Grower's Vine

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

GVGO Spring Newsletter 2014

Volume 2 Issue 3

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

GVGO
4376 Hwy 35 N
Cameron, ON K0M 1G0
www.gvgo.ca
gvgo@i-zoom.net

Editor Notes

Welcome to the spring 2014 edition of the GVGO newsletter. This is our first look at the coming spring and summer season. From glomalin to new proteins this issue is packed full of growing tips. We carry on doing our best!

Preserving the tradition of the most respected resource publication for giant vegetable growers in the Commonwealth is our mission. We defend our vision to share friendship, knowledge and growing experiences with growers by reaching club members throughout the world.

The story of growing the Great Pumpkin and Giant Vegetables is revealed inside. We know you can grow your own great pumpkin, and maybe win a prized ribbon. Follow these steps to grow pumpkins and vegetables so large that the judges will stare at them with wonder.

Join us as the GVGO is only beginning to explore the keys to unlocking the secrets of the giants.

Time to Renew

Sign up or renew your 2014 GVGO membership today by Paypal.

GVGO Fund Raising goal of 4k exceeded

The fall 2013 > GVGO Web Board Auctions raised nearly $ 2,000
The first GVGO > Big Pumpkins, International Time Zone Auction was held on Jan 12, 2014. Raised $ 3,155.
Seed Sales > have raised nearly $ 1,000 to date.

SECURE PAYMENTS BY PayPal

DUNKEL'S TOMATO TURBO

!!*FOR SERIOUS TOMATO GROWERS ONLY*!!

Dunkel's Tomato Turbo

$14.99- Includes enough for ten plants for entire growing season.

http://www.dunkelsfertilizer.com/index.html

For the serious tomato growers only! Dunkel's Tomato Turbo is our exclusive secret blend that we use to grow huge tomatoes for giant tomato growing competitions. This super potent blend of all natural ingredients could allow your tomatoes to grow to record sizes. This blend could take your tomatoes to sizes you only dreamed of!

Visit: dunkelsfertilizer.com.....Canadian & PayPal orders accepted

Dunkel's Organic Fertilizer - Dunkels Tomato Supply Store

Dunkel's Giant Tomato Contest

$250.00 Cash Prize

Calcium Amino Acid Chelate

Translocation of Calcium

The two highways in giants are the two way phloem and the one way xylem. They extend out widely to all parts of the plants extended vascular network. Nutrients are carried throughout the network by Chelation or joining together the elements to form molecules. This is natural process as the soils elements are naturally transformed by the plant into amio acids before entering the plants root system.

Glycine chelates (amino acids) are a type of natural chelator that has been proven to be the most effective in supplying mineral nutrients to plants in order to correct nutrient deficiencies. Glycine is the smallest amino acid with a low molecular weight. Claims abound about glycines ability to transport Ca through the leaf structures and into the phloem.

Kahuna's Keys: There is scant, hard, peer reviewed evidence. In truth, if Ca and Amino Acid foliar solutions actually translocate into and move into the plants phloem networks including the fruit sink this could be exciting news. I would try it *Wink. Wink*.

Helping you grow bigger fruit.

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

By Phil Joynson & Russ Landry

From the Office of *Phil*

It's one of the high lights the growing season. That time of year when the days get longer and the sun beats down a bit harder. After a very hard, long cold winter the grower's mind turns to their long neglected vegetable patch and plans for total giant veggie world domination. Having spent the winter reading about our favorite fruits we plot out new tactics, methods and the best seed stock we can find. "What did I do wrong?" and" What did I do right?' last year. Every good gardener has to ask themselves these questions during the off season. Doing the same thing year after year and expecting different results is amongst the first signs of insanity. Ask questions, research things and use the resources the GVGO offers to help get the most out of your patch and enjoy the experience more.

A few short things to mention

Please do your best to attend the GVGO annual spring seminar. It will again be in Breslau as it was last year. The date is Saturday the 29th of March. Details found in this newsletter. We will be tackling some real important issues this year and we very much need the input from the membership. Not all the things to be brought up are of a positive nature but we need to make some tough choices if we want to thrive as a club and carry on into the future. We will also have a guest speaker, Russ Landry will give his "Landry Report"(always the most interesting aspect of the seminar) as well as the usual awards given out and updates about the weigh-offs. If your weigh-off would like to do a short presentation, please let me know ahead of time and I'll pencil in some time for your group into the day's agenda. One group that will be doing a short presentation and the awarding of the "Orange

Jacket" is the Port Elgin group. Sally assures me that she'll answer all questions about the jacket (yes, the GVGO does have some input as to what's happening with this) and the new prize structure at Port Elgin.

Executive Board Changes

It is with regret that I mention **Pat Watson** has decided to step down from the club executive board. Family commitments are of a bigger importance in Pat's life right now. I'd like to thank Pat for all the time and effort he put into the GVGO these last few years.

Phil and Jane Hunt have also decided to greatly reduce their GVGO role and just concentrate on the club book keeping and their own patch. Let's face it folks, if it weren't for the Hunts, there would be no GVGO. This will be a tough role to fill. Thanks for all the work since the beginning.

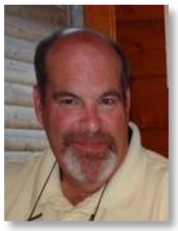
Speaking of filling the holes on the executive board… **Be aware that we need people to step up and take a major role on the board. We will need a few willing volunteers to help out and keep the club viable. If you have a talent and the time to help out, then please do.**

Thanks and I hope to see most of you on the 29th.

Phil

Time to Renew

From the Office of *Russ*



I thank you all for your continued support and hope that you will join us for the 2014 Spring & Summer season.

Giving you the best possible growing advice, continues to be the GVGO's goal.

The spring 2014 newsletter features more on a trip to New York with Dawn and Bill Northrup. Add in contributions by Sally Hunt, Brad Wurston, Chris Lyons. These articles are followed by area news from Pat Watson (Ontario), Claude Colbert (Quebec), Don Crews (West).

Followed up by featured grower Ian Paton and numerous growing tips about Maters, FP's and Watermelons from Chris Kent and Shannon's wife's view of the pumpkin world.

From web site content, annual seed giveaways, seminars, patch tours, bulk purchasing and pertinent growing information we are confident in saying we are truly one of the best giant vegetable growers clubs in the world.

Looking forward to helping you and the GVGO thrive in 2014 and beyond.Wishing you,

Good luck & Good Growing
Sincerely, Russ

gvgo.ca

GVGO Memberships

Run from January 1st - December 31st

Pay it Now, to get the annual seed giveaway
by: PayPal, email money transfer or mail

PayPal to: gvgogrowers@gmail.com
Email Direct Transfer To: gvgogrowers@gmail.com
Mail To: C/O Jane Hunt, GVGO Treasurer
4376 Hwy 35 N
Cameron, Ontario
Canada
K0M 1G0

Single...$30...Family...$40...out of province...$30 US or CAD

- Full Voting Privileges, with eligibility to hold office. (Ontario Residents Only)
- Entry into club seminars & meetings
- 10% discount on soil analysis from A&L Canada Labs in London, Ontario
- Seed giveaway - (several + seeds in every pack)
- 3 Newsletters
- Entry into patch tours
- Eligible for the GVGO Championship Largest Pumpkin (Ontario Residents Only)

Add to Cart

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

is now on facebook.

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

Editors: Nathan & Jennifer Veitch

CEC

Cation Exchange Capacity

of soil is a measure of its ability to hold and freely release various elements, compounds and nutrients.

CEC is the measure how much nutrients soil can hold and its ability to hold plant available nutrients that are in easily uptake-able forms.

Cations pronounced ``cat-eye-on`` are either positive or negative.

Positive (+) charges are called cations, K, Ca, Mg

Negative charges (-) are called an anions, pronounced ann-eye-on.

Key: ***Higher the CEC, the higher the soil***

INSIDE THIS VINE

7 Controls for Foaming……. Stump!!!!!
8 GVGO 9th Annual Seminar.
9 Canadian One Thousand Pound Pumpkins. by: **Chris Lyons**
11 All time Top one hundred Canadian Pumpkins by: **Chris Lyons**
13 Treating & Control of Powdery Mildew. **by: Rocco Brewer**
16 Wiki Links, Trichoderma.
17 *World Wide Giant Growers (WWGG)*
18 Port Elgin Pumpkinfest **by: Sally Hunt**
21 Watermelons Chris Kent. **From You Tube & Mark Clementz**
22 GPC Giant Tomato
23 "Grow Them All" by **Master Gardeners: Jane & Phil Hunt.**
26 GVGO Top Ten List, **by: Phil Joynson**
27 A Wife's Perspective, **by: Shannon Landry**
29 **Southern Ontario by: Pat Watson**
29 Euro News, **by: Brad Wursten**
32 East Coast News, **by: Dawn Northrup**
35 Catapano Mater Genetics
36 Western Report, **by: Don Crew**
37 **Featured Grower. Ian Paton**
41 GVGO Sticky Leaks. Pythium
42 Field Pumpkin OTT Chart
43 GVGO Survey Results
44 Announcements
45 Quebec, Gentilly seed sale, **by: Claude Colbert**
46. Calendar of Events

Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

Mineral Junction

Calcium (Ca)

Deficiency problems

- hinder bud growth;
- roots can turn black and rot;
- young leaves are scalloped and abnormally green;
- leaf tips may stick together;
- cupping of maturing leaves;
- blossom end rot of many fruits, pits on root vegetables;
- stem structure is weak;
- premature shedding or aborted fruit and buds

Foaming Stumps

Is it still a problem for growers?

We thought it is was cause by

- **A viral or fungal condition? No**
- **Excessive moisture condition? No**
- **A parasite? No**
- **A disease? No**

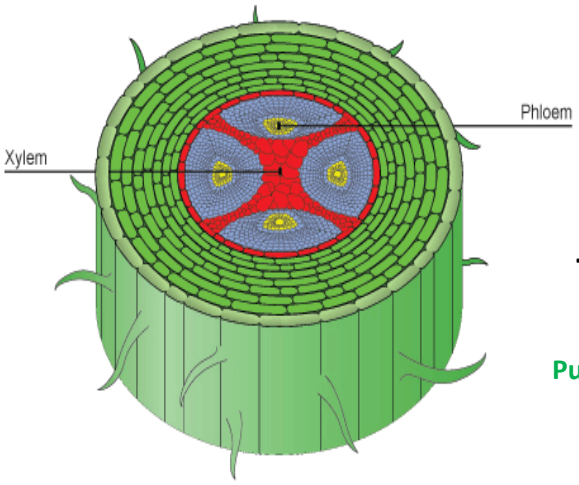
White or clear fluid leaks from the vines fruits growth rate suddenly slows.

Foaming stump is really cavitation or air bubbles forming in the lower xylem tissues of pumpkin plants. It is the formation of vapor bubbles of the flowing liquid through the vine stem. The pressure of the liquid falls below its vapor pressure and develops an embolism.

It's the process where a void or bubble in a liquid rapidly collapses, producing a shock wave.

The cavitation damages or ruptures the xylem cells of the AGP's main vine.

- The repeated cycle of (gas-filled cells) damages the cells structure. It is driven by environmental stress.
- Xylem ruptures > ultimately result in extensive internal damage and then begin to develop a whitish foaming liquid coming from the stump area percolated or dripping continuously from the damaged vine stem.



The cause is unsustainable canopy transpiration rates during high heat and or low humidity.

Pumpkin Vine Xylem Cavitation reduces a plant's capacity to move water and nutrients from the crown soil area up and into the leaves and developing fruit sinks.

The cure is to control excessive transpiration. This can be accomplished by misting as cooling reduces the xylem demand cause by the high rate of evaporation from the leaves stomata.

Growers can also consider the use of anti-transpiration sprays or use known stomata closers such as Co2 sprays.

The 9th Annual GVGO > AGM, Awards Day & Seminar.

March 29th. Breslau, ON (near Kitchener).

same location as last year

The GVGO Awards will be presented.
Door prizes and Grower gifts to the attendees.
The "Big Momma" growing contest will be reviewed.
New Discussion & Club policies and voting changes.
Grower bulk products distribution for pre orders sales.

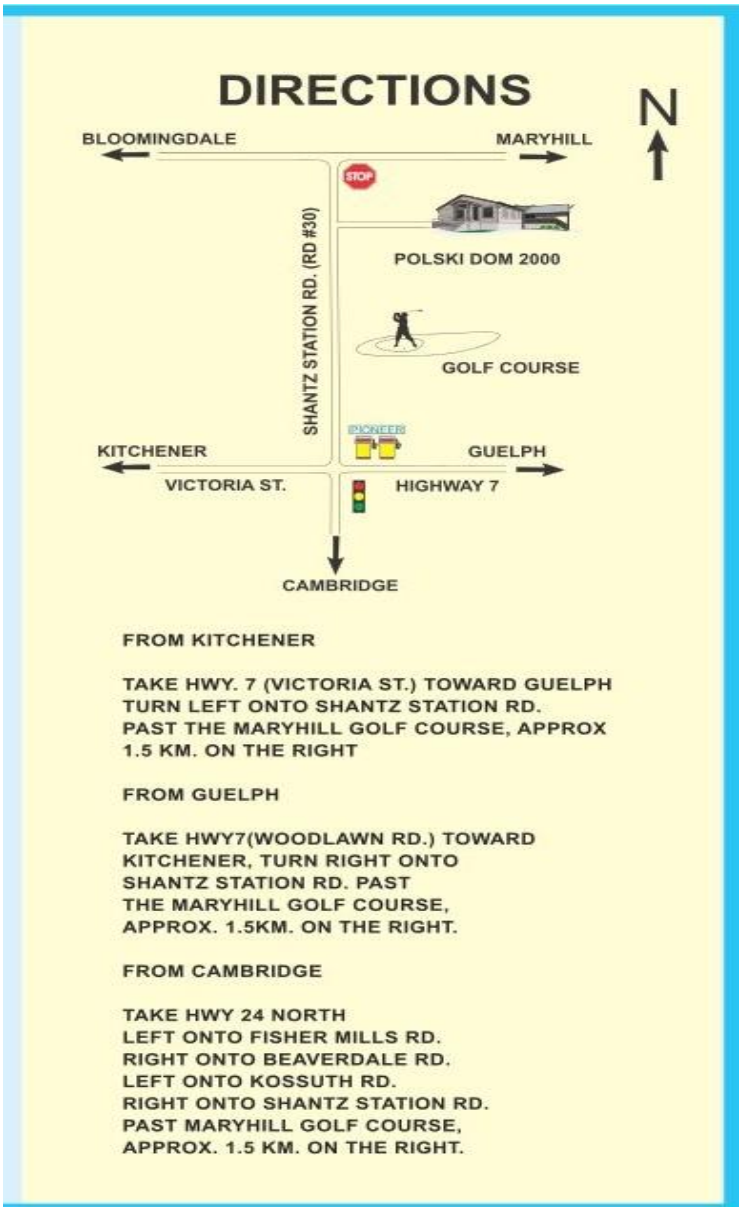
Hope to see you there!

GVGO 2014 Seminar Directions

Registration is from 8:00 to 9:00am

Location: Polski Dom
2711 Shantz Station Road
Breslau, Ontario, N0B 1M0

Take the HWY-24 S/RR-24
S/Hespeler Rd exit, exit 282
Turn North onto Hespeler Rd/HWY-24 N/RR-24 N. (Left from West London) (Right from Toronto)
Turn left onto Maple Grove Rd.
Turn right onto Beaverdale Rd/RR-32.
Turn left onto Kossuth Rd/RR-31.
Turn right onto Shantz Station Rd/RRHall
is on Right hand side 2711 SHANTZ STATION ROAD
Look for red steel gates at entrance



Top 1,000 Lb. Pumpkins in 2013

By: Chris Lyons 

Giant pumpkins over 1,000 lbs grown in Canada and officially weighed at competition.

Name	Weight	Hometown	Site
1. Bill and Dawn Northrup **	1,813	Sussex, NB	1 WIN
2. Jane and Phil Hunt	1,545	Cameron, ON	1 PEO
3. Joel and Justus Jarvis	1,497	St. Thomas, ON	2 PEO
4. Brian Corrin	1,474	Naniamo, BC	1 NAN
5. Jane and Phil Hunt	1,472	Cameron, ON	1 WOD
6. Ryan Hoelke	1,463.5	Eganville, ON	1 WEL
7. Fred Hain	1,451	London, ON	2 WOD
8. Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,450	Ormstown, QC	3 PEO
9. Claude Colbert	1,447	Sainte-Croix, QC	1 GEN
10. John Matesa	1,442.5	Breslau, ON	2 WEL
11. Brian Kenneally	1,381	New Minas, NS	2 WIN
12. Ben Johnson	1,367	Kakabecka Falls, ON	1 MUR
13. Kristine & Brooklyn Jarvis	1,353	St. Thomas, ON	4 PEO
14. Ryan Hoelke	1,351.4	Eganville, ON	1 PEM
15. Mike Aasman	1,320.5	Guelph, ON	5 PEO
16. Laurent Mallet	1,318	Haut-Shippahan, NB	1 NEG
16. Richard Nieuwenhoff	1,318	Ayton, ON	1 ERI
18. Marc Labbe	1,317	Sainte-Ann-Du-Sault, QC	2 GEN
19. Claude Colbert	1,311	Sainte-Croix, QC	3 GEN
20. Brandon Timm	1,305.1	Pembroke, ON	2 PEM
21. Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,293.5	Ormstown, QC	5 COO
22. Phil Joynson	1,293	Enniskillen, ON	2 ERI
23. Leo Swinimer	1,283	New Ross, NS	3 WIN
24. Mike McAvity	1,277.5	Komoka, ON	1 PEOS
25. Jeff Warner	1,271	Englehart, ON	6 PEO
26. Fred Hain	1,264.5	London, ON	7 PEO
27. Todd Kline	1,253.5	Shawville, QC	3 WEL
28. Frank Ansems	1,249	North Alton, NS	4 WIN
29. Todd Kline	1,248.9	Shawville, QC	3 PEM
30. Harley Sproule	1,236	Ormstown, QC	8 PEO
31. Louis-Claude Therrien	1,224.7	Luskville, QC	4 PEM
32. Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,220.3	Ormstown, QC	5 PEM
33. Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,218.5	Ormstown, QC	3 WOD
34. Mario Morin	1,216	Saint-Georges, QC	1 STG
35. Don Crews	1,213.8	Lloydminster, AB	1 SMO
36. Bob and Elaine Mackenzie	1,212	Tiverton, ON	2 PEOS
37. Todd Kline	1,210	Shawville, QC	5 COO
37. Bill Smeltzer	1,210	Kentville, NS	5 WIN
39. Dave McQuay	1,199.5	Kitchener, ON	3 PEOS
40. Jeff Warner	1,192.5	Englehart, ON	4 PEOS
41. Greg Montgomery	1,170	Port Carling, ON	4 WOD
42. Greg Montgomery	1,163.5	Port Carling, ON	9 PEO
43. Andrew Ansems	1,158	Sheffield Mills, NS	6 WIN
44. Fred Ansems	1,142	Steam Mill, NS	7 WIN
45. Russ Landry	1,140.5	Everett, ON	5 WEL
46. Jeff Reid	1,133	Waterville, NS	8 WIN
47. Fred Ansems	1,122	Kentville, NS	1 WAT
48. Dave McQuay	1,120	Kitchener, ON	10 PEO
49. Henrey Banmen	1,111.5	Schanzenfield, MN	1 ROL

50. Harley Sproule	1,102.5	Ormstown, QC	6 PEM
51. Paul Dettweiler	1,098	Maryhill, ON	11 PEO
52. Keith Maclellan	1,085	Briston, ON	7 PEM
53. Jake VanKooten	1,074	Port Alberni, BC	2 NAN
54. Evan Bartel	1,067	Morris, MN	2 ROL
55. Mahmood Naqui	1,065	Sydney, NS	1 MIL
56. Dave Reimer	1,048.5	Roland, MN	3 ROL
57. Alan Aten	1,045	Springvale, PE	1 SPR
58. Dave McQuay	1,044	Kitchener, ON	1 BRA
59. Mike Rusenstrom	1,043.9	Bristol, QC	8 PEM
60. Dave Chan	1,043	Richmond, BC	1 LAN
61.Alex McKay	1,039.5	Port Perry, ON	5 PEOS
62. Art Johnston	1,038.5	St.Thomas, ON	5 WOD
63. Will Neily	1,036	Paradise, NS	9 WIN
64. Andrew Ansems	1,031	Sheffield, NS	2 WAT
65. Art Cameron	1,004.5	Roland, MN	4 ROL
66. Don Cronk	1,001	Thunder Bay, ON	2 MUR

** Denotes new provincial record

Comparison of 2013 results with the prior years

2013 - 66 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,505 lbs**
2012 - 66 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,587 lbs.**
2011 - 56 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,520 lbs.**
2010 - 77 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,413 lbs.**
2009 - 45 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,338 lbs.**
2008 - 55 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,344 lbs.**
2007 - 35 Over 1,000 lbs. Top 10 average = **1,238 lbs.**

Heard at the GPC, Orlando Convention

Pollination of Flowers: instead of using males to pollinate flowers consider the use of a **"cue tip."**

Pollen grains readily stick to the Cue Tip. There use allows the grower to spread the pollen grains evenly over the entire stamen and reach behind and underneath its appendages.

Studies indicate that higher rates of pollination in female flowers may help to develop stronger sinks

Gary Miller of Napa, California.

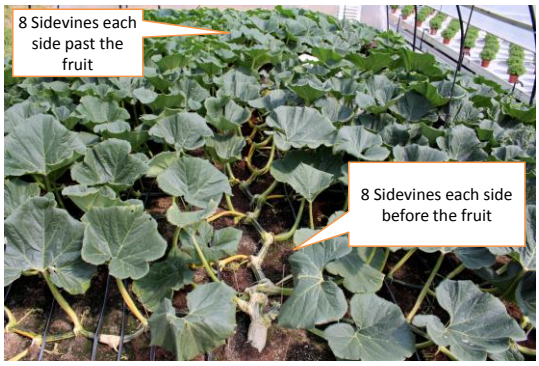
Gary grew the worlds # 2 pumpkin in 2013.

1985 Miller 13 (2009 Wallace 12 x 1725 Harp 09) 453" ott, 10%H.

All Time List of Canadian Pumpkins

By: Chris Lyons 2013

Placing	Name	Weight	Hometown	Year
1.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	** 1,818.5	Ormstown,QC	2011
2.	Bill and Dawn Northrup	1,813	Sussex, NB	2013
3.	Carl Graham	1,811	Donkin, NB	2012
5.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,753	Ormstown, QC	2012
6.	Gerard Ansems	1,727	Kentville, NB	2012
7.	Chris Delaney	1,684.5	Pickering, ON	2012
8.	Phil and Jane Hunt	1,677.5	Cameron, ON	2009
9.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,657.6	Ormstown, QC	2011
10.	Harley Sproule	1,650.8	Ormstown, QC	2011
11.	Greg Montgomery	1,641.1	Port Carling, ON	2011
12.	Claude Colbert	1,630	Sainte- Croix, QC	2012
13.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,618.2	Ormstown, QC	2010
14.	Phil and Jane Hunt	1,545	Cameron, ON	2009
15.	Jake VanKooten	1,536.5	Port Alberni, BC	2008
16.	Harley Sproule	1,522	Ormstown, QC	2012
17.	Joel and Justus Jarvis	1,497	St. Thomas, ON	2013
18.	Todd Kline	1,489.6	Shawville, QC	2010
19.	Brain Corrin	1,474	Naniamo, BC	2013
20.	Phil and Jane Hunt	1,472	Cameron, ON	2013
21.	Edmund Hemphill	1,468	Mount Pleasant, NB	2010
22.	Phil and Jane Hunt	1,464.8	Cameron, ON	2011
23.	Joel Jarvis	1,464.5	St. Thomas, ON	2012
24.	Ryan Hoelke	1,463.5	Eganville, ON	2013
25.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,456	Ormstown, QC	2012
26.	Eric Sundin	1,451.5	Stoney Creek, ON	2009
27.	Fred Hain	1,451	London , ON	2013
28.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,450	Ormstown, QC	2013
29.	Claude Colbert	1,447	Saint- Croix, QC	2013
30.	Alan Eaton	* 1,446	Richmond, ON	2004
31.	John Matesa	1,442.5	Breslau, ON	2013
32.	Bill and Dawn Northrup	1,432	Sussex, NB	2009
33.	Todd Kline	1,430.8	Shawville, QC	2011
34.	Joel Jarvis	1,427.4	St. Thomas, ON	2011
35.	Jeff Reid	1,419	Waterville, NS	2010
36.	Don Cronk	1,411	Thunder Bay, ON	2012
37.	Todd Kline	1,408.5	Shawville, QC	2012
38.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,404.4	Ormstown, QC	2010
39.	Darrell Leonard	1,395.5	Wyeville, ON	2008
40.	John Nieuwenhoff	1,386	Georgetown, ON	2012
41.	Chris Delaney	1,381	Pickering, ON	2012
41.	Brian Kenneally	1,381	New Minas, NS	2013
43.	Henry Banman	1,379.5	Schanzenfeld, MB	2011
44.	Dave Pitura	1,378.5	Merrickville, ON	2007
45.	Bob Mackenzie	1,376.6	Tiverton, ON	2010
46.	Brian Dueck / Andrew Papez	1,373	St. Catherines, ON	2003
47.	George Lloyd	1,372.8	Simcoe, ON	2011
48.	Chris Lyons	1,367	Scarborough, ON	2010
48.	Ben Johnson	1,367	Kakabecka Falls, ON	2013
50.	Brant and Brandon Timm	1,360	Pembroke, ON	2011
51.	John Mackinnon	1,356.5	Strathlorne, NS	2012
52.	Andre Marion	1,355.5	Penetanguishene, ON	2006
53.	Kristine and Brooklyn Jarvis	1,353	St. Thomas, ON	2013
54.	Ryan Hoelke	1,351.4	Eganville, ON	2013



55.	Jeff Warner	1,347	Englehart, ON	2012
56.	Deanna Lloyd	1,344.8	Simcoe, ON	2010
57.	Chris Lyons	1,343.5	Scarborough, ON	2008
58.	Harley Sproule	1,343.4	Ormstown, QC	2008
59.	John Vincent	1,339.5	Picton, ON	2009
60.	Todd Kline	1,337	Shawville, QC	2008
61.	Art Johnston / John Butler	1,330.5	St. Thomas, ON	2009
62.	Phil and Jane Hunt	1,329.7	Cameron, ON	2010
63.	Bryan Dueck	1,327.5	St. Catherines, ON	2005
64.	Mike Aasman	1,320.5	Guelph, ON	2013
65.	Clifford Picketts	1,318	Kensington, PE	2010
65.	Laurent Mallet	1,318	Haut-Shippahan, NB	2013
65.	Richard Nieuwenhoff	1,318	Ayton, ON	2013
68.	Marc Labbe	1,317	Sainte-Ann-Du-Sault, QC	2013
69.	Edmund Hemphill	1,315	Mount Pleasant, NB	2010
69.	Clifford Picketts	1,315	Kensington, PE	2008
71.	John Matesa	1,313	Breslau, ON	2012
72.	Harley Sproule	1,312	Ormstown, QC	2011
73.	Claude Colbert	1,311	Sainte-Croix, QC	2013
74.	Dave Pitura	1,310.5	Merrickville, ON	2008
75.	Pierre Slusarek	1,310	Latuque, QC	2006
76.	Glen and Meagan Cheam	1,309.7	Stittsville, ON	2010
77.	Ben Hebb	1,309	Bridgewater, NS	2008
78.	Brandon Timm	1,305.1	Pembroke, ON	2013
79.	Art Johnston	1,302.5	St. Thomas, ON	2007
80.	Todd Kline	1,302	Shawville, QC	2012
81.	Alan Eaton	1,301.5	Richmond, ON	2003
82.	Harley Sproule	1,294	Ormstown, QC	2011
83.	Jim and Kelsey Bryson	1,293.5	Ormstown, QC	2013
84.	Phil Joynson	1,293	Enniskillen, ON	2013
85.	Jeff Reid	1,292	Waterville, NS	2012
86.	Jake VanKooten	1,287	Port Alberni, BC	2005
87.	Leo Swinimer	1,283	New Ross, NS	2013
88.	Donna Hebb	1,281	Bridgewater, NS	2008
89.	Carl Graham	1,280	Donkin, NS	2010
90.	Mike McAvity	1,277.5	Komoka, ON	2013
91.	Ray Beaudin	1,275.5	Coalhurst, AB	2012
92.	Don Crews	1,274	Lloydminster, AB	2012
93.	John Lyons	1,273	Baltimore, ON	2008
94.	Jeff Warner	1,271	Englehart, ON	2013
95.	Brant and Brandon Timm	1,267.8	Pembroke, ON	2010
96.	John Nieuwenhoff	1,266	Georgetown, ON	2011
97.	Elaine Mackenzie	1,265.2	Tiverton, ON	2010
98.	Fred Hain	1,264.5	London, ON	2013
99.	Todd Kline	1,264	Shawville, QC	2009
100.	Dave Pitura	1,263.8	Merrickville, ON	2007

* World record 2004
** World record 2011

Powdery Mildew

By: Rocco Brewer

Powdery Mildew (PM) is often seen as white or grey spots with a powdery coating of thread like fuzzy patches. It covers the top surfaces of plant leaves, stems and flower petals. The cause is an infection of a common fungus resulting in foliar problems ranging from reduced visual appeal, plant health and vigor to fruit yield reductions at harvest. Although PM rarely destroys affected plants, it can wield an uncertain outcome and havoc upon them.

Obligate intracellular parasite

The PM fungus is a parasite. It is technically termed as an obligate intracellular parasite meaning it grows and completes its life cycle only on living plant tissues. PM is well-known, widely prevalent and is found in a multitude of plant specific species and families. It also attacks plants grown both indoors and out. There are numerous types and varieties of PM fungi that produce similar symptoms in host affected ornamental and vegetable plants. Most are problematic, difficult eradicate and treat after an infection has begun. Fortunately for growers it is one of the easiest of plant leaf diseases to diagnose and recognize.

PM is easy to Diagnose

Indoor greenhouses climates are often ideal breading grounds for developing the disease and spreading of its often flourishing spores. PM can grow in doors at any time under favourable greenhouse conditions. It can be spread from previously infected cuttings or transplants. Outdoors it usually appears in mid to late summer proliferating as spores. PM can often over winter on protected decaying plant mater that is located in sheltered compost piles. Spores do not require water or moisture for germination and can be spread by splashing water, circulating fans or summers drying winds.

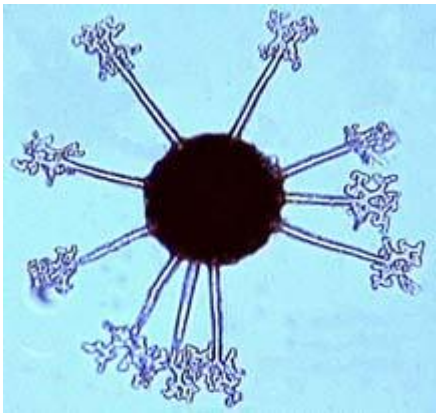
Immature newer plant growth is most frequently more vulnerable than older plant tissues. PM maybe observed on both vegetative and flowering stages including bud tips and on younger leaves soon after they spread out. Leaves start to become stricken when cool nights and warm days provide an optimum growing environment on leaf surfaces. Dry spores begin to grow on leaves as they scatter amongst an unsuspecting grower's crop.

Cool nights & warm days Help PM to grow

Crowded, tightly and densely packed leaves are the first to suffer from PM's infecting spores. Often these are lower areas of the leaf canopies on plants growing indoors and outside. Shaded, warm areas that support poor air circulation and harbor moisture are most often affected. Cool nighttime temperatures greater than 60*f with high relative humidity above 90 percent present optimum conditions for spore germination. Hidden from the sun's warmth sheltered leaves are in danger of spore infection at day temperatures up to 80°f with humidity in the 40-70% range.

PM is a common name for many different species of fungi that infect the leaves of countless numbers of ornamentals, vegetable and grass plants. The emergent spores grow as thin layers of mycelium or fungal tissue on the top surfaces of leaves. As the spore germinates it extends a short appendage called haustoria otherwise known as the root tip of a newly spreading hyphal organism. The network of appendages are elongated Hyphae. They are multi branching appearing as a filament thread like architecture of interlinking and connected formations. The Haustoria penetrates into the cells epidermal walls drawing nutrients from them. From the time of germination new spores may begin to form in as little as 48 hours. High humidity results in

optimum spore formation and low humidity with drying winds promotes spore dispersal.



Haustoria Appendages

Infected leaves may start to wilt, bend, curl or buckle. They deform then gradually begin to yellow, may die or fall off. The PM fungus usually does not grow on the surface of vegetable fruits but flowers maybe severally affected. Sweepingly infected plants have greatly reduced aesthetic worth, lower yields, reduced harvest periods, and fruit that often have little flavor. Plant senescence is also hastened as the stress is translated into a shortened and compressed growth cycle.

Greenhouse growers are wise to pursue an intensive integrated pest management (IPM) approach and thereby undertake a comprehensive disease prevention and management strategy. Firstly by ensuring preventative measures are in place well before leaf infection is noticed and then in further continuous monitoring of the crop.

Take preventative measures well before leaf infection

Detection of PM on greenhouse crops and leaves indicates an infected that has already progressed to potential damaging effects. At this initial stage many leaves may have been assailed by the PM spores but do not show any visible disease symptoms. It is very important that powdery mildew never gets out of control. Once it is established on leaves infections of PM are difficult to deal with. It will most likely continue to flourish and spread on plants. Consequently seemingly minor infections will continue to expand and proliferate. Left unchecked crop yields can be severely reduced and ultimately entirely destroyed in short time periods.

Waiting to apply preventive foliar fungicide sprays once the disease is detected often results in more extensive and prevalent infections. Simply disease prevention, monitoring and early detection of powdery mildew is most critical to maintain adequate yields.

If signs of PM infection are present growers are advised to avoiding and or reducing overhead watering. Lowering relative humidity around the plants leaves helps in slowing spore germination and spreading of the infection. Removal and destroying of infected leaves and plant materials is important to reduce the ever reaching malady. Diseased and infected plant parts should not be compost as the infection can overwinter in poorly turned compost piles.

PM becomes a problem for a grower when it affects photosynthesis and begins to severally reduce the vitality of new growth. Expansion and size gains of the plants sinks may be slowed or entirely halted. Plants can grow weaker as the infection covers an ever larger surface area of the leaves, but usually survive in less robust state.

Indoors environmental controls that improve green house conditions are an excellent way to pre-empt and passively manage the damage caused by powdery mildew. Monitoring humidity levels to avoid prolonged episodes of high humidity levels above 50-60% is most advantageous. Night time humidity is best kept below 70% to limit spore germination. Ventilation and continuous air movement helps to inhibit mildew spores by lowering humidity. Using oscillating fans to circulate the air and external ventilation periodically during the night cycle also reduces humidity from irrigation and

transpiration. However fans may begin to spread spores throughout the area If PM has been established.

Traditionally preventative chemical control of PM is achieved via frequent foliar applications of systemic fungicides. These products are varied, numerous and generally very effective when used in moderation and rotated in use to avoid resistance. Organic and biological controls can protect the plants although in some conditions fungicides may be needed. Fungicides function either as protectants that prevent infections or eradicants halting an existing infection. Protective fungicides must be applied before the disease appears to be effective.

Humidity is best kept below 70%

Many preventative organic foliar management measures including the use of phosphites work very well. Phosphites have been demonstrated to control the disease by inhibiting spore formation and growth. Usually it is produced as a liquid and the many phosphite formulations offer some increased mobility in plant tissue and the soils solutions. It is easily absorbed and distributed through the xylem and phloem. It can be applied to all parts of the plant and also elicits or enhances systemic acquired growth responses Know as SAR in the plant. Regularly drenched in the root zone or foliar applied phosphites offer protection as a preventative control.

Sprays of stylet or neam oils along with 10% milk solutions and baking soda sprays also work somewhat effectively as controls of PM. Baking soda mixtures include 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 tablespoon liquid soap and 1 tablespoon of horticultural oil mixed in 1 gallon of water. Apply the homemade powdery mildew foliar spray immediately after all irrigation events and early in the morning before the sun comes up to lessen leaf burning.

Other alternatives to harsh chemical fungicides are found in misting plant leaves with potassium bicarbonates. Proven to be very effective they are a safe organic measure and can be used on most ornamentals and vegetable plants. They are considered a contact fungicide that results in desiccation while also inhibiting spore germination of PM's spidery, hyphal network.

Potassium Bicarbonates

Potassium Bicarbonates have mostly replaced copper and sulphur sprays in some crop management programs. They clearly outweigh the disadvantages of using costly synthetic chemical control methods and work better than traditional organic controls.

Bio-control Fungicides

Newer bio-control preventative fungicides have emerged in recent years that growers might recognize as bacterial and fungal products. Most can be used via drench or foliar, they including

Streptomyces lydicus used as a foliar spray.

Trichoderma harzianum, The root fungus *sprayed as a contact killer***.** and a fungus like bacteria

Bacillus subtilisa fungus like bacteria used as a spray inhibitor or contact fungus killer.

Ampelomyces quisqualis is a parasitic fungus of powdery mildew. It infects and grows pycnidia or fruiting like bodies inside the hyphae. This parasite reduces PM growth and may eventually kill the mildew colony.

Whichever contact, systemic preventative or foliar control measure is used on plants the grower is wise to consider applications of some of these measures are in place well before an outbreak occurs. Prevention early in the growth cycle is required to ensure the biggest yields possible are harvested.

Wiki Links

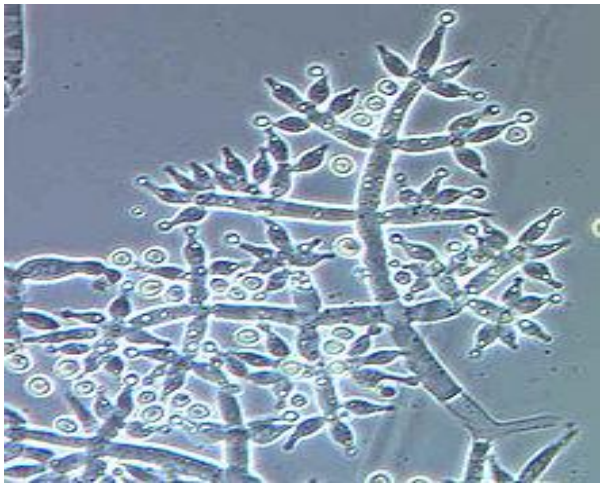
Trichoderma harzianum is a fungus that is used as a fungicide. It can be used as a foliar application, seed treatment and soil a drench for suppression of disease causing fungal pathogens.

Trichoderma

Trichoderma is a fungi that is normally present in all gardens and patch soils. The *Trichoderma* species form a mutual beneficial and endo relationship with several plant roots. Widely used as combative fungal agents against numerous soil pests the fungi are also thought of as a plant growth enhancer. Trichoderma fosters increased metabolic growth rates, and produces anti-microbial metabolites, or small soil molecules that allow roots to thrive unencumbered by disease.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trichoderma

Trichoderma Harzianum



Soil Glue: The Benefits of Fungi

Roots, mycorrhizae and other organisms release organic compounds commonly referred to as polysaccharides or soil glues. There are various types of these Glues. The super glue in the garden patch is Glomalin. It is released by Mycorrhizal hyphae as their colonies expand throughout the soil. The mucus-like structure Glomalin has a sponge like appearance. The pocket filled texture creates millions of cavities and porous spaces the can absorb moisture and plant nutrients.

Welcome, GVGO to the Worldwidegiantgrowers.com (WWGG). Our contestant membership is only a year old and is designed to raise prize money for most vegetable classes. We aim to have fun as life should be more focused on laughing as it makes the best out of life.

We started last year with 7 contests.
First prize in 2013 for each class was $ 500.

Giant Pumpkins
Giant Watermelon
Giant Mater
Long Gourd
Field Pumpkin
True Green Squash
Giant Cantaloupe

WWGG

103 W. Sherman St.
Holly, Mi.
48442
U.S.A.

In 2014 we have added on 3 more contests and boosted prize money for three existing classes.
The Bubba Challenge,
Tallest Sunflower
Bushel Gourd.

NEW 2014 Prizes of $ 1,000.

Giant Pumpkin,
Watermelon
True Green Squash.

If the other classes grow as expected they may increase to $1000.00 first prizes.
We also have a plaque for 1st place & rosettes for the top 3 places in each contest.

We have a great sponsor **Advanced Nutrients** whose fertilizers are liquid microbial, bio stimulants containing several ***Bacillus*** and ***Trichoderma*** strains. They are extremely easy to use and apply through most irrigation systems. ***A Canadian based company Advanced Nutrients is from Vancouver and they are registered for use in Canada.***

WWGG 2014 Membership

in each class is only $ 25. A grower's membership comes with a great product and seed raffle that will ignite the roots on your plants to their full potential. The products from Advanced Nutrient products are called root mass expanders. Three root mass expanders we are using this year come automatically with a $ 75 membership, when you enter into three classes of your choice. Growers can also enter a single class for $ 25 and receive one product. Although to be at the top of your game I recommend all three products from Advance Nutrients. This fee also includes your shipping to GVGO location or wherever you are.

We are worldwide with members in several nations including USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, The Netherlands, France and Spain. We are at 115 members strong now entered in over 250 contests. We accept results from any **GPC** organized or public weigh-off event that has published results such as county and state fairs.

THE **WWGG** just started a Youth participation awards program. All **WWGG** members 20 and under get a plaque and a $25 cash prize just for participating and growing on their own with some help from an adult if needed. We want this to encourage the youth to get interested without so much emphasis on winning.

We are open to new ideas & suggestions. There is no committee at **WWGG**. I use the membership as my compass. I will send out E-mails looking for the masses feelings on how things should be. It is working well, Squeaky wheel gets the grease. As long as it's not that odd wheel. The masses rule at **WWGG**.

Well I hope you take a look at WorldwideGiantGrowers.com. I hope you join us in 2014 entry is open till June 1st. As my good friend George Lloyd always says "I hope you grow a World Record, 1 lb smaller than mine."

Please send questions to:
Mark@worldwidegiantgrowers.com

Thanks have a Great 2014.
Mark Clementz.

GVGO

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest Update

By: Sally Hunt, Coordinator Pumpkinfest

Pumpkinfest 2014!

October 4th & 5th

What a winter we've had eh?

I honestly can't remember ever seeing this much snow and cold before in my lifetime. Our region has just been walloped with blizzard conditions and road closures have shut our entire community down a number of times in the months of January and February. I will be happy to see the signs of spring returning. –> Daylight Savings Time & The GVGO Seminar!

The Port Elgin Pumpkinfest team has been busy since we last reported to you. The response to our seed requests to help fundraise for the orange jacket and our weigh-off was overwhelming and we want to thank all GVGO members who supported our cause. Many donators included personal notes that helped keep our morale up as we faced the many challenges that came with cancelling the Niagara Falls event.

We are truly sorry to have had to cancel this event, but we just do not feel there is a large enough market to support two international events within our hobby. We are very happy that the GVGO has allowed us a time slot at their seminar on the 29th of March to do a formal presentation of the orange jacket and trophy, as we hope to continue awarding this prestigious and coveted award for many years to come.

Fundraising

Port Elgin's Award Winning Pumpkinfest IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAUGEEN SHORES

At the time of the writing of this article our Fundraising Seed Auction is being held on the Pumpkinfest web pages and will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter, so thank you in advance for all your support towards our auction. The seed inventory will open at 9 am on March 17th (St. Paddy's Day) and there are some fantastic deals to be found there as well. All information about the seed inventory can be found at www.pumpkinfest.org and then clicking on Giant Vegetables and then Seed Inventory.

At this time of year, we are busy reviewing and setting the prize structure for our fall event. The complete documents are included in this newsletter. We did a fairly significant overhaul and we thank everyone who took the time to provide their input so that we could make the proper decisions.

A recap of the significant changes include a less top-heavy prize structure on Saturday and re-distributing some of this cash to the lower place pumpkins – after all some of you are paying over $100 in gas money to attend our event. We have also added a Master Grower award to the Saturday weigh-off. Saturday will remain an affiliated GPC weigh-off but Sunday will not, and therefore we have expanded the local Tri-County award to include the top three placings. We have added money for growers under 21 years of age and have also included a prize for best average over the two days.

Sunday's pumpkin and squash prize money have both increased as well. We hope you like the changes and continue to bring your entries to Port Elgin, be it Saturday or Sunday, or better yet! BOTH!!!!

The GVGO have requested that we include an amount for their featured veggie for 2014, which is the rutabaga. We are happy to accommodate this request but in so doing, there will not be a regular featured veggie at Port Elgin Pumpkinfest. The rutabaga money is a Saturday award so we hope to see lots of giants on the 4th of October.

Rutabaga

Featured Vegetable

All prize structures, rules and an explanation of the Master Grower scoring system can be found within the Giant Vegetable section of the Port Elgin Pumpkinfest website.

Finally, in terms of festival planning outside of the growers' tent, our big new feature this year will be a culinary attraction, which will be located in the front parking lot at the very front of the event. Fresh, local food will be featured prominently and there will be a lot of planning to pull this attraction off properly. The planning is in its infancy stages for the time being but be sure to check it out when you visit us in October! We've even discussed allowing an area at the "market" for the growers to be able to sell their giants should they choose, instead of taking them back home again after the event.

Mark your calendars for October 4 and 5, 2014 and we hope to see you all there. Good luck growing

GVGO

Port Elgin's Award Winning Pumpkinfest

WEIGH-OFF PRIZE STRUCTURE

Saturday Weigh-Off... Saturday October 4, 2014

GPC Weigh Off

Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th through to 20th
Class 1 Vegetables - Registration is $30 - no matter how many categories are entered											
Heaviest Pumpkin	$3,000	$2,000	$1,000	$500	$300	$250	$200	$175	$150	$125	$100 each
Heaviest Squash	$2,000	$500	$400	$250	$200						
Heaviest Watermelon	$200	$100	$75	$50	$25						
Longest Gourd	$200	$100	$75	$50	$25						
Heaviest Field Pumpkin	$100	$75	$50								
Heaviest Cabbage	$100	$75	$50								
Heaviest Tomato	$100	$75	$50								

3 Bonus draws of $500 for the 1000+ lb pumpkins/squash weighed in!
1st place pumpkin and 1st place squash are not eligible and you can only win one bonus prize

GPC Squash rules dictate: 100% green, grey, blue and/or combination. Stripes allowed, no blotches. All others will be deemed a pumpkin.

Howard Dill Award	$100
Closest to Hidden Weight (Pumpkin)	$200

Additional $500 for any New World Record Vegetable in Class 1!
Prize to be paid after the completion of all 2014 weigh-offs and it is detemined that this entry is the official standing World Record

Class 2 Vegetables - Registration is $15 if Class 1 Registration has not been previously paid			
Tallest Sunflower	$50	$35	$20
Tallest Cornstalk	$50	$35	$20
GVGO Featured Veggie Rutabaga	$50	$35	$20
Other Heaviest/ Longest/ Most Unusual Vegetable*	$50	$35	$20

*It is important to remember that the other heaviest/ longest/ most unusual vegetable is awarded at the judges' discretion and the most spectacular entry will be awarded first price

NEW THIS YEAR! MASTER GROWER AWARD! $400.00
To be eligible at least 5 of the Class One Categories must be entered. Scoring will be determined by placings of entries in relation to other competitors within this category. Because this prize will involve some calculation, the winner will be notified and a cheque will be mailed to them after the 2014 event has completed.

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest 559 Goderich Street, Port Elgin, ON. N0H 2C4
www.pumpkinfest.org 1-800-387-3456 Fax: 519-389-3725
This prize structure is subject to change. Visit www.pumpkinfest.org for rules & regulations. All monies are in Canadian Funds

Port Elgin's Award Winning Pumpkinfest

WEIGH-OFF PRIZE STRUCTURE

Sunday Weigh-Off... Sunday October 5, 2014

Non-GPC Weigh Off

Category	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	*1st place Bonus Prize
Class 1 Vegetables - Registration is $30 - no matter how many categories are entered											
Heaviest Pumpkin	$1000*	$500	$300	$200	$100	$50	$50	$50	$50	$50	A customizable Saugeen Shores gift package redeemable in the summer of 2015 - $500 value
Heaviest Squash	$500	$300	$200	$100	$50	100% green, grey, blue and/or combination. Stripes allowed, no blotches. All others will be deemed a pumpkin.					
Heaviest Watermelon	$200	$100	$75								
Longest Gourd	$200	$100	$75								
Heaviest Field Pumpkin	$100	$75	$50								
Heaviest Cabbage	$100	$75	$50								
Heaviest Tomato	$100	$75	$50								

BONUS DRAW = $200
for all Class One Vegetable Entrants

Closest to Hidden Weight = $200
for Pumpkin and Squash entrants

Additional $500 for any New World Record Vegetable in Class 1!
Prize to be paid after the completion of all 2014 weigh-offs and it is determined that this entry is the official standing World Record

SPECIAL SUNDAY AWARDS

FRED WUERTH MEMORIAL
TRI-COUNTY GROWERS AWARD
(Awarded to the growers from the Tri-County Area - Bruce/Grey/Huron - with the largest pumpkins)

1st place — La-Z-Boy Rocker Recliner donated by Little's Furniture , Port Elgin

2nd place $200 3rd place $100

JUNIOR GROWER BONUS
(Awarded to any giant pumpkin/squash grower 21 years and younger)

1st place $150
2nd place $100

BEST AVERAGE SATURDAY/SUNDAY = $200
(Awarded to the best average weight of a pumpkin/squash Saturday entry and a pumpkin/squash Sunday entry)

NOVICE GROWER BONUS = $200
(Awarded to the largest pumpkin grown by someone with 3 years or less experience growing)

Class 2 Vegetables - Registration is $15 if Class 1 Registration has not been previously paid			
Tallest Sunflower	$50	$35	$20
Tallest Cornstalk	$50	$35	$20
Biggest Sunflower Face	$50	$35	$20
Other Heaviest/ Longest/ Most Unusual Vegetable*	$50	$35	$20

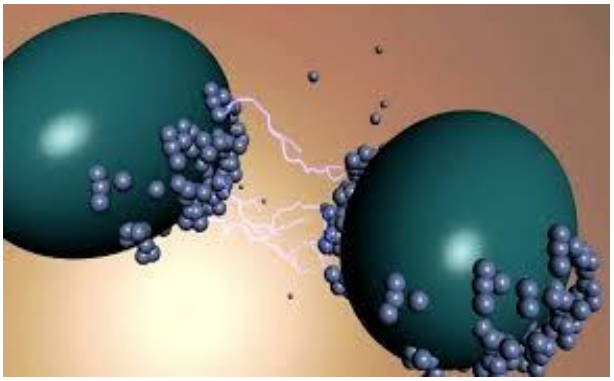
*It is important to remember that the other heaviest/ longest/ most unusual vegetable is awarded at the judges' discretion and the most spectacular entry will be awarded first prize.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
Saturday, 2014 Port Elgin Pumpkinfest entries will not be eligible for re-weighs but specimens weighed earlier at a different weigh-off site will be allowed.

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest 559 Goderich Street, Port Elgin, ON. N0H 2C4 www.pumpkinfest.org 1-800-387-3456 Fax: 519-389-3725
This prize structure is subject to change. Visit www.pumpkinfest.org for all rules & regulations. All monies are in Canadian Funds.

Flavonoids: Boost the plants symbiotic relationship

Flavonoids are widely distributed in plants; they are involved in UV filtration, symbiotic nitrogen fixation and floral pigmentation. Flavonoids are exudates secreted by the roots of host plants. They help soil bacteria develop a symbiotic relationship with nitrogen fixing legumes.
Flavonoids are thought to have effect in controlling plants from harmful attacks by microbes, fungi and insects.



Watermelon News

Chris Kent is now a two time world record holder. He has the **Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC)** records in 2010 & 2013. He travelled to Orlando, Florida to attend the **GPC** **"Big Show"** in late Feb. 2014. At the GPC award show Chris again collected the top melon winner's prize.

Previously the champion grower from the Smokey Mountains in Tennessee weighed in the largest watermelon ever grown in 2010. Chris had smashed the old record of 268.8 pounds with a monster melon at 291. Then this past summer Chris again rocked the melon world to the tune of 350.5 Pounds!

Recently Chris was featured in a YouTube interview with WWGG founder Mark Clementz. Chris used VooDoo Juice* from Advanced Nutrients on the Giant Watermelon. Here are the highlights.

MC: Why did you use Voodoo Juice, Chris?

Chris: *"it helps with the root system. Bigger roots, equal bigger plants and this equals bigger fruit....it helps the plant stay healthy"*

Chris Kent joins Mark Clementz of the WWGG for a poolside chat in Orlando.

*VooDoo Juice: is a liquid microbial, bio stimulant containing several types of ***Bacillus> by: advanced nutrients***

MC: Do you have any techniques you can share with watermelon growers?

Chris: "keep the plants healthy, Be preventative, Be Protective. Try to stay one step ahead of all the bad guys and just growem big".

2013 Kent watermelons

350.5 Kent 13	-	291 Kent	X	274 Kent
297.1 Kent 13	-	260 Clementz	X	274 Kent
275.9 Kent 13	-	274 Kent	X	Self
270 Kent 13	-	113 Kent	X	274 Kent

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpbK9VSq6SU

GPC Giant Tomato

GVGO Memberships run from January 1st - December 31st

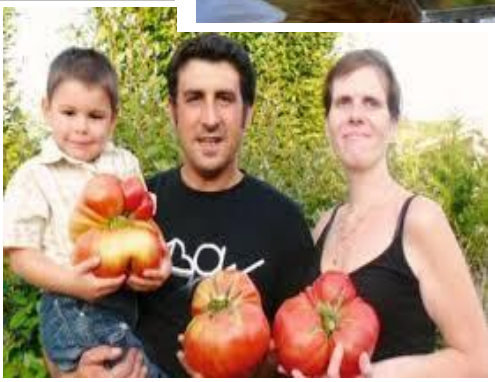
Time to Renew at GVGO.ca

France Shines as GVGO Growers

capture three of the TOP TEN spots at Orlando.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CVBDjFGrGE

Place	Weight (lbs)	Grower Name	Country	Seed (Mother)
1	6.83	Boudyo, Fabrice	France	5.07 Boudyo
2	6.57	Boudyo, Fabrice	France	5.07 Boudyo
3	6.01	Boudyo, Fabrice	France	5.03 Boudyo
4	5.8	Osmala, Tuija	Finland	4.37 Osmala
5	5.59	Zappa, Lee	USA	5.08 Mason
EXH	5.48	Boudyo, Fabrice	France	5.03 Boudyo
6	5.33	Martin, Margaret & Glen	USA	4.79 Martin 11
7	**5.22**	**Hunt, Phil & Jane**	**Canada**	5.5 Johnson/ Butler
8	**5.2**	**Chris, Lyons**	**Canada**	5.5 Johnson/Butler
9	**5.14**	**Montgomery, Greg**	**Canada**	4.29 Boudyo
10	5.11	Daho, Mehdi	France	5.07 Boudyo



2013 Giant Maters NOW on Sale!

$17.00ea. **5.80 Osmala 13 > 4.37 Osmala x self 5/pkg.**
16.00 **- 5.50 Johnson/Butler x open 5/pkg (proven)***
*grew 5.22 Hunt, 5.20 Lyons, 4.30 Hunt, 3.83 Lyons, 3.60 Mailey, 3.35 & 3.15 Boyce, 3.05 Mailey, Bryan
15.00 **- 5.22 Hunt 13, 5.5 Johnson/Butler x open 5/pkg**
15.00 **- 5.20 Lyons > 5.5 Johnson/Butler x open 5/pkg**
14.00 **- 5.14 Montgomery 13, 4.29 Boudyo x open 4/pkg**
$8.00 ea. 4.90 Nieuwenhoff 12 > 4.62 Timm x self. 3/pkg.
7.00 4.19 Montgomery 12 > 5.07 Boudyo x self. 6/pkg.
7.00 4.04 Johnston/Butler 12 > 7.33 Hunt x self. 5/pkg.

$5 for shipping & handling to each order

PayPal to gvgogrowers@gmail.com
Email Direct transfer to gvgogrowers@gmail.com
or by mail with check. Payable to **GVGO**
Please list seed description with payment to:
C/O Jane Hunt, Treasurer
4376 Hwy 35 N
Cameron, ON. Canada.
K0M 1GO

GVGO

When in doubt, grow them all.

Master Grower, How to be successful

by: Jane & Phil Hunt

The 2013 Growing season was a very trying year for a lot of growers with conditions being a bit cool & wetter than normal. In spite of that, our final result showed that Jane & I had our most successful season ever. Here are just some of our accomplishments for the 2013 season.

2013 GVGO Master Grower

2013 European Growers of the year

2nd place GPC Master Grower 2013

2nd in the World in 2013
1st largest Squash in Canada – 1233*
1st place Pumpkin at Port Elgin
2nd largest Pumpkin Canada – 1545
1st place Squash at Port Elgin – 1233*
1st place pumpkin at Woodbridge – 1472
7th in the World for Tomato – 5.22
12th in the World Long Gourd – 123"
2th in the World Cabbage - 93

If you want to take on the challenge & go for the Master grower Award, here are some ideas & tips to help you be successful. Your season starts early in the year with the selection of quality seeds with great genetic backgrounds. Check through all the resources

Tips To Become a Master

available & pick out seeds that you think will give you the best chance at growing a monster fruit. Talk with fellow growers who have planted these seeds in the past & ask them why they thought the seeds were winners & how the plant grew for them.

Next you need to take soil samples & amend your soil so that each variety has the nutrients it needs to get a great start. Getting a good start with healthy plants is very important & will go a long way to getting the results you're looking for. Put together a plan for each variety you plan to grow. That would include planting sites, nutrient schedule, and then pesticide & fungicide programs for each one. Write it all out on a calendar so to remind you when to spray or fertilize. Some of the plants can be included under the same program, but some require a little more tweaking than others.

Put Together a Plan

Now this is an important point, follow this program faithfully & don't put off something just because you can't be bothered or because you have something you think is more important. It takes a real commitment to the season if you want to become a Master Grower. Luck also plays a role in your results, as you never know what Mother Nature has in store for you. Freak hail or wind storms or an early and late frost can end your season faster than a large hatch of cucumber beetles, SVBs or a bad plant or soil borne disease.

"Hail, wind storms or frost can end your season"

Starting your seeds at the right time of the year & setting them out in the patch when the soil has warmed enough is essential. Our pumpkin, squash & watermelon plants all have soil heating cables & hoop houses to help warm the soil & protect them from the cooler spring weather. Here is a sample of planting dates that we use. These dates can change & are all dependent on weather & soil conditions. We use hoop houses or small greenhouses (5' x 8') to protect the plants until the last frost of the season.

Pumpkins & Squash

1. April (15th – 25th) start seeds

2. May (1st – 15th) set out into hoop houses depends on location & weather conditions.

When in doubt,

Watermelons

1. April (5th – 15th) start seeds
2. May (15th – 25th) set out @ mid-month

Long Gourds

1. May (1st – 15th) start seeds
2. May (20th – 31st) set out @ late month

Field Pumpkins

1. May (10th – 25th) start seeds
2. June (5th – 15th) set out in early to mid month

Tomatoes

1. May (1st) to June (7th) start seeds
2. set out when conditions are favorable. Tomatoes have an early submission date. In qualifying for the GPC awards, you can weigh them in at any time during the summer & fall. If you're trying to time you're tomatoes for a fall weigh off, stagger you're planting dates weekly for 3 weeks between May 24th & June 7th.

Cabbage

1. Cornish Giants seeds should be started in early January. They need to be transplanted several times before setting them out around May 24th in Ontario.

The planting sites of all of our seedlings have had a soaking of fish & molasses (can be replaced by maple syrup or other sugar sources) to help bring the soil to life & feed the young plants the nitrogen they need to get a good start.

Mycorrhizae fungi, rootshield, humic acid & kelp are added to the planting site when we put our plants out. No more fertilizers are added until the plants have started to vine out in early June.

We also do tissue samples in mid-June (before pollinating) to make sure the plants have all the right amounts of nutrients for a successful pollination. We also take tissue samples in mid-July to make sure we're still on track with our fertilizing program.

Tissue samples in mid-June

Pollination dates for all these giants vary. Pumpkins, squash & watermelons should be pollinated between June 20th & July 7th. Earlier is better than later depending on plant size. Tomatoes can be pollinated whenever the 1st cluster of flowers open, but if you want them ready for the fall weigh offs, then shoot for a late July/early August pollination. They grow for 40-60+ days, depending on the weather conditions. Cooler temps can delay the ripening of the fruit.

With Long Gourds you can have two or more pollinations per season. We shoot to have our 1st pollination @ July 10th to the 15th & the 2nd @ Aug 10th to the 15th.

The fruit grows for 35 to 40 days before maturing. You can also get 2 or more pollinations from your field pumpkins, but some serious growers like only one, with a pollination date @ Aug 5th – 15th. They grow for 30 – 40 days dependant of the conditions.

2+ Pollinations a season for Field Pumpkins

Once the plants are pollinated & the fruit is set, we wait for a week to 10 days before we resume our fertilizer program. The program changes slightly as the season progresses & the changes that are made are determined by the tissue report we have done in late July.

As the pumpkins & squash grow, we bury the vines with quality compost, along with Mycorrhizal fungi, rootshield & humic acid & terminate the secondary vines once they reach the edges of the patch. All other growth is cut off when the vines are buried. We also cut off all the new flowers that form at each leaf node after the fruit is set.

Last year most of our vines were buried by July 15th, with only the main allowed to grow after that date. The main was terminated by the 1st week in Aug. Having the majority of the vines buried early allowed us to focus on weed control. Each plant was weeded once per week until

the 1st of Sept. After that, we left them alone as we didn't want to disturb the plant & soil any more than necessary.

Terminate Vines by July 15

Throughout the summer, keep up on your pesticide & fungicide programs with weekly applications. The addition of a systemic pesticide, along with SVB (squash vine borers) traps & daily inspections of the plant will help keep the SVB at bay. Also, check for areas along the vines that look like they have a big knuckle or bulging knot, with some rotting along its edge. This could be a sign that there is a SVB grub in there eating your vines from the inside. If you think there is one in there, then dig it out with a knife or a piece of wire. Treat the area with sulfur to prevent any diseases. Also start weekly sprays for powdery mildew in late July & continue until season's end.

Begin PM Sprays in late July

The addition of Kelp to your fertilizer program will help delay senescence & keep your plants healthy. We use a small amount each time we spray anything on the plant. We also cut back on our watering program in 2013 after hearing Steve Deletas talk in Vegas. Before (2012) we watered each pumpkin & squash plant 100 gallons every day, but changed that to every other day in 2013.

A water meter helped us manage our watering better & that helped us manage soil diseases much better too. We water overhead using a hand sprayer. It only takes 5- 10 min per plant & allows us to evenly water the entire area.

A moisture meter helped manage irrigation

As the season turned to Sept**,** our weather turned cold & our plants suffered a heavy frost @ the 12th of the month. That killed everything in the patch except the cabbage & ended our season early. Our cabbages received some frost damage, but were still able to survive. Despite that, we still managed to pull a rabbit out of our hat & win both the squash & pumpkin categories at Port Elgin. Something that we thought would never happen.

By the time the weigh offs were over, we thought we had a chance for the GPC Master Gardener award, but finished second (by 6 points) behind our good friends Glen & Margaret Martin.

Frost on Sept 12

Still, we were thrill with our final results as we manage to win the GVGO, MG award & the European Growers of the year award for 2013. Our best season ever in my opinion. We are convinced that we might have been able to win the GPC, Master Gardener award if we could have protected our plants better on the night we got the heavy frost. Mother Nature rules again, but we will be better prepared in 2014.

There is one thing that I feel is a big benefit to help win the Master Grower Award & that is having your spouse or partner to help share in all the duties in the patch. Without Jane, I wouldn't be growing at all. She does the vine burying, weeding & other duties, while I plan out the fertilizer program, disease & bug prevention & the watering schedule. Sharing the same passion for gardening has also brought us closer as a couple. Even seasoned growers can use some help & tips every now and again & we would like to thank the growers who helped us with seed selection & advice throughout the season. When we 1st started in this sport in the mid-90s, we could never have imagined where it has taken us. Over the years we have met many growers from all around the world. A lot of them we can now call good friends.

We both hope that you all get to experience a season like ours one day.

Good luck to all of you in 2014. Jane & Phil

GVGO Top Ten List

By Phil Joynson

Top Ten Signs You May Be a Pumpkin-head for Spring 2014

10. You're optimistic that you're a mere 1000 lbs. shy of the world record.

9. A "pumpkin shape" is a positive body image.

8. You've considered moving to Nunavut where it would be easier to set a pumpkin provincial record.

7. All your passwords are pumpkin related.

6. You haven't used the words "summer" and "vacation" in the same sentence for years.

5. You've employed child labour to pick weeds.

4. You've got a pumpkin vanity plate on your truck.

3. Your now best friends with the old hippies at the hydroponics store.

2. Despite Psychologists saying it's impossible, you manage to live in a state of "Grumpy optimism."

1. It's occurred to you that growing would be far easier if the pumpkins cried for food and water like the kids did.

From a Wife's Perspective

By: Shannon Landry

WARNING:
Content has no pumpkin education, research or growing tips. Just a light-hearted story from a proud wife.

I want to take the opportunity to share this article with all the dedicated wives of the *Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Grower* husbands. I come out to tell the story of my *Hall of Fame* husband.

I must admit when my husband Russ Landry began his journey of pumpkin growing...I was oblivious to the commitment. I never thought too much about that first seed he laid in the garden. Always a gardener, with the house and garden on the block that everyone envied, Russ was a 'city farmer'. He won many horticultural awards, including the ***Burlington Rose award***, for his impeccable front lawn and beautiful garden. He had a love for the outdoors and gardening was his passion. It relaxed him after a hard day's work, and de-stressed him after dealing with the family, me! and our beautiful daughter, Jennifer.

The first year was fun! There was a pumpkin patch in the backyard that was tendered by Russ daily. He cared for the gardens all around our property and coddled this pumpkin plant all summer. I occasionally went out to the garden to look at the "big pumpkin" and was astounded at how big the pumpkin had grown! 198 pounds! Wow I was certainly impressed with this "giant". How naive was I?

Russ and Shannon

I then discovered that there was a website called "Big Pumpkins.com". When Russ wasn't in the patch, he was researching on the site. I found out my husband Russ was not known as "Russ". He had a *handle*, "**KAHUNA**"! We were now entering into a very different world...a no-turning-back, **BIG,** **orange** world!

The Port Elgin Pumpkinfest was our first introduction to 'the new world'. As a rookie observer I was amazed at the activity. The size of the pumpkins was surreal and I suddenly realized why Russ left his 198 at home. He knew! This was no small (excuse the pun) competition and I saw a change in my husband at the Pumpkinfest. I saw it in his eyes...they turned orange...he was hooked! Being in sports all his life, being in competitive sports all his life, striving for the winning Gold...advocating for our daughter to be competitive and guiding her to a baseball scholarship...I knew! This was now a competition and Russ, sorry Kahuna, was now called up to the big leagues! He was hooked...***bring it on*** was always his motto.

Russ' mentor...Dave

I started to hear a different dialect to our language: seed auctions, pumpkin genetics, pumpkin widow (me), pumpkin progeny. Now, being a nurse I was used to this type of language, however...not as it related to a "pumpkin".

The next year the competition got more intense and the dedication increased. The main focus in our gardens was to the 'pumpkin patch' and the main "favorite" website on our computer was Big pumpkins.com. I now knew this was an 'obsession' and (as Russ refers to it) a 'sport'. The networking grew as Russ connected with the GVGO and the GPC and started conversing with pumpkin growers from all over Ontario, from the United States and from Europe.

Daughter Jennifer Son-in-law Justin and Grandson Logan

Russ then began to meet 'pumpkin friends' which he, now, proudly considers some of his best friends. **I lost Russ and got the Kahuna!** Our summer vacations were now done, we were bound to the house because you could not leave the pumpkins. I started to understand what was meant by "pumpkin widow". Russ was now in the patch for many hours after work, all weekend and he 'relaxed' in a chair out in the patch to 'listen' to his pumpkins grow. I started to see some weird things happening... I searched for blankets in the house to make the bed and looked outside to find them covering the pumpkins.

While most families were off to Sunday morning mass, we were now scheduled for Russ to go on teleconferences for GPC. Russ' dedication grew and his time commitment was taken on by Giant Pumpkin growing and researching how to grow the big one. Our weekends away were now... ***Giant Vegetable Growers' Convention* at Niagara Falls**. There were trips for "patch tours" going across the province in one day to investigate your competition. As our life continued with dedication to the 'sport' and Russ continued his commitment to scientific research I tried to look for a way to join in! You know the saying "If you can't beat 'em...join 'em"!

There was an advertisement calling for pumpkin growers to 'join all for a cruise 2007'... we joined! On our way to the airport I conversed with Russ about the 'pumpkin cruise'. We were having breakfast before going on the cruise ship and watched as a couple from Ontario walked by. Russ 'jumped up' left me and went to chase down his pumpkin friend. As the couple sat down with us, I knew I had met a friend. The wife was not a pumpkin grower and cited to the men "there will only be 10-minute pumpkin conversations allowed"...An Ally! I was now excited to continue on our cruising venture with the pumpkin world.

This was just the beginning of a friendship. We now met **Barb and Dave McCallum**, a friendship that grew, and soon we were to meet some more wonderful people. While waiting for the ship to leave we met with **Jane and Phil Hunt** who are still friends with Russ and I. Little did I know the 'handle' Kahuna would bring us some more great friendships. As we waited for dinner **Dawn Northrup** walked up to Russ and said "are you Kahuna" and then asked if I was "Shannon"...this friendship started through the big pumpkins.com website. Dawn read Russ' journal at the motel letting everyone know we were there on the cruise. We now have New Brunswick friends **Bill** and **Dawn**. **Sue and John Vincent**, dedicated growers are great friends and there are many more that we have met on Russ' pumpkin growing journey.

Thank you to Dave and Carol Stelts, along with all GPC Executive, for the most wonderful weekend in Florida.

Shannon

In the pumpkin world and the journey of the sport, I now know how to 'join'em'. ***Have fun, enjoy the beautiful people*** and ***support your husband*** through his most peculiar hobby.

I am proud of my husband's journey and his ultimate accomplishment ***HALL OF FAME*** Inductee. I believe that February day in Orlando Florida was the happiest day in Russ' pumpkin career. Some of his family was able to join Russ at his most honoured celebration and I do know that two people who were the most proud of Russ were watching from afar, his 'gardener role models' **June and Steve Landry.**

Southern Ontario

by Pat Watson

If I didn't know any better, I would have thought I lived in Nunavut over the last several months based on the weather in Southwestern Ontario. Here we are in early March and winter still has a death grip on us with no signs of Spring other than this poor Robin I saw a few days back. This bird looked at me and I could almost read his mind, unfortunately I can't tell you what he said, in this family Newsletter, but I'm sure you can guess what he was thinking. I'm so excited to be leaving for Florida on March 18 for 10 days to participate in some desperately needed sunshine and R&R.

I hope all GVGO members are finding good health and happiness so far in 2014. We here in Komoka have had a very busy winter with seed packs, coaching hockey and working full time. I want to say thanks to everyone who came out to help sort seeds and fill bubble packs. Your help was certainly needed and definitely appreciated as always.

After much thought, I have decided to hang up my hat and resign my position on the GVGO Executive. This will be my last Newsletter article and my last year doing the seed packs. I have informed the Club Executive of this decision and they will be deciding who takes over my duties in the coming months. I will continue to send out the seed packs as members renew and will see this through until all packs are sent out this year.

I would encourage any member who has the time and would like to volunteer to help the club out to let Phil Joynson or Russ Landry know of your interest. Clubs like the GVGO are driven by volunteers, without them this great club would not be possible.

The main reason I have decided to pack this in is because I do not have the time. I find my current life is just too busy and I feel something has to give. I have an 8 year old son, Ben and a 10 year old daughter, Amanda who are growing up very quickly and I want to spend more time this summer fishing and doing other fun stuff with them and the rest of my family. I plan to continue growing giant vegetables but have decided to scale it back and take the year off growing pumpkins or squash in 2014. I plan to grow a bunch of tomatoes so I can try to break that 8-lb. barrier. Hopefully you have not heard the last of me ☺

The GVGO is a fantastic club which I will remain as a member and you never know… When the kids are a little older and become more independent I may step up again and help out where needed.

Cheers everyone, good luck growing in 2014.

GVGO

2328 Meier 13

News from Europe

by: Brad Wursten

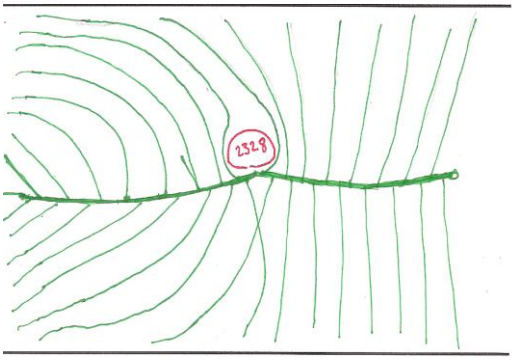
Holland. The horror of winter. Predicted in October. It's March 5 today. Fourteen centigrade. Above zero. The roses in the front garden haven't stopped flowering yet since last summer. A record.

It is a horror winter in parts of England. And France. Water. Enough to drown a fish. There will be no crops in Somerset this year. The soil is waterlogged. More water on the way. Partly their own fault. The Dutch set up a water management system there three hundred years ago. The British didn't maintain it. Now they're calling the Dutch back to fix it. The warranty has expired.

Lots of snow in the Alps. Minus 40 in Finland. Just like parts of Canada and the US. Will we need to put a scarf around our young plants this spring? Or grow watercress? It's too cold for rice.

What will the summer bring us? Here in Holland, we're hoping for a horror summer. The Dutch kind.

2328 Meier 13. uow

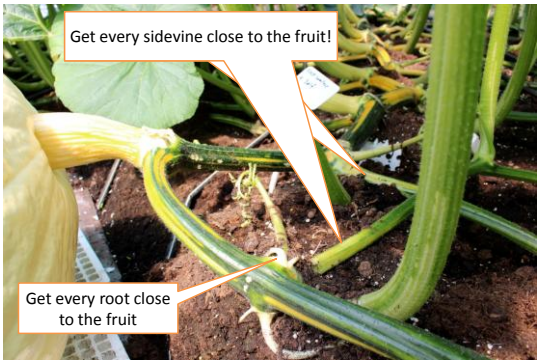


Final OTT on pallet		
	cm	inch
SS	315	124
BE	294	115
Circ	571	225
Total	1180	464.5
Weight	1056.5Kg	2,328Lb
Chart	8%	Heavy

Europe -Top all time

1	1749	Hanschmann	2013	Grown inside greenhouse
2	**1694**	**Meier**	**2012**	
3	1684	Schierding	2013	
4	1680	Tanner	2012	
5	1611	Daho	2009	
6	1582	Ghaye	2011	
7	1578	Ovaskainen	2012	
8	**1560**	**Meier**	**2012**	
9	1553	Ghaye	2012	
10	**1548**	**Meier**	**2011**	
11	1526	TeamMenting	2013	
12	1520	Baggs	2013	
13	1504	Patton	2010	
14	1490	Cutrupi	2012	Grown outside

2328	Statistics			
Dap	Date	Kg	Lbs	
30	20. Jul	220	485	
35	25. Jul	338	745	
40	30. Jul	438	965	
45	4. Aug	538	1186	Half-Time OTT
50	9. Aug	624	1375	
56	15. Aug	712	1569	
62	21. Aug	810	1785	
71	30. Aug	900	1984	
73	1. Sept	BES		Game Over
76	4. Sept	940	2071	
78	6. Sept	951	2096	
82	10. Sept	968	2134	at Harvest



Fertilizer

Liquid fertilizer whit all nutriens including trace ellements

Grower	N 15	P 05	K 15
Finisher	N 13	P 05	K 20

During the whole season via Dosatron

From 0.2% to 1.0%

From 0.2mS to 1.0mS

Application via T-Tape drop hose and Overhead irrigation

2013 Growers Contest

1) The contest is open to all paid GVGO members.
2) The top 3 pumpkin and squash grown off an eligible seed win a cash prize.
3) All pumpkin and squash seeds donated to the GVGO membership seed packs are eligible to participate.
4) The cash prize payouts are:

Heaviest Pumpkin 1st- $500, 2nd- $250, 3rd- $125

Heaviest Squash 1st- $300, 2nd- $150, 3rd- $75

5) All entries must have been weighed on a digital scale at any organized weigh-off.
6) All participating growers are responsible for reporting the weight of their entry before December 31, 2013 to Pat Watson via email, telephone or postal mail.

GVGO Memberships run from January 1st - December 31st

Time to Renew

at GVGO.ca

Longgourd-growers.com

New World Record Long Gourd

139.25 Fred Ansems

Canada

Al Eaton's Long Gourd Trellis

Chris Delany Trellis 2012

GPC Rules

GPC Rules to grow by

Article II
FRUITS & GROWERS

3. No foreign material (i.e.: fungicides, caulking, skin additives et cetera) will be permitted in the weighing of any fruit. Vines must be trimmed to within one inch of the stem of the fruit. The judges have the right to inspect any and all fruit before weights and measurements become official. Refusal of any inspection to an entry will cause the entry to be classified exhibition only.

NEWS FROM THE EAST COAST
by: Dawn Northrup

Mother Nature sure slammed the Maritimes this winter with lots of snow and frigid temperatures. We took a break from winter and attended the GPC conference in Orlando. It was a great time! The speakers were excellent. We learned a lot. The food was phenomenal!

I thought I would share with you our magical adventure to NYC this fall. A big thank you to the GPC along with our wonderful sponsors: NY Botanical Gardens and Xtreme Gardening for making this awesome event happen. It sure was a trip of a lifetime!

http://www.xtreme-gardening.com/

Mother Nature continued.

I would also like to thank past champions for all of their sacrifice and dedication that they have given to help promote and grow this awesome hobby that we love so much! From these selfless acts we have come to a place where geographic region does not matter so we have a true world class event that all growers worldwide have a chance to be a part of. We had a few hoops to go through before getting there. Bill started off by driving 12 hours round trip to pick up the world record long gourd in Kentville, NS.

www.nybg.org

Then our next dilemma was trying to locate a truck. We knew our truck wasn't big enough and most of the rental companies in our area would not let us take a truck into NY State. I did find one company that would let us but when they found out it was a pumpkin we were transporting they wouldn't let us.

It was down to the 11th hour and we still hadn't found a truck. Bill ended up driving to Ellsworth Maine and picking up a truck down there and driving it back into Canada. He left Thursday morning and drove to Ellsworth. He dropped off his vehicle and picked up the rental truck. He drove back to the border and stopped for gas then he realized that he forgot his passport in the other vehicle. He had to drive 110 miles back to retrieve his passport. He was not impressed the stress was starting to get him. He made it back and we started loading the two pumpkins and long gourd around 11pm that night. The next morning we were up and on the road by 10am. Bill decided to place the luggage in the back of the truck close to the doors so it would be easy access when we got to the hotel that night.

The Back Door was wide open!

Driving down the highway we noticed that cars were hovering beside the back of the truck. After driving for an hour we reached the city of Saint John and Bill was in the passing lane he pulled over into the other lane and a big towing truck pulled up beside us. We figured he was upset. We finally had enough courage to look over at him and he is pointing to pull over. By the time we got over the tow truck got stopped ¼ mile ahead of us he was pointing to the back of the truck. Bill & I got out and went to the back of the truck and you will never guess….the back door was wide open it is a miracle that my luggage wasn't sprawled out all over the highway!

We got the door closed and headed to the border.

The border patrol all came out running with their cameras and took lots of pictures. We continued driving and got to the other side of Boston late that night.

The next morning we got up and attended the Frierch Farms weigh off in Rhode Island. It was great to see our pumpkin friends again and meet some new ones.

The next day we drove to the Botanical Gardens. The gardens happen to be located in the Bronx. The GPS took us on the Parkway. We soon learned that trucks weren't allowed on Parkway luckily we didn't get stopped.

The rental truck was to be back at 11:30 am but the forklift driver wasn't scheduled to unload us until 2pm. So I called the rental company to tell them I would be a little late and hopefully they wouldn't charge us.

Our next concern was how we were going to get to Manhattan after dropping off the truck. The Botanical gardens said they would take us to the train station but I have a tendency to pack way too much stuff and too much to try to handle on the train.

Freddy our fork lift driver arrived around 2:30pm. He was all dressed up in a nice suit. I asked him if he was going to drive the fork lift wearing that. He started laughing and said he was going to change first. He asked Bill where we were from and Bill said "Let's just say, we come out of the woods to hunt". He laughed at this and said he offered to drive us into Manhattan on his own time!

I truly believe in Guardian Angels and he sure was our Guardian Angel that day!

Freddy got the pumpkins unloaded and then he helped us locate a gas station and we got the truck fuelled and he led us to the Home Depot to drop off the truck. The girl went out to check the truck and came in and told us she was going to charge us $8 a gallon for fuel because the truck was half empty. Freddy said he would handle this and went out to the truck with the girl. He asked her what gauge she was looking at. She pointed to RPM. Freddy told her to try looking at the one that said F U E L for FUEL. She came back in and said there were no charges and sent us on our way.

Freddy the "Guardian Angel"

Next stop was Manhattan. On the way Freddy shared is 911 experiences with us. His incredible story touched our hearts immensely. He also gave us some great tips on NYC! Freddy dropped us off right in front of our hotel. We stayed at the Roger Smith Hotel on Lexington Ave. The girl at the front desk recommended a great little Italian Restaurant to go to for supper. It was Awesome!

The next day was spent touring around NYC! We did the hop on hop off bus and toured Time Square, Soho, China Town, Little Italy, where we had cannolis. I even found a little market in Grand Central Station that had pumpkins! Bill decided to get a NY style haircut. We went to Trump Towers.

The next day the world record pumpkin was being flown in from California. Bill & I went out to the gardens to watch it arrive. The New York Botanical Gardens spans over 250 acres. We were treated like "Celebrities" the whole time! Karen met us at the gate and gave us a private tour of the gardens in a golf cart. Afterwards she took us out for some cannolis while waiting for the truck to arrive. The truck arrived and a very impressive crate was unloaded containing the world record pumpkin. Great job by Neal and his team at Extreme Gardening!

The next day Jim arrived and we met up with Tom Perkins. We took the train to the NY Botanical Gardens and met Dave there. Another highlight of the trip was seed diving. They gave me a yellow haz mat suit to put on and I crawled in the pumpkins to retrieve seeds. I went to crawl out of one pumpkin and it was so slippery that I lost control and slid out of the pumpkin head first! Someone yelled "It's a Girl"!!! Everyone laughed! We had lots of fun!!

It's a girl!

In the morning we were up early to attend the ***Kelly & Michael show!*** We had lots of fun! The show featured **Fred Ansems world record long gourd** and **Chris Kent's world record watermelon** and **Tim Mathison's world record pumpkin!**

After the show we all went out to lunch and then Dave took us on an amazing tour of NYC! We saw the Statue of Liberty, 911 Memorial, and Time Square. We watched skating at Rockefeller Center.

New York City's "Giant Pumpkin Carving weekend" kicked off at Grand Central Station on Friday with worldwide media coverage. Our pumpkin was chosen to go! The Maniac Pumpkin Carvers sculpted out our pumpkin.

The next day we were off to the Botanical Gardens. Our pumpkin was placed at the entrance.

We did some question and answer sessions NYB gardens.

The last night we decided to go out in style and went to Bobby Vans on Park Ave. Our waiter recognized us right away and said he saw us on the news! He gave us free dessert! Pumpkin pie for everyone!

These magical memories will be sure to last a lifetime and I hope every grower gets to experience this. It truly was amazing!

GVGO

"Azospirillum: is a free living nitrogen fixing bacterium that stimulates root growth and produces the growth hormone IAA."

http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/10978548

GPC Master Grower tips from the Martins

1. FP wait until June to plant out.
2. Tomato use aerated pots for seedlings.
3. Melons use black fabric as mulch.
4. LG's Use a dog leash to support the gourd.
5. Tomato use a bra to support the fruit.

Catapano Mater Genetics

The origin of the selfed Catapano seed line

Frank had received a heart shaped tomato from a friend. It appears to be some type of super steak like tomato. It gives off a large amount of fused blossoms that grow quite large. The seed line started by Frank dates all the way back to 1998 in the Woodbridge, ON. part of Toronto's GTA region.

He grew a new seed each year, primarily as eating stock. They were very meaty and tasty. Each year he grew many fruit often weighing more than 2.0lbs. When, in 2005, one plant produced 20 or more 2 pound of fruit. He shelved and saved seeds for several years. He did not weigh any at competition.

Frank gave me a few in 2010 and after nearly 10 seasons at his place, I decided to grow a 3.4 seed from his collection. It turns out the plant gave me my 5.41 Landry 11. Most of 3.4 Catapano seeds are all long since gone. The exception is a few of its cousins. Seeds from the 2.2 Catapano of 2005 and I have a few of the 3.4.

Tomato Chart

CC"	Est. Weight	CC"	Est. Weight	CC"	Est. Weight
15	1	23.5	4.7	26.50	6.37
16	1.5	23.75	4.85	26.75	6.56
17	1.75	24	5	27	6.75
18	2	4.25	5.12	27.25	6.94
19	2.5	24.5	5.25	27.5	7.13
20	3	25	5.5	27.75	7.31
21	3.5	25.25	5.63	28	7.5
21.5	3.75	25.5	5.75	28.25	7.69
22	4	25.75	5.87	28.5	7.88
22.5	4.25	26	6	28.75	8.06
23	4.5	26.25	6.19	29	8.25

Sinks: include any non-photosynthetic organs of the plant and organs that do not produce enough photosynthetic products to support their own growth or storage needs. Roots, developing fruits, and immature leaves, which must import carbohydrate for normal development, are all examples of sink **tissues.**

Western Report

Don Crews

Join us at GVGO.ca

Well it's Time for the **Spring Report** Let's go over the winter so far: October was fairly nice (yes winter here starts in October), not much snow and normal temperatures. November normal amount of snow but it was colder than some years. December was consistently very cold, low –20's° C every day. January was ridiculously warm, many days above 0° C. I was starting to think we were home free but then...February! Minus 30° C and windy every day. Of those February days, many were -50° C or worse with the wind chill. March, so far has been the same February, cold and windy. Snow cover is about average here and my friends down south have little snow so when it warms up we should all be up and growing on schedule. Of course it's still a little early to make the final call on that, it's really up to Mother Nature!

We have little insect pressure here, most likely the cold winters do short work of the insects that harm pumpkins. I'm wondering if nature's insecticide, the cold winter, could relieve some of the insect problems in the eastern part of the country.

"I put my cold-frame out there already, just in case we get another 3' of snow blow in"

I'm continuing my soil heat project this year. The second greenhouse needs to have the fans hooked up to the underground ducts yet but I should have that done by the time the cover goes on. I put my cold-frame out there already, just in case we get another 3' of snow blow in. That's what happened last year and it ended all hope for that garden. The other greenhouse is ready to go, though with the water lines dug in deeper, I'm a little unsure if the system will work as well as last year.

I have a dream line up of seeds this year. With any luck germinating I could have both a 2009 and a 2032 in the dirt. We can debate seed choices forever, but I have always had luck planting the seed from the biggest pumpkins. I think given the success of my 1081 Crews seed that I should plant it again. That seed has grown me two 1200+ fruit and grown a 1000-lber for another grower. Alan M. has told me that the 1081 might get another shot in his family's patch as well. He had a good one on it last year that was heading for 1000+. That's real big out here.

I had a lot of weed pressure in the watermelon patch last year. I am going to use the biodegradable black cornstarch film on the patch. I've used it before with good results. The important thing is to keep humidity down if it is used in a greenhouse. Condensed water falling from the plastic will sit on the film and cause rot on the vines. I don't have to tell you what happens to your fruit when the main vine rots through. The film helps with the soil temperature some and I may also crank the temp up a bit by using a manual heat cable and thermostat.

Well, that should do it. By the time I report again we should know if some of my experiments in soil warming are working and maybe Mother Nature will throw us a bone. I think we all deserve it after this winter! Good luck to all in 2014!

Featured Grower

Ian Paton

Pinetops Nurseries
Ramley Road
Lymington
Hampshire SO41 8GY

GVGO: *Tell us a little bit about how you started in pumpkin growing; what is your personal best for you and Stuart, your operation; a little bit of a bio:*

Ian > My mother and father came from **Scotland in 1959** and were at the forefront of plants growing indoors in greenhouses; it was still fairly soon after the war and things were still in disarray. It started off as a family business; my dad started it from basically nothing. They came down from the north to the south coast and they grew poinsettias and lilies.

The nursery was originally situated close to the sea to take advantage of the light reflection off the water. It is back a couple of miles from the sea but you still get light reflection. It is far enough back that you don't get the damaging salts.

It is located in one of the sunniest places in the UK.

GVGO: *How many Poinsettias and lilies do you ship out yearly?*

Ian > 100,000 Poinsettias and 400,000 Lilies.

GVGO: *How did you become involved growing giant vegetables?*

Ian > Stuart and I were given a seed by someone; we grew it in the garden when we were 12 or 13 years old. We went away for a 2-week holiday. When we came home we went back to the garden to see the pumpkin. It was about 58 pounds. It was amazing as kids to see this big pumpkin.

GVGO: *Tell us a little bit about the science of growing plants. Can you give us the "Coles" notes version of the intricacies of growing at* ***Pinetops Nurseries?***

Ian > Commercial Poinsettias are really hard to grow. It takes many seasons to learn how to grow them properly. You won't learn over one year, it will take many seasons and it is the same with pumpkins.

GVGO: *Do you grow them from seeds or cuttings?*

Ian > The poinsettias are grown from cuttings. Cuttings are grown in Ethiopia to get away from disease and pests, white fly is a very common problem for poinsettias.

GVGO: *Do you use any growth hormones fertilizers or stimulants when you transplant your cuttings?*

Ian > The cuttings go to Germany where they are rooted. They then are sent to U.K. and we put them in pots.

There are 2 phases:

- **Phase 1:** Plant them and give them a lot of heat (they come in a little root ball). After 2 weeks when the roots touch the edge of the pot they are pinched back to 5 leaves and then the heat is reduced. The interesting part comes when you try to stop them from getting diseases like phytopthera, pythium and scarab fly. You name it and they will get it. You have to do very careful and very accurate watering and feeding. We grade the plants and space them according to size.
- **Phase 2 :** After about 10 weeks the lights can be turned off, they are a short day plant. They need 14 hours of normal light; which is a red light. Then we black them out for 12 hours per day

GVGO: *How do you black them out? Do you cover them over?*

Ian > We have automatic black outs that can cover a hectare of glass in 5 minutes. It is all automatically controlled by the environmental system. If you cannot read the newspaper, then you are good. That is the general rule of thumb.

GVGO: *What time of the year would you do that?*

Ian > We have about a six week window before the holidays. We black them out in batches starting with 10,000 then 15,000 then 20,000 and so on.

GVGO: *These poinsettias are marketed for the Christmas season in the U.K.? How far away do you ship?*

Ian > Yes, We ship anywhere in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Northern Ireland

GVGO: *It is interesting that poinsettias are really popular plants in North America at Christmas time. Growers can really relate to this. After all these years of growing them what do you find most interesting about them?*

Ian > There is a set of rules in growing poinsettias. There are "do's" and "don't do's". What Stuart and I find interesting about them is that there is a set of rules to grow a poinsettia. There are scientific heating regimes that have been worked out to get the most out of them. Growers are still tweaking them. They are always trying to find a variety that will grow in a bit cooler temperatures to reduce heating bills. There are rules and books, just like for pumpkins, in how to do things. Now if you cheat with heating the plant will never lie. The plant will always tell the truth. That is one thing my father always told me "the plant never, ever lies".

GVGO: *Does this hold true for pumpkins too?*

Ian > Yes. Plants out in the real world, when they get rain they appreciate it; if they get too much rain they don't appreciate it. They will show you, they will drop their leaves in droughts, just to protect themselves.

The plants will always tell you and that is the secret of a good grower; somebody who can read the plants.

Our way of looking at pumpkins is treat them exactly the same way. We would not turn the heating off on our poinsettias so really in an ideal world you should heat your pumpkin and give it exactly what the pumpkin plant wants.

There are growers in England who grow orchids and they heat their greenhouses to 28° C and then cool them down with huge chillers to get them to flower. That is what we will eventually have to do with the pumpkins and that is what is going to send the records sky high. I believe it is going to come from protective cropping or in a greenhouse. I think Benni Meier has kind of proved this, but also so have the Alaskan boys. In some ways we are lucky because we have been forced to grow in greenhouses and if you want to grow a big pumpkin here in the UK you need to grow it indoors.

GVGO: *Are you stimulating air movement in your greenhouses?*

Ian > Yes, definitely. I am a big believer in making the plants work so they become healthy. Eventually when you are sitting around eating MacDonalds all day, you feel like crap after awhile, that is the same with plants. Sitting around doing nothing after a couple of weeks you become unfit. If you do the same to a plant, shut all the vents up and make it humid, you are pushing the plant, but not really, your plant is becoming unfit and certainly in the growing trade you have to make your plants work. The best way to make them work is by air movement. You don't want to see the leaves move on the plant; maybe just gently waving that's about it. It is really a matter of using the chimney effect like you stated in your presentation. That is how greenhouses are being built. They are being built a little bit taller to take advantage of convective air movement with a bit of heat in the bottom to ensure convective flow because that is what a plant does.

GVGO: *Yesterday you mentioned about measuring the plant and that it was found to be detrimental to the growth of the plant; and you had to move them to physically measure them?*

Ian > Yes, this is fascinating. It was found inadvertently and now work is being done to prove it and you don't need to be Einstein to prove it. You can see it on your own.

GVGO: *So the plants had measuring stakes in the pot, can you please review what you noticed and how it affected the growth of the plant?*

Ian > Every 400 plants (or so) we put a measuring stick in it. They need to be exactly the right height between 26 to 27cm tall for market. We used to measure them to check the growth every week. We would change the environment or give them growth regulators required to meet the size and growth targets.

We used to put them on a bench with a stick in there and we would pick the same plant out every week, stick a measuring tape on them write it down and put the plant down again. Then it became really apparent after doing this for about 3-4 weeks that these same measured plants were smaller than the others. They were getting shorter, shorter and shorter. We found out by moving the plants they all ended up shorter. We now put a measuring stick in the pot and never touch them. We do not pick it up; we leave it in the spot.

GVGO: *So actually touching them and moving them was hindering their growth?*

Ian > Yes the measured plants, they were all smaller!

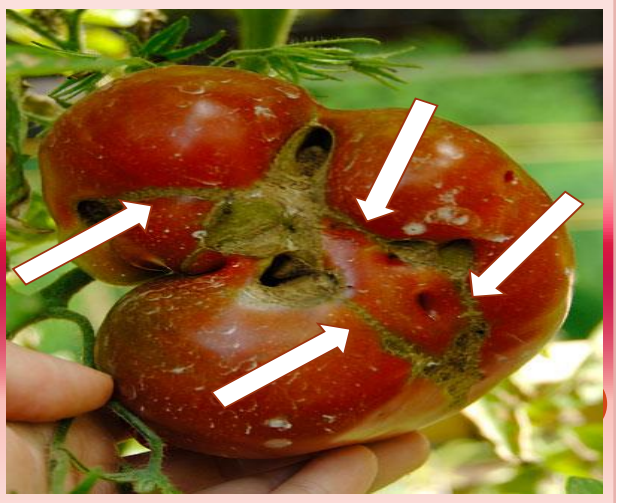
GVGO: *Is there any application there for pumpkins?*

Ian > I don't know, but from your talk, you have to have ***your eyes out of the patch***. There is something there! They have a mechanical system for growing basil. Growers do not want to use expensive and harsh chemicals on them. They put little strings or gentle cotton strands to physically move the leaves, this wakes any bugs up and they fly away, up in the air. They have yellow or blue sticky tape to physically catch these bugs. When they ran the string laden gantry over the plants to move the leaves they found the plants became shorter. That was fantastic for the growers. It cut down on the legginess. Short is good for Basil, they do not want them to stretch. The plants "just know" this is a demonstration of how the plants think.

Tomato Fruit Zippering

- Zippering usually occurs when the anther of the tomato flower sticks to the developing fruit
- produces a scar as the fruit grows, extending from the blossom end to the stem.
- Sometimes BER worsens the scar.

4 zippers



GVGO STICKY - Leaks

Late Breaking News,

Scientific Name: ***pythium***

> is a parasitic fungus that causes root rot. *Pythium*-induced root rot is a common crop disease. When the organism kills newly emerged or emerging seedlings it is known as damping off. It is a very common problem in non rotated pumpkin patches.

FIELD PUMPKIN OTT CHART 2011

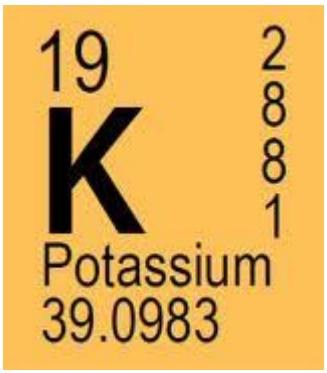
OTT (inches)	FPOTT Weight Est. (lbs)	OTT (inches)	FPOTT Weight Est. (lbs)	OTT (inches)	FPOTT Weight Est. (lbs)	OTT (inches)	FPOTT Weight Est. (lbs)
90	15.1	174	108.8	201	167.8	225	235.3
95	17.7	176	112.6	202	170.3	226	238.5
100	20.7	178	116.5	203	172.8	227	241.7
105	23.9	180	120.5	204	175.4	228	244.9
110	27.5	181	122.5	205	178.0	229	248.1
115	31.4	182	124.6	206	180.6	230	251.4
120	35.7	183	126.6	207	183.3	231	254.7
125	40.4	184	128.7	208	185.9	232	258.0
130	45.4	185	130.8	209	188.6	233	261.3
135	50.8	186	133.0	210	191.3	234	264.7
140	56.7	187	135.1	211	194.1	235	268.1
145	63.0	188	137.3	212	196.9	236	271.6
150	69.7	189	139.5	213	199.7	237	275.0
152	72.6	190	141.7	214	202.5	238	278.5
154	75.5	191	144.0	215	205.3	239	282.1
156	78.4	192	146.2	216	208.2	240	285.6
158	81.5	193	148.5	217	211.1	241	289.2
160	84.6	194	150.9	218	214.1	242	292.8
162	87.8	195	153.2	219	217.0	243	296.5
164	91.1	196	155.6	220	220.0	244	300.1
166	94.5	197	158.0	221	223.0	245	303.8
168	98.0	198	160.4	222	226.1	246	307.6
170	101.5	199	162.8	223	229.1	247	311.3
172	105.1	200	165.3	224	232.2	248	315.1

Weight_lb = (0.02744xOTT_in)^3

n=75 R^2 = 0.825

Potassium

By: John Vincent



Also known as K_2O or just K, is the most important of the major nutrients and is used in the largest quantities. Its function in the plant is cell wall formation and big pumpkins have a lot of cells!

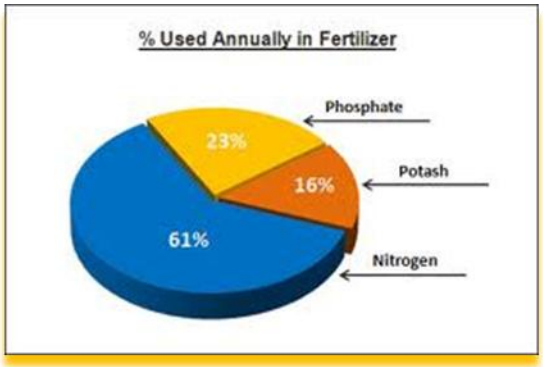
Commercial vegetable growers will routinely apply 3-400 lbs of actual k per acres on high value crops. This is because the nutrient is in super high demand.

Fortunately the compost and manures we apply, also contain large amounts of the nutrient. Because the cell walls of plants are mainly built from potash, as they decompose they return large amounts back into the soil.

When animals eat forages, most of the potassium passes through the gut and into the manure. Application of these materials provides large quantities of this nutrient.

If you decide to apply potash in the form of granular fertilizer, the preferred source is sulfate of potash also called potassium sulfate or 0-0-50. Potassium chloride is also available this is 0-0-60.5 (red potash) or 0-0-63.4 (White potash). Both are potassium chloride which has a very high salt index. Potassium chloride used in high quantities can cause root problems with root development and can also inhibit some of the soil microbes, so it is best to avoid this form for our purposes.

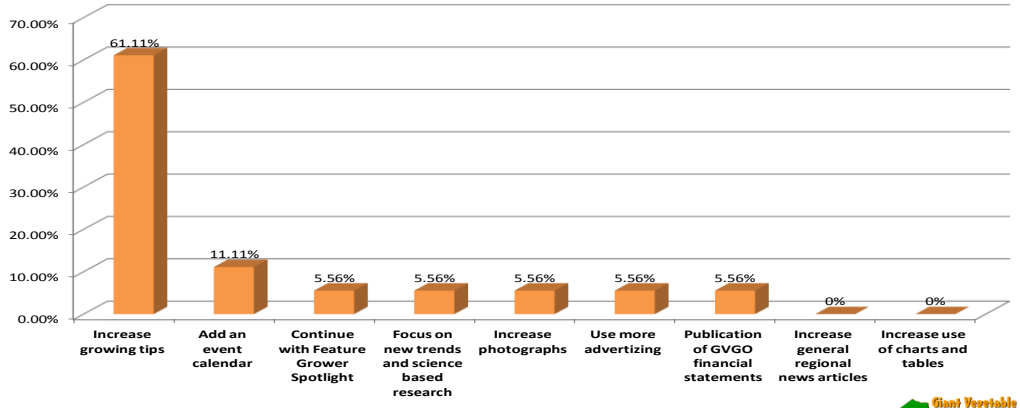
Additional potassium can also be supplied by foliar application. The best product for this is potassium carbonate 0-0-30. Keep mind this material is highly concentrated and should be used with caution. Usually apply at a half an oz per gal of water every 10-14 days will supply adequate potassium. Over application of foliar K can cause premature fruit shut down.



GVGO Survey Results

What changes would you like to see in the Newsletter?

Answered: 18 Skipped: 2



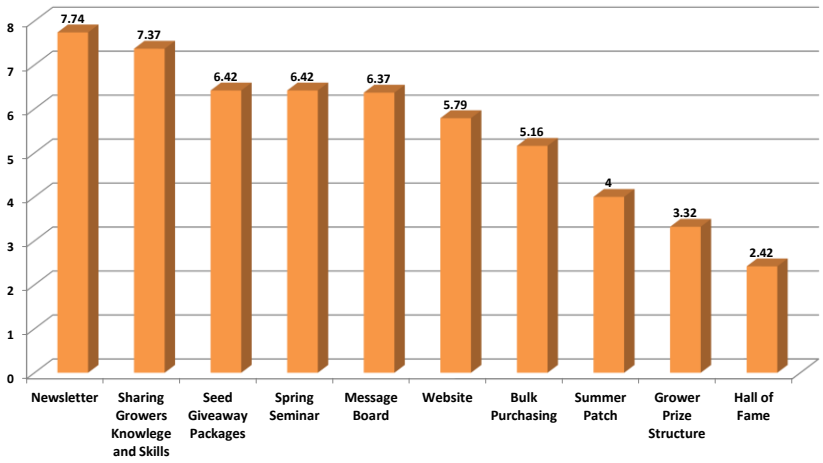
Objective: *To provide a venue where members can give feedback that will:*

1. Tell us what we are doing well

2. Help to make improvements for the Club.

What do you like best about the GVGO? Please rank in order of importance

19 Respondents 1 Skipped



10 – Like Best 1 – Like Least

Are you thinking about joining or renewing your **GVGO membership** for the 2014 growing season? Don't wait too long, as there are only a limited amount of seed packs. The benefits are endless.

In 2014 we're offering each new or existing member a Bubble Pack with more than 20 seeds from our member's (GVGO) Pumpkins, Tomato, Long Gourd, Watermelon & Squash, along with a few seeds from the other giant varieties as well. We also offer 3 great newsletters per year filled with growing info & tips from the best growers in the world. Plus a 10% discount on soil reports, club contests, free entry to our Grower's Seminar & Patch Tour, club discounts on bulk purchases & more.

Comments:

- **Don't know how other clubs operate, but I think this club operates well.**

New GVGO members are welcomed. We have members from all around the globe. We have members in every Canadian Province, most US states, 9 European countries, NZ & Aus.

If you're looking to join a club that not only focuses its attention on reporting news from around the World, look no further than the GVGO. Included with your membership is a great seed pack with a value of more than $100. Likely more once some become proven winners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GVGO

The GVGO on the web

We continue to actively seek proven seed donations for this falls coming 2014 web auction season.

Donations can be brought with you to the seminar. Phil Hunt or Phil Joynson or Russ will be happy to include them in the coming fall auction events.

Cornish Giant

Cabbage Seeds > Phil Hunt has purchased Cornish Giant Cabbage seeds from the UK for the club. They will be available from Pat Watson soon.

Cornish Giant Cabbage 10 seeds/pkg
$10. only 25 seed packs available

Hunt 2013 AGP packs only 10 available
1545 Hunt 13 (1495 Stelts x 1789 Wallace)
1472 Hunt 13 (1381 Delaney x 1789 Wallace)

Contact: Phil Hunt to reserve your seed pack.

Please add **$5** for shipping & handling to each order
PayPal to gvgogrowers@gmail.com
Email Direct transfer to gvgogrowers@gmail.com
or by mail with check.
Please list seed description with payment to:
C/O Jane Hunt, Treasurer
4376 Hwy 35 N
Cameron, ON. Canada.
K0M 1G0

GVGO.ca

Notes: Tips From

Tim Mathison, growing the WR 2032

1. **20 pounds of Myco per plant.**
2. **30 to 40' long secondary vines.**
3. **Micro emitters for misting leaves.**
4. **Pumpkin was set at 14' on the main.**
5. **Cover Crop 3 bean mix > Peas, Vetch & Fava Beans.**
6. **$ 11,275 winnings for pumpkin.**
7. **$ 31,500 winnings from Usegi Farms.**

GVGO Folks on the Move

Executive Update

Pat Watson has announced his resignation from the GVGO Executive Council. As the south region executive, Pat has played a key role in club policy building and was the seed coordinator the past few years. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Phil & Jane duties are changing to those of treasurer only. Moving from them is bulk purchasing, seed auctions and other general fund raising responsibilities.

Feature Vegetable - Other

new category called the Feature Vegetable ***'Other'***.
Details at the seminar

The first annual is the

Rutabaga

Seeds will be available on request from Pat Watson when ordered through the club via PayPal, email transfer or direct mail in. Contact Pat Watson to reserve your seeds

Plants will also be available from Norm Craven at the spring seminar

Details and prize package remain to be determined at the spring GVGO seminar. Stay tuned to the message boards for more details.

The GVGO is looking for a few good growers to help with club activities

1. Web Master
2. Bulk Product Purchaser
3. GVGO one contact person
4. Two members for the auction team

Field Pumpkin News

209 Werner 12
(103 McKinnon x 81 Wolf)

Quinn Werner grew the 209 Lb new **World Record** field pumpkin. He started his seed at the end of May and planted it outside a few weeks later.

Grown in a Christmas tree pattern with side vines about 8' wide and a 30' long main vine that was not terminated.

The side vines were buried and he said he treated, and grew the plant just like he does with his Atlantic Giants.

KEY: set fruit later in the season

Growers Diary

60" CC on day 20 is good. 10 pound Gains per day from D20 to D30 is considered robust. Russ L.

The average growth span for a field pumpkin is only 30-45 days. Linus Van Pelt

You get 2 or more pollinations from field pumpkins, some serious growers like only 1, pollination date @ Aug 5th. – 15th. J & P Hunt.

In my experience temperatures play an important part in the growing length of both field pumpkins and their cousins, English marrows. I have seen both stop growing within 30 days in hot temperatures and my WR marrow was still growing after 50 days during a relatively cool summer. Brad W.

50 night and showers+72 day and sunny = perfection! Don Crews

GVGO

Gentilly, Seed Sale!

POTIROTHON
Gentilly – Québec

Hello to all fellow growers,

Gentilly club is pleased to present his annual giant pumpkins seeds sale. All proceeds go directly to fund our activities. We collected seeds from the top pumpkins grown in Quebec. Thank you to all the growers who donated seeds. Each package is offered at low cost in CAD$ + $5 for packaging and shipping. We offer many packages of seeds with great genetics including proven 1630 Colbert 2012 with her offspring. To order, go directly to:

http://www.potirothon.ca/Graines/Graines_Potirothon_en.html

We ship the next day after your order!

GVGO Calendar of Events

	March	April	May	June	July	August
Week 1	1. ASAP soil samples to A & L Labs	1. Prepare planting area	1. Start Tall Corn & Sunflower	1. Trim & Bury vines SE, BA, FG, GH & F	1. Trim & Bury vines SE, BA, FG, GH & F	1. Polination LG, FP & Maters
	2. Add OM, SE & F	2. Add patch soil amendments	2. Sow late spring & Summer cover crop.	2. Fert balanced NPK 20 -20-20	2. Fert balanced NPK 20 -20-20 weekly	2. Fert higher in K for AGP fruit growth
	3. Seed selection	3. Install heating cables	3. BB, Bacteria, Fungi & SE weekly	3. Fungicides & phophites weekly apps	3. Fungicides & phophites weekly apps	3. Fungicides & phophites weekly apps
	4. Spray onto snow or soil sugars	4. Start Hoop House (HH) Construction	4. Plant AGP. F > P, GH > IBA. Azos, Myco.	4. Foliar Insecticide sprays weekly	4. Foliar Insecticides & sprays weekly	4. Foliar Insecticides & sprays weekly.
	5. Research daily	5. Sow spring grass cover crop. FG > GI	5. All plant sites BA, FG, GH & F.	5. Foliar F > PH every 7 to 10 days	5. Foliar F > PH every 7 to 10 days	5. Foliar F > PH every 7 to 10 days
	6. Join GVGO message boards	6. Plant sacrificial plants for HH	6. All plant sites OM & SE	6. Foliar F > Co2 every 10 to 14 days	6. Foliar F > Co2 every 10 to 14 days	6. Foliar F > Co2 every 10 to 14 days
	7. Join Big Pumpkins.com	7. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	7. Start Tomato seeds,	7. Foliar > OM & SE every spray event	7. Foliar > OM & SE every spray event	7. Foliar > OM & SE every spray event
Week 2	1. ASAP irrigation water check	1. Start practice Tomato seeds,	1. Hoop House Shade, Vents, Fans & CO2	1. Bury vines after tendrils set.	1. Complete terminations & bury vines.	1. Polination ends LG, FP & Maters
	2. Add OM, SE & F	2. BB > OM, SE & F	2. F Higher in N > AN, BS, GI, TH	2. Male Flowers accumulate & refrig	2. Chop down cover crop ahead of vines	2. Fert higher in K for AGP fruit growth
	3. Seed selection	3. Water treatment plans. Acids > pH?	3. Fert balanced NPK 20 -20-20	3. F Higher in P for fruit set	3. Fert balanced NPK 20 -20-20	3. GVGO Summer News Letter
	4. Research daily how to grow	4. Sow spring cover crop. FG > GI	4. Start Tomato seeds,	4. Tissue test, send to A & L Labs	4. AGP reduce vine stress daily	4. Vines remove all extra growth
	5. Read dirt doctor & three how to books	5. HH soil & air heating	5. Sow late spring & Summer cover crop	5. Chop down cover crop ahead of vines	5. Tissue test, send to A & L Labs	5. Measure & record all fruit
	6. Start practice plants	6. Sow sacrificial Innoculated plants	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F
	7. Finalize product oredring	7. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	7. Set up irrigation systems	7. Protect main vine	7. Trim, stake & tie Maters & Lg's	7. Trim, stake & tie Maters & Lg's
Week 3	1. Spray Sugars on soil. MO, MS or CS	1. Start main AGP seeds. IBA	1. Last frost this week? Tomato seeds	1. Bury vines after tendrils set.	1. Complete terminations & bury vines	1. Vines remove all extra growth
	2. Add > F, AN, NPK, Fish & Kelp	2. Add soil micros and adjust soil pH	2. Plant Maters, P, IBA, Azos, Myco.	2. Male Flowers, accumulate & refrig	2. Polination begins LG, FP & Maters	2. Fert higher in K for AGP fruit growth
	3. Roto-tiling	3. Sow spring cover crop. FG > GI	3. F Higher in AN, BS, GI, TH, GH, SE.	3. F higher in P for fruit set	3. Chop down cover crop ahead of vines	3. Vines remove all extra growth
	4. GVGO Spring Newsletter Released	4. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	4. Plant Maters, P, IBA, Azos, Myco.	4. Pollination AGP, cool flower if needed	4. Fert balanced NPK 20 -20-20	4. Terminate Maters & LG's
	5. Research daily how to grow	5. Prep Tomato planting sites	5. Foliar F > PH every 7 to 10 days	5. Chop down cover crop ahead of vines	5. Trim, stake & tie. Maters & LG's	5. Measure & record all fruit
	6. Prepare journals and daily logs	6. Prep LG & FP's planting sites	6. Erect wind & shade protection	6. Protect main vine, angle vine for fruit	6. Check vine stress daily	6. Prep 2015 sites & sow fall cover crops
	7. Read how to grow giant tomatoes.	7. Setup weather station & monitors	7. Plant marigolds to deter nematodes	7. Round up for weeds as required	7.Round up for weeds as required	7. Round up for weeds as required
Week 4	1. Spray Sugars on soil. MO, MS or CS	1. HH soil & air heating	1. Last frost this week?	1. Term & Bury vines after tendrils set.	1. Bury vines, measure & record fruit	1. Donate seed for GVGO Fall auctions
	2. Add OM, SE & F	2. Start AGP Backup seeds	2. Bury vines after tendrils set.	2. F Higher in N for vine growth	2. Polination LG, FP & Maters	2. Fert higher in K for fruit growth
	3. Seed selection	3. HH, heating, Shade, Vents, Fans & CO2	3. F Higher in AN, BS, GI, TH, GH, SE.	3. Pollination AGP, cool flower if needed	3. Fert balanced NPK 20 -20-20	3. Vines remove all extra growth
	4. GVGO Seminar	4. Sow spring cover crop. FG > GI	4. BB Myco & Soil enhancers	4. Protect plants from heat as required	4. Trim, Stake & Tie. Maters & LG's	4. GVGO Patch Tour
	5. Research Daily how to grow	5. Start Tomato seeds,	5. Plant LG, Corn & Sunflower	5.Chop down cover crop ahead of vines	5. Spy on other growers	5. Measure & record all fruit
	6. Start practice plants	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	6. Set insect traps & check weekly.	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	6. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F
	7. Start sacrificial Innoculated plants	7. Start Long Gourd seeds	7. Drench > OM, SE & BA, FG, GH & F	7. Foliar > re: tissue test? / micros	7. Foliar > re: tissue test? / micros	7. Prep 2015 sites & sow fall cover crops

OM - Organics	SE - Soil Enhancers	BA - Bacteria	FG - Fungi	GH - Growth Hormones	F - Ferts
4. GVGO Spring Newsletter Released	KM - Kelp Meal	BS - Bacillus subtilis	GI - Glomus Intraradices	IBA - Indol Butric Acid	Nitrogen
MO - Molasses	HA - Humic Acid	AZ - Azospirillum	TH - Trichoderma Harzianum	IAA	AN - Amonium Nitrate
MS - Maple Syrups	FA - Fulvic Acid			NAA	N - Nitrogen
CS - Corn Syrup	Chitinase			KN - Kinetin	P - Phosphorus
CT - Compost Tea					K - Potassium
WC - Worm Castings	SS - Soil Supplements			E - Elictiors	Ca - Calcium
F - Fish Emulsion					Mg - Magnesiusm
					Micros - B, S, Fe, Mn,
					PH - Phosphites
					CO2 - Calcium Carbonate