mailto:tanner.n.conway@gmail.com).

Tanner Conway

## Trehalose

*Trehalose* is also known as *mycose* or *tremalose*. It is implicated in *anhydrobiosis* — the ability of plants and animals to withstand prolonged periods of *desiccation* (extreme dryness). It has high water retention capabilities, and is used in food and cosmetics.

The sugar is thought to form a gel phase as cells dehydrate, which prevents disruption of internal cell *organelles* (specialized subunits within a cell), by effectively splinting them in position. Rehydration then allows normal cellular activity to be resumed without the major, lethal damage that would normally follow a dehydration/rehydration cycle.

*Trehalose* has the added advantage of being an antioxidant.

Within the plant kingdom, *Selaginella* (sometimes called the resurrection plant), which grows in desert and mountainous areas, may be cracked and dried out, but will turn green again and revive after a rain because of the function of *trehalose*.

Source: adapted from wikipedia