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GROWERS VINE

SPRING 2013

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest
October 5-6, 2013
www.pumpkinfest.org
info@pumpkinfest.org
1-800-387-3456

Brought to you by Port Elgin Pumpkinfest and the GVGO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE By Phil Joynson

I hope this newsletter finds the membership and their families in good health and with a great optimism for the 2013 growing season. Big changes are coming to the GVGO this year. First and foremost are the changes to the old "Seed of the Year" contest. This contest will be replaced by the "Big Momma" contest. We are now using any seed donated in the GVGO seed pack. Rules and eligible seeds are list in this newsletter. If you didn't get a particular seed on the list in your seed pack and you wish to grow that seed then don't be shy to post something to that effect on the GVGO.ca message board. I'm sure another GVGO member will get you your seed of choice.

Next up is the GVGO Seminar. This year for the first time we're venturing to western Ontario. This will be held Saturday April 6th in Breslau (Near Kitchener) Ontario. This is a must go to event as we delve into growing science for Ontario growers like no other event as well as make decision about club policy that effect us all. Also there will be

the usual product distribution and products for sale as well. There will be a minimal charge for lunch. Thanks go out to John Matesa for doing the work to make this event happen. You'll find details and directions in this newsletter.

Don't forget the "International Growers 'Seminar" being held March 8th to 10th at the Americana in Niagara this year. We always need a good GVGO presence there. Last year's event was by far the best one yet for info and atmosphere. This year's event already has more attendees booked than last and promises to be quite the event. Registration information was published in the Fall, 2012 newsletter.

Before I go further I'd like to remind those that haven't done so to please, please renew your GVGO club membership as this is our main revenue source. We can't run without your support.

If you are a paid up GVGO member then you should have received your GVGO seed package by now. If you haven't gotten it yet then please contact

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the club and we'll make sure you get a bubble pack out to you. Thanks go out to Pat Watson and his sorting and packaging crew for again going above and beyond to get those hundreds of bubblers with thousands of seeds out to the membership. It's a daunting task to get this done but Pat seems to get it done every year.

Thanks also go out to John Nieuwenhoff and Phil Hunt for going that extra mile and running the GVGO seed raffle. This event raised quite a bit of needed revenue for the club.

More kudos go out to Kirk Chenier who's running the product distribution for the club this year. A smart grower uses all the resources available to them and great products at a great price being offered by the GVGO is a good first step. Be sure to check out the products being offered and get your orders in ASAP!

In closing, on behalf of the GVGO I'd like to send out congratulations to Phil and Jane Hunt for their induction to the "GPC Hall of Fame". This is quite an honour as this is a very exclusive club. You've made all of us very proud.

Phil Joynson

**PORT ELGIN PUMPKINFEST
UPDATE
By Sally Hunt**

Things are gearing up for the International Giant Vegetable Growers' Convention which begins March 9, 2013 and will be held at the Americana Resort in Niagara Falls. There is still time to register – just give us a call at the office 1-800-387-3456 and Lacey will be pleased to assist you. Also, don't forget that our silent seed auction is running on the Pumpkinfest web pages until March 4th at 8 p.m. There are still plenty of fantastic lots with little or no bids, so don't miss your chance to help our fundraising efforts and get some great seeds in return.



March 8-10, 2013

We've had some more staff turn around at Pumpkinfest Headquarters. We want to welcome Corby Leitch and Kristen Holloway to our great team, which is headed up by Lacey Boyd. You can meet Corby and Lacey in Niagara Falls, if you attend the seminar. During festival planning Kristen will be handling duties attached with entertainment and Corby

will be our lead organizing festival vendors. But when it comes to grower contact and questions, I'm still your girl!

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

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

Our marketing theme for the 2013 festival is a focus on our community and our wonderful volunteers. Here is the sneak peak of this year's festival poster and main advertising piece.



We hope to see you all on
October 5 & 6, 2013!

Finally we are getting some traditional winter weather as I just finished helping the kids build a multi-room snow fort complete with secret escape tunnels and hiding spots so they are in position to ambush innocent passers-by with a barrage of snow balls...it sure is a lot of fun and brings back a lot of good memories of my childhood.

Recently, us bigger kids have been busy preparing seed packs and doing all the things that help keep the club ticking along. By the time this newsletter reaches everyone, your seed packs should have arrived. The members came through big time again this year with a bunch of generous donations of great seeds. Every seed pack should have a least 1 pumpkin seed 1400lbs and up plus a great assortment of top quality seeds from all the various veggie categories. I want to thank John Butler and Art Johnston for contributing some cabbage, tall corn and sunflower seeds for the growers who requested them. If anyone else is interested in growing these seeds, let me know, I still have some of each left if you didn't get any in your pack. My contact information is included in this article.

I want to thank all the growers who contributed seeds for the packs this year, without the

generous donations made by the members, the seed packs would not be possible.

As most of you are aware, the club executive has decided to replace the Seed of the Year Contest with the new Big Momma Growers Contest in 2013. The rules are as follows:

- 1) The contest is open to all paid GVGO members.
 - 2) The top 3 pumpkin and squash grown off an eligible seed win a cash prize. All prizes are paid in Canadian funds.
 - 3) All pumpkin and squash seeds donated for the GVGO membership seed packs are eligible to participate. A list of the eligible seeds is included in this newsletter.
 - 4) The 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.
- Email:** karenpat@sympatico.ca
Telephone: 519-641-1607
Mailing address: Pat Watson, PO Box 25, Komoka, Ont. N0L 1R0

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

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

If anyone has any questions about the Big Momma Growers Contest please feel free to contact myself or any of the GVGO executive members.

In other Ontario news, the Erin Fair weigh-off is now a GPC sanctioned site for 2013. The organizers are very happy with this latest development and will provide more information about their event later this coming season.

It is hard to believe that the growing season will ramp up in just a couple short months from now. I look forward to seeing a lot of you in Niagara Falls at the International Growers Seminar on March 8, 9 & 10 or at our GVGO Spring Seminar on April 6.

In closing, I want to wish everyone good health, happiness and luck this coming season.

Pat Watson

**NEWS FROM THE EAST
COAST**
by Dawn Northrup

With a new year upon us, growers from the East Coast are busy planning out their 2013 season. Bill & I decided to be proactive and attend the "Pumpkin Cruise". We enjoyed sailing around the Hawaiian Islands while meeting old friends and making new ones! It was great to meet other growers from across the continent! The pumpkin cocktail party was the perfect spot to share tips and best practices.

The Maritimes are gripped by bone-chilling temperatures and is currently in a deep freeze with frigid temperatures of -30 and not to mention gusting winds! I am hoping this teeth-chattering cold snap will end soon!

Waiting patiently in the anticipation of spring, hopefully Atlantic Canada will get an early spring this year, the big question comes to mind....what seeds to plant this year. There are so many good ones to choose from.

I wish all Growers a Great Year and hope you achieve all of your dreams in the patch!!

Dawn

WESTERN REPORT
by Don Crews

Honestly, spring seems a long way away right now. There has been snow on the ground here in this part of Alberta since mid October. There are signs that this has kept the ground from freezing as far down as usual. We won't know till May if that's done us any good, but it can't hurt.



I'm not sure how quick a start I will get this year. I had determined that soil temp, specifically, not enough soil temp was most likely responsible for lagging growth at times during the season. Soil temps were measured during the season and temps at the 6" level were found to be below 20C, particularly later in the season when the plant canopy shades the soil. Watering with warm water helped for a few hours but that was no solution. I decided to try a couple of different methods to warm the soil but the early freeze up completely ruined my plans. I think that the long term success of my patch is dependent on warmer temps so I most likely

will install my system(s) in the spring even though it will delay my start.

There are two methods I think may work. The first one is the standard hydronic heat system using buried pipes and a boiler or heater. There are quite a lot of details to work out as far as circulating pumps and heaters but there could be many advantages if the heat transfers through the soil successfully. I will have to keep the lines below the tilling level so heat transfer may be a problem. I have seen some research articles and it seems that with moist soil there is good transfer so I'm hopeful.

The second system is very simple. I thought it was an original idea but some Internet research revealed that is was already in use. It involves burying corrugated drain pipe in the soil and blowing warm air through them. Some of the systems I read about had as many feet of 4" pipe buried as their was square footage of greenhouse. The basics of the system are that the air is blown from one end of the greenhouse to the other, underground in closely separated (less than 2') but still separate pipes connected to a supply manifold on one end and allowed to vent free on the other end. There can be several levels of piping to warm as much mass as possible. The air in most of these systems comes from the upper level of the greenhouse. A thermostat turns on a low flow fan that

circulates the air when the temp inside the greenhouse is high enough. The air that comes out the other side is cooler and will cool the greenhouse. Win win. I will have to trench my lines in so I might not have the same mass effect but with many hours of warm air circulating through them daily, the soil should warm substantially.

If I manage to get these in I will be sure to take pics and document the results. Stay tuned!

NEWS FROM EUROPE
By Brad Wursten

While growers are gearing up for a new season, the EGVGA itself is in troubled waters. Since it started in 2007/2008 it was pretty much a one-man-show and while the club kept on getting larger and larger, maxing out at some 240 members in more than 20 countries this year, the amount of support simply diminished. Many country coordinators and board members refused to take responsibility, and to keep the whole show on the road, I had to put more and more work into the club. As of this year I was doing everything except for being treasurer. So that meant running the website, writing the newsletters, running the auction, keeping track of records and results, packing the seeds, growing many of the seeds for the packages,

answering emails, writing the rules and regulations and figuring out who won what in the thirty odd giant vegetable classes we run, to mention a few things. And with as many members as the EGVGA has, that is just too much for one person. So I resigned and took my intellectual property with me. What's left is an empty shell. It will be interesting to see how the current board will pick up the pieces and put Humpty-Dumpty back together again.

So that should leave me with a few hundred extra hours as I attempt to break both the Dutch pumpkin and squash record this year. But it will be quite a competition as a few other Dutch growers have set out to do the same. For the first time I will only be using "European" seeds, even though I have always done better with Canadian seeds in the past. Now is hoping for better weather than last year.

Brad Wursten

GVGO SCIENCE NEWS
By Russ Landry
AKA Kahuna 11 – Team Lunatic

BORON IN YOUR SOIL

It is possible to analyze patch soil samples for Boron (**B**) which plants obtain from the soil's water solution. However this does not mean that the results of a simple soil test can

be used to predict its availability or deficiency for growth of an Atlantic Giant Pumpkin (**AGP**).

The B values obtained from Ontario soils test much like Calcium (**Ca**) which varies and is dependent on a host of factors. The most important being what is actually soluble and available to the plant in the soil solution. This is the single most important factor in deciding the requirement of B supplements due to its high toxic effects to plants. It is thought to be rare that native Ontario patch soils would require B supplements. This is due in part to the present B in native soil as well what will be released from the soils Organic Matter content.

The intensive growth habit of giant pumpkins however could render some Ontario patch soils B deficient. Soil and tissue tests can be used to detect problems before they become serious. It should be noted however, that B soil tests requires a water soluble test to determine actual availability in your patch soil.

Clay and loamy soils are generally B sufficient in most of the province while sandy soils generally benefit from added B due to leeching in heavy rainfall or irrigation events. Crop yields in Ontario have been boosted in sandy soils due to B solubility enhanced drainage and leeching within the soil substructure..

Increasing yields of an AGP sink should also be addressed in season by tissue tests. Plant analysis is really the only reliable and decisive way of shaping the AGP's requirements. Tissue testing is recommended every two to three weeks beginning in early to mid June just before pollination. Much like Ca, B is highly mobile in the soil solution and plants can become deficient in drought conditions. Both elements are thought to be critical in the formation of pollen tubes and building the sinks internal rivers we call the "**Calcium Highway**". Much like Ca, B is not mobile in the plant, meaning once deposited it does not move. Therefore Ca and B levels are most critical at this time to allow for adequate bud formation and development of xylem and phloem pathways of both the male and female flowers. Sufficiency ranges from 25 to 75 ppm in pumpkin plants is normal. Generally B above 40 ppm or more combined with Ca at 5% or more will protect growers from BES and low fruit weights.

Boron is most available in soils with pH ranges from 5.0 to 7.0ppm. Ranges may vary from a low end 0.5 to moderate 2.5 and 5ppm being toxic. Boron has a very narrow ppm range of use and should always be used with caution. Nutrient Management of Cucurbits especially AGP Maxima is thought to be in the upper high range. Depending on nutrient solubility tests adequate levels

should be determined by A & L labs. Applications of B as mentioned should be treated with caution. Soils should not be supplemented until B availability is first determined using a water soluble test from A & L labs. Further treating soils with acids and or irrigation water can release locked away B similar to Ca. It is most important to understand these levels before application begins.

How an AGP plant responds to B applications depends heavily on soil moisture levels throughout the season. Again as with other soluble elements adequate soil moisture must be maintained. Also during periods of high plant respiration it is important to moderate the plants micro climate through misting, irrigation, and shade provisioning and or air movement. Supplementation of B can be avoided entirely by ensuring B nutrients are not tied up in Bi-Carbonate compounds. Treating irrigation water to as low as 5.5 pH will free up lock away B & Ca. If required "**Mule 20 Team Borax**" purchased from Zehrs or other local supermarkets can be applied at 2.0 oz per patch.

LAW AND ORDER: SVB
By Stacey Hickman

In your pumpkin patch, Squash Vine Borers (SVB) are considered especially heinous. In Ontario, the dedicated entomologists who investigate these vicious felons are members of an elite squad known as **Natural Insect Control**. These are their stories.

E. B Reed of the Entomological Society of Ontario in 1871 describes the Squash Vine Borer as belonging to a "curious tribe of moths" with an extraordinary resemblance to other orders of insects –bees, wasps, hornets, etc.¹. This may be one of the first descriptions of Squash Vine Borers in Ontario.

Squash Vine Borers, *Melittia satyriniformis* are a serious pest of many cucurbits as any pumpkin grower knows. The larva bores into the plants resulting in damaged tissue in stem, causing a runner beyond that point to die and in extreme cases the entire plant can perish. To the small scale home gardener, that damage to plants can result in losses of 50% to 100%. How can these plants be saved? The cryptic behavior of the larvae makes control of this pest very difficult with pesticides, thus the development of pheromone-baited traps. Using these traps can provide early detection of

this pest, monitor established populations, time a pesticide application or provide mass trapping opportunities. Squash Vine Borer can be trapped using a Universal moth trap (yellow funnel, white bottom, green top) along with a pheromone lure. These traps have been used for Squash Vine Borer surveys. These traps have been shown to trap significant numbers of male Squash Vine Borers ².

Natural Insect Control offers Squash Vine Borer lures and Universal traps. In our northern climates, there is only one generation per season. The traps should be installed in your fields by early June. The Squash Vine borers are in flight from June thru July. For general monitoring, use 1 to 2 traps per 10 acres. Two traps should be placed on opposite sides of a field at a height of 4-6 feet off the ground and 20-50 feet away from the edge of the field. For mass trapping, increase the number of traps to 4 to 5 per 10 acres and change lure after 4 weeks of use. Happy Trapping!

Natural Insect Control can be reached at 905-382-2904, 905-382-4418 (fax), nic@niagara.com or www.naturalinsectcontrol.com

References

1. Reed, E.B. (1871-1876). Annual Report - Entomological Society of Ontario: 1871-1876, Volumes 2-8, 89-90
2. Jackson, D. Michael, Canhilal, Ramazan and Carner, Gerald R. Trap Monitoring Squash Vine Borers in Cucurbits. J. Agric. Urban Entomol, 20 (1), 27-39

Top 10 Things Overheard at 2012 Weigh-offs by Phil Joynson

(Yes, I'm stilling beating this poor dead horse as long as there's a strip of flesh left on it!)

10. "To grow a 20 ft. tall corn stalk you need a least a 25ft. scare crow."
9. "When the pumpkin growers from Quebec bring their pumpkins to Ontario weigh-offs en masse the St. Lawrence flows backwards for a full 15 minutes."
8. "Beer and Manure are my favourite growing supplies."
7. "There's a direct correlation between travel time to weigh-offs and the bladder size of your passengers."
6. "What a phoney, I hear even his farmer tan is sprayed on."
5. "I hear the most common mark on an I.Q. test taken by a squash grower is a drool mark."
4. "Wet blankets are great for pumpkins but lousy at a party."
3. "At weigh-offs I like to follow Art and John around to find the beer tent."
2. "Lucky for me my kids are too dumb for college so I can still afford to grow pumpkins."
1. "John Matesa used so much Miracle Grow this year he's beginning to look like a Smurf."

I'd like to apologize for number 5 on the list. I am but a humble reporter and only record what I hear from other growers and don't necessarily agree with that unnamed person. -Phil

Cover Crops

Mycorrhiza for a Bountiful Harvest



Now that fall is in full swing, gardeners and growers are in search of the practices and treatments to harvest the healthiest products possible. Pumpkin growers in particular want to know Ron's secret that earned him a one ton pumpkin.

As growers have become more aware of the importance of soil biology in managing nutrients, moisture, and reducing pest damage in soils, cover crops have rightfully garnered attention.

While cover crops can and should be grown any time of year as opposed to keeping patches open, the spring crop approach that Ron used has some very valuable results.

Cover crops are innumerable advantageous to anyone interested in growing, planting, or gardening. Pumpkin growers and others should be aware of the following benefits and tips:



Ron Wallace, Greene, RI used an extensive cover crop program in combination with **MYKO** Mycorrhizal inoculant. This was just a portion of his cultural program, but an important component that resulted in the world's first **ONE TON PUMPKIN**.

Increased Organic Matter:

When crops are turned back into the soil, they increase the nutrient reserves for future crops. The compounds holding the plant food are "organic compounds", which means they become available through a biological pathway involving various beneficial microbes, including mycorrhizae.

Organic Matter is a source of banked nutrients that is made readily available to crops by microbes. Organically "banked" nutrients do not leach away or become insoluble; they are only available when plants are growing.

Improving Soil Structure:

Amending the soil with **MYKOS / Pumpkin Pro** will result in not only more above ground biomass, but the amount of below ground biomass component can be increased by approximately 30% in the form of *Glomalin* according to a USDA / ARS study. *Glomalin*, a “Super Soil Glue” is a unique substance that coats soil particles, improving soil structure and aeration. Root diseases prefer *anaerobic* conditions with little or no oxygen present. *Aerobic* conditions favor beneficial organisms including all the “*Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria*” or “*PGPR’s*”. These encompass many of the other microbes in the soil that release nutrients, such as nitrogen, phosphorus, zinc, calcium, etc. They also assist plants in producing defense compounds and soil water management.



The pumpkin roots pictured above illustrate the fast pace at which roots can move through soil and establish networks to mine and supply the host plant after using a cover crop and **MYKOS** prior to planting.

Photo credit: Russ Pugh, Santa Rosa, CA

A Living Community:

However, a spring cover crop can enhance the biological performance of pumpkin patches in a very important way. Ron kept his cover crop growing in his patch and mulched it in only as the pumpkin plants grew up to the cover crop; he then roto-tilled it in front of the new vines. This helped the grower connect with a living biological interface that was already in place and churning out nutrients for plants, making supplementation efficient and effective.

Although treating buried vines with **MYKOS** and **AZOS** is still highly recommended, the additional biological presence helps roots grow that much more quickly.



[Glomalin](#) is a polysaccharide secreted throughout the soil by mycorrhizal hyphae. It improves soil structure by aggregating loose soils and particulating heavy soils.

Another benefit of this approach is the biological balance of good bugs to bad bugs. As mentioned, mycorrhizal association increases *Glomalin* production that favors *aerobic* microbes. Under these conditions, many cover crops will increase the production of defense compounds such as the enzyme *chitinase*. Nematodes and many pathogenic fungi have either external shells or internal organs that are made of "chitin", the same material found in crab, shrimp, and lobster shells. Chitinase is a natural enzyme produced by plants at greater levels when there is both a **MYKOS** mycorrhizal and azospirillum (**AZOS**) population in the soil. This compound will suppress and destroy populations of root eating nematodes.

However, if nematodes are a serious problem, winter radish and some strains of mustard, particularly white mustard, are excellent choices. Be warned, however, as these members of the *brassicae* family produce negative compounds known as *Glucosinolates*, which are precursors to mustard gas. These plants would not only wipe out the nematodes but also many beneficial microbes.

Nematodes are an underrated issue that must be taken seriously. These root-eating worms can easily destroy 50% or more of the roots in a pumpkin patch. If interested in testing soil, Western Laboratories has very sophisticated PCR (Real time DNA) equipment that can run tests for about \$60.00.



Root attacking nematodes can suck the nutrients out of roots. Large populations will grow very rapidly, reducing the amount of energy a plant has available.

Which Cover Crops to Use:

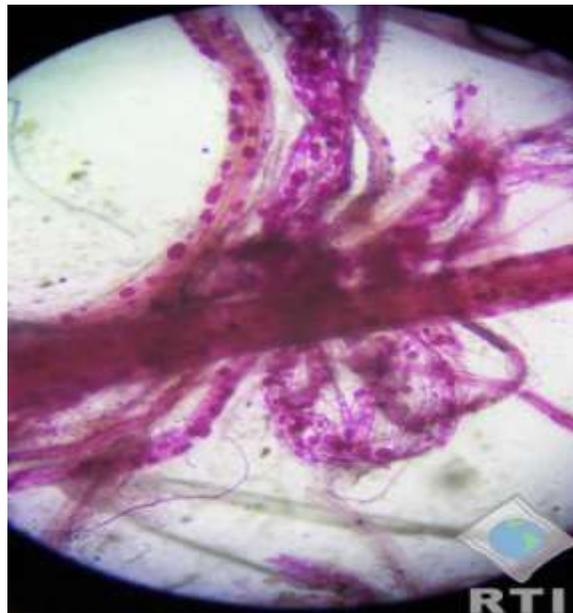
Choosing the right cover crop depends on the time of year. Fall and winter rye and winter triticale are recommended for sowing immediately after harvest and can produce substantial amounts of organic matter by spring. Certain strains of triticale have the added benefit of nematode suppression as well as producing massive amounts of roots. Corn or Sudan grass (Sudex is recommended because it also suppresses nematodes) are good choices if the patch is resting for the summer. Legumes also are good candidates if soils are lacking in nitrogen.



Corn and Sudan grass are classified as members of the C4 group of plants that have a better ability to transfer carbon to the soil. This makes them excellent hosts and cover crops for a range of beneficial microbes.

A great cover crop program, whether it is a fall planting, spring planting, or a combination of both, provides continuity to maintaining biological health as well as banking organic nutrients.

As mycorrhizae became a key cultural ingredient in moving the record from Ron's 1,502 lb pumpkin to his new one ton achievement, awareness of how good practices that maintain an excellent environment for not only mycorrhizae, but also other beneficial microbes, which will play a critical factor in achieving the next benchmark of 2,500 lbs. It is very possible and the giant pumpkin community has the support, enthusiasm, and commitment to make it happen.



Mother Nature's Plant Defenses: These roots contain mycorrhizal spores as well as vesicles that contain natural fungicides known as "phenols". When roots are attacked by pathogens, the vesicles burst, releasing poisons that kill the predators.



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1411 Cronk The new Northern Ontario Record

By Phil Hunt

The GVGO would like to Congratulate Don Cronk of Thunder Bay for growing a new Northern Ontario record pumpkin. Don has offered to share his story with the GVGO members by answering a few questions for us. Thanks, we appreciate your help. Hopefully this information will help our members reach their goals & grow a new PB.

1. Fall Prep. Can you give us a brief description of your normal fall prep? Any tips for our members?

Answer. In the fall I till in over 20 bags of mulched leaves and five truck loads of horse manure. I used the bucket of my tractor to dig and lift the compacted clay soil under the garden soil. This helps with drainage and amending of the soil. Have been working the same patch 30X110 for over 10 years and the clay soil is now nutrient rich black loam. Tip would be to add as many mulched leaves as possible.

2. Can you tell us a bit about the greenhouse you used? Was the fruit grown inside all season or did you take the cover off for the hot summer months?

Answer. I used three large box green houses 6'X8' with black plastic and heat cables to help warm the soil. With are cold nights I also install heat lights to protect plants from frost. No cover over plants after May except for frost protection.

3. Spring prep. Can you describe your Spring prep of the soil?

Answer. I amend only the planting area say 15X15 with granular kelp, bone meal, blood meal, compost, and Mycorrhizae soil inoculants in the center.

4. Tilling. Some growers only till their gardens once per year, some 4 or 5 times. What are your thoughts on this & how many times do you till your patch throughout the year.

Answer. I till the garden about three times during the season to control the weeds and keep soil loose.

5. What date do you start your seeds in the spring?

Answer. I started seeds April 25th. and planted out May 10th

6. Germination date & when did you set out your plant in the patch?

Answer. I started seeds April 25th. and planted out May 10th

7. Question about pollination time and techniques.

Answer. In Northern Ontario with are cool damp nights I like to wait till late morning to pollinate. If the weather is hot I will pollinate early and shade with remay cloth.

8. What about plant size & Pattern? How big are your plants at pollination time? What is the final size of the plant?

Answer. Plants would be around (450sq feet) using a spider pattern. All growth will be stopped early August around (700sq feet).

9. With last year's warmer temps and hot sun, some folks in Ontario began using shade cloth over the patches. How did you cope with the higher temps?

Answer. We had a really nice warm summer but not so hot as to need shade cover.

10. Patch rotation, are you currently in a rotation program and can you comment on its cycle?

Answer. No. I rotate around the same patch & only heavily amend the soil and plant in a different corner of the garden each year.

11. Can you tell us about your watering system? What method do you use & why?

Answer. I use up to six black 45 gallon barrels for three plants. The well water warms during the day and I spray under the leaves in early evening so plant has time to dry before dark.

12. On average, how much water do you give each plant per day during dry spells? Do you treat your water in any way?

Answer. No more than two barrels per plant. This year I let the soil dry out on the top before watering. I use a light mix of fish, seaweed, molasses and Grotek LXR Black 0-0-1 in each barrel.

13. Do you use mulch for weed suppression or do you weed by hand? Any tips on weed control?

Answer. I use a beet hoe to cut off the weeds between secondary vines so I don't disturb the plants roots. Standing on wide boards when weeding will help to avoid soil

compaction. I use horse manure since we have five of them but would recommend using aged cow manure for less weed seeds.

14. Did you have any major problems with pests or disease?

Answer. No pest trouble but did have my middle plant's entire leaves turn yellow. Not sure what happened to it and it never spread to the other plants.

15. What 2 things do you think helped you grow your monster pumpkin?

Answer. This year I used a soluble fertilizer called Yara Liva Calcinit and I feel it helped my plants get off to a fast start. Also, my friend Ben Johnson (GVGO Executive) helped with my soil amendments from my soil test and any questions I had. I maybe on my own this year as he wants the trophy back. 😊



ANNOUNCEMENTS
The GVGO Executive

**Final Results for the 2012
GVGO Grower's Pool**

- 1 Chris Lyons 17781
- 2 Jeff Warner 17528
- 3 Kathy Joynson 17321
- 4 Phil Joynson 17028
- 5 Glen Huffman 16728
- 6 Russ Landry 16626
- 7 Gerry Cavanaugh 16556
- 8 Rick Sanders 15424
- 9 Paul Dettweiler 15108
- 10 Phil Hunt 15080
- 11 John Vincent 14478
- 12 Dave Locke 14184
- 13 Brant Timm 14017
- 14 Jane Hunt 13608
- 15 Art Johnson 12988
- 16 Candy Dettweiler 12363
- 17 John Butler 12342
- 18 Jim Reid 11741
- 19 Dana Shay 11416
- 20 Andreas Wild 11371
- 21 Lonnie Bourne 11325

Thanks go out to Conrad Wheildon for doing the running of last year's pool. Due to a lack of entries we're going to suspend the pool for 2013. Thanks go out to the participants over the years.

GVGO 2013 Seminar Directions

**The date is Saturday April 6th
2013**

Registration is from 8:00 to 9:00

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/RR-

Hall is on Right hand side 2711
SHANTZ STATION ROAD

Look for red steel gates at entrance

2012 GROWER OF THE YEAR

Below are the categories as organized for the calculation of Grower of the Year for the 2012 Growing season. The winning grower started out with a big wallet and lots of gumption a few years back. In the next few years he worked his Butt off and spared no expense in the Quest for the hallowed Champion Pumpkin and Giant Veggies. This just shows that hard work, great pumpkin friends to learn from and a tolerant wife really does help you grow big pumpkins. Congratulations to our 2012 grower of the year. Winner is list at the bottom of the Article – I had to create a little suspense!!!

PUMPKINS	Weight	Pts	SQUASH	Weight	Pts
Jim/Kelsey Bryson	1753.5	20	Jason Aldred	1077	10
Chris Delaney	1684.5	19	John Vincent	993	9
Harley Sproule	1522	18	Joel Jarvis	949	8
Joel Jarvis	1464.5	17	Bob/Elaine MacKenzie	905.5	7
Jim/Kelsey Bryson	1456	16	Shannon Langridge	861	6
Don Cronk	1411	15	Bob/Elaine MacKenzie	837.5	5
Todd Kline	1408.5	14	Tamri Ashton	804	4
Chris Delaney	1381	13	Doug Court	791	3
Jeff Warner	1347	12	Doug Court	753	2
John Matesa	1313	11	Brant/Brandon Timm	713	1
John Nieuwenhoff	1386	10			
Todd Kline	1302	9			
Harley Sproule	1233.5	8			
Ron Wray	1216.5	7			
Brant/Brandon Timm	1163.5	6			
Doris Wray	1152	5			
Jim Reid	1148	4			
Ryan Hoelke	1146.5	3			
John Vincent	1133	2			
Eric Sundin	1114	1			

CABBAGE	Weight	Pts
John Vincent	112.2	5
John Vincent	99.0	4
John Vincent	96.5	3
Jane/Phil Hunt	79.0	2
Jane/Phil Hunt	66.5	1

WATERMELON	Weight	Pts
Bryan Mailey	178.5	5
Chris Delaney	177.0	4
Doug Court	176.5	3
Bryan Mailey	167.0	2
Travis Thompson	166.5	1

LONG GOURD	Length	Pts
Al Eaton	122.88"	5
Todd Kline	120.0"	4
Todd Kline	117.25"	3
Chris Delaney	115.25"	2
Bryan Mailey	115.0"	1

TALL SUNFLOWER	Length	Pts
Jeff Warner	254.5"	5
Jeff Warner	237.5"	4
Butler /Johnston	223.5"	3
Butler /Johnston	222.0"	2
Fred Hain	219.25"	1

TOMATO	Weight	Pts
Butler/Johnston	5.50	5
John Nieuwenhoff	4.90	4
John Vincent	4.51	3
Butler/Johnston	4.39	2
Phi/Jane Hunt	4.32	1

Giant Field Pmpkin	Weight	Pts
Jen/Nathan Veitch	101"	5
John Twelves	96.5"	4
Doug Court	95.5"	3
Chris Lyons	94.0"	2
Chris Lyons	91.0"	1

TALL CORN	Length	Pts
Butler/Johnston	294.25"	5
Butler/Johnston	260.0"	4
Butler/Johnston	257.5"	3
Bryan Mailey	257.5"	2
Joanne Borcsok	239.0"	1

Summary of Points

Chris Delaney 19, 13, 4, 2 = 38 2012 GOTY

J/K Bryson 20, 16 = 36

Todd Kline 14, 9, 4, 3 = 30

John Vincent 2, 8, 5, 4, 3, 3 = 25

Butler/Johnston 3,2,5,4,3,5,2 = 24

GVGO 2013 Big Momma Growers Contest

Eligible Seeds

Pumpkin

1753 Bryson 2012 (1382 Bryson x 1647 Wallace)
1684.5 Delaney 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1818 Bryson)
1657.6 Bryson 2011 (1725 Harp x 1468 Stevens)
1522 Sproule 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1807 Stelts)
1456 Bryson 2012 (1404 Bryson x 1495 Stelts)
1411 Cronk 2012 (1650 Sproule x 1166 Chappelle)
1408 Kline 2012 (1566 Rodonis x 1404 Bryson)
1386 Nieuwenhoff 2012 (1381 Swarts x 1404 Bryson)
1379.5 Banman 2011 (1489 Kline x 1121 Raflant)
1356 Timm 2012 (1267.8 Timm x 1404 Bryson)
1347 Warner 2012 (1723 Marshall x 1658 Young)
1320 dmg Kline 2012 (1641 Montgomery x 1566 Rodonis)
1314 est Bryson 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1807 Stelts)
1313 Matesa 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1404 Bryson)
1302 Kline 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1404 Bryson)
1282 Lyons dmg 2012 (1161 Rodonis x 1381 Checkon)
1274 Crews 2012 (1081 Crews x 1634 Werner)
1242.5 Banman 2012 (1379.5 Banman x 1372.8 Lloyd) (Late arrival, on request only)
1233.5 Sproule 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1404 Bryson)
1215.5 Banman 2012 (1379.5 Banman x 1372.8 Lloyd) (Late arrival, on request only)
1211 Preis 2012 (965 THE x self)
1187 Johnson 2012 (1059 Vincent/McGill x self)
1166 Chappelle 2011 (1404 Bryson x 1350 Starr)
1163.5 Timm 2012 (1404 Bryson x self)
1149 Preis 2012 (1647 Wallace x 1331 Preis)
1148 Reid 2012 (1226 Checkon x 1133 Kline)
1146.6 Hoelke 2012 (1641 Montgomery x 1657 Bryson)
1133 Vincent 2012 (1495 Stelts x 1404 Bryson)
1127 dmg Kline 2012 (991 Urena x 1404 Bryson)
1091 Bryson 2010 (1544 Revier x 1333 Young)
1076.5 Hunt 2012 (1329 Hunt x 1404 Bryson)
1067.5 Matesa 2012 (1249 Matesa x 1495 Stelts)
1058 Chappelle 2011 (1350 Starr x 1055 Chappelle)
1057 Bryson 2011 (1618 Bryson x 1476 Bryson)
1037 Rusenstrom 2012 (924 Veitch x 1657 Bryson)
1030.5 Kline 2012 (1650 Sproule x 991 Urena)
990 Cavanagh 2012 (1119 Mailey x self)
990 Crews uow 2012 (1634 Werner x 1244.5 Rea)
940 Montgomery 2012 (1161 Rodonis x 1404 Bryson)
935 Rusenstrom 2012 (1133 Kline x 1264 Kline)
926 Loucks 2012 (1170 Vincent/McGill x self)
922 Rusenstrom 2012 (1430 Kline x 1185 Kline)
918 Cavanagh 2012 (1430 Kline x 1185 Kline)
883.5 Watson 2012 (1404 Bryson x 1180.4 Watson)
844 Preis 2012 (905 Preis x self)
808 Nieuwenhoff 2012 (1266 Nieuwenhoff x 1381 Swartz)
805 est dmg Watson 2012 (1818 Bryson x 1180.4 Watson)
800 Lyons 2012 (1381 Checkon x 1161 Rodonis)
695 Johnson 2012 (1176 Lombardi x 1059 Vincent/McGill)
628 Crews uow 2012 (1244.5 Rea x 1634 Werner)

Squash

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

GVGO AMENDMENTS 2013

The following is a list of amendments the club is offering for 2013

We strive to keep the pricing as low as possible each year but some things do go up a little due to shipping and purchase costs increasing

If you can't attend the seminar please contact KIRK CHENIER at kirkc1@xplornet.ca or 705-930-6954 to place your order or make arrangements for your product please don't wait to the last minute as some products have limited quantities available

Kirk Chenier is taking this over from the Hunts this year so please email me your orders, payment can be made at the seminar. If you want to pay in advance please discuss that with Kirk when emailing.

Products that we are offering are going to be as follows

Neptunes Harvest Seaweed - \$4/litre
Organic Gem Fish fertilizer - \$4/litre This product comes in 2 L and 10 L containers
RTI Myco - \$8.75/lb. increase of .75 cents this year
Mykes Myco - \$7/lb
Lithovit - \$20/bag
Liquid Humic \$5/litre
Liquid Fulvic \$5/litre
Maple Syrup \$7-8/can
Actinovate 2oz bags \$16. Limited supply order early

70 lb bags of worm casting - \$20

Black Earth \$20/bag and kelp meal \$50/bag will be organized regionally - for those in Western Ontario the same group will take care of getting it, In the Lindsay/Peterborough/Pickering area you can order through Kirk and we will work out delivery. If you're in Eastern Ontario we can probably do some kind of delivery but contact me to work things out.

LETTERS! – WE GET LETTERS!
The GVGO Executive

2012 4-H & GEORGINA-BROCK GIANTS ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

Our Achievement Day was Sept 23rd. and we would like to say “Thank you” to Pefferlaw Peat, who for the third year has hosted this great event for us. Our club has 4-H members ages 9-18 and OHA Georgina-Brock members ages 6-18.

New this year was Longest Corn Cob, Multi-headed Sunflower, Watermelon, Ugliest, Prettiest, and Garden Story. The Garden stories were very interesting stating problems with bears, groundhogs, racoons, lots of bugs, very hot weather, and very little rain but still the members manages to enter 137 entries from 21 members, exhibiting in 24 different classes. Great Job!

Winners in the Giants are:

Tallest Corn: Rebecca Crawford 14' 10 ½"

Biggest Sunflower Head: Adam and Noah Phillips 19 ½",

Heaviest Tomato: Daniel Shier 11lb 15ozs

Heaviest Onion: Devon Story 11lb 2ozs, Tallest Sunflower: Adam Phillips 11'8"

Heaviest Pumpkin: Katelynn Crawford 521 lbs, Heaviest Carrot: Madelynn Prust 2lbs 12ozs

Heaviest Field Pumpkin: Devon Story 44lbs, Heaviest Marrow: Daniel Shier 21lbs

Longest Corn Cob: Katelynn Crawford 11 ½" Multi-headed

Sunflower: Abbi Shier 118 flowers

Watermelon: Adam and Noah Phillips 44lbs
Best Garden Story went to Simon Southwell and Simon also got most points in the picture section.

Many of our sponsors and supporters were with us and we do want to say a very “BIG” “Thank You”
Martha McGlashan and son Stewart for bring their scales so we could weight all the giants. Other sponsors were Farm Credit Corp- Donna Hawkins customer rep from the Lindsay office
Beaverton Hort. Society, Dr. Marchuk, Georgina-Brock Garden Club, Giant Vegetable Growers Ontario, and all the other individuals who helped us in every way.

Other guests were Carol Dunk Past President of Ontario Horticultural Association from Barrie, Martha McGlashan President of Durham West 4-H Association, parents, grandparents and others interested in youth and gardening.

Points were added up and to end the day everyone went home with ribbons and an envelope with some money for all their hard work this year. Great Job Members.

Our Final meeting is a Pot Luck on Oct 21st at Wilfrid Community Hall for a tally of all the final points to see who the Champion winner will be and discussion on how to improve for next year.

Results from our 21st final meeting Achievement Day

totals 1st Daniel Shier 2nd Devon Story

OUR BIG OVERALL WINNER OF THE GARDENING TROPHY 1st SIMON SOUTHWELL, 2nd KATELYNN CRAWFORD.

THANKS, For a Great Year
Chris and Tracy Shier
Dorothy Shier
Pat Crawford
Dale Phillips



MY SUMMER OF THE GIANT PUMPKINS

**By Simon Southwell
4-H Member – Age 9**

My adventure actually started in spring 2012. The first meeting of the Giant Vegetable Club was on March 18th in Wilfrid. March was very warm and dry this year, it got everyone itching to get planting. I learned there's way more to growing a giant than tossing a few seeds in the ground.

I started planting pumpkin seeds after Mom filed and I soaked them. I covered with baggies and put elastics on. Two weeks later –nothing. Mom said we needed more drastic measures. So out came the mouse sander again and two weeks later voila sprout central.

Next came the invasion every south and west facing window sill in the house was covered with cups of sprouts. I helped water them but Mom got confused and said we needed to fertilizer every single watering. She also didn't like the way the plants grew in her room. She said every morning they seemed closer to her bed. The plants were put into the patch & everything was growing well. The warm spring weather helped them get a good start.

Welcome to the desert. Starting on June 23 we had 33 days of no rain. Definitely not what you want to happen in your first season of trying to grow giant vegetables, especially pumpkins. Our poor dug well did its best and my Mom killed every spider she could find on our property. It must be a myth.

There under attack!! I went to bed Wednesday and all was good in the patch. The next morning I woke up to death and destruction. Little yellow and black striped ninjas invaded and set to work tormenting everything they landed on and they weren't bees. So like an old west gun slinger I was armed with my weapons (2 spray bottles). The young ones took the hit to save the bigger ones.

A mystery occurred in my patch in June & it nearly got yanked while weeding. It was a baby

pumpkin plant but I didn't plant it. Who was this pumpkin? I left it were it grew to see what would happen. Turns out it was from a white field pumpkin that my Mom threw in the manure pile, welcome Floyd (pumpkin's name).

It's a tough job being a pumpkin in the wilds of Bolsover. Poor Ab (pumpkin's name) found out the hard way when he was mauled by a ferocious young bear that tried to do a snatch and run. I couldn't save him but I saved his son. He was shown in the Beaverton fair jr division for the largest pumpkin, which he won.

I even got to host a meeting this year. Everyone got a chance to see Vinnie, Cindy (pumpkin's names), and Chris the giant white strawberry colored pumpkin. He's actually a very confused squash. I even showed them Ab senior, the bear victim. Chris (our club leader) liked my chart and Ms. Shier brought fruit and cookies. They also got to see my watermelon get fertilized.

The second coming started at the end of August when we finally got some rain and normal temperature. All the field pumpkins started blooming even some of the giants reflowered. I have two that are close to being able to measure on the chart. If the weather holds till December I could have another 300 pounder. My Giant watermelon took forever to flower. By the time I took it off the vine it was only a giant for Barbie. She could have gone on a picnic with it. Good thing I didn't show up at soccer night with it for a snack.

Buying fertilizer and sand is expensive so I thought I should do a painting to copy and sell. I thought about what topic to paint and the only thing that made sense was a giant pumpkin. Mom said it would probably sell better if it did well at the fairs. The theme for Sunderland fair was "through the farm gate", so I made sure a gate was in the painting. I entered the painting in the adult mix medium class (no kids class) and got 1st place. I entered it in Beaverton fair (10-13yrs division) and won it as well. Now it's at Lindsay (grade b division).

Vinnie the star of my pumpkin patch didn't disappoint. After getting him skidded and loaded up with help of our neighbours, it was off to the Sunderland fair. My Mom was a nervous wreck, worrying but he arrived just fine. It was so cool and awesome to watch the weighing and I even got interviewed. Vinnie got 5th place and won \$100.00. The best part was before he even got weighed I had sold him to Fisher's Independent for \$160.00 .50cents a lb. Booyah..

Since Vinnie was sold it was Cindy's turn to make her debut. She got entered into the Beaverton Fair mammoth pumpkin class and she won it. They didn't have a scale but her measurements put her around 128lbs plus I was going to enter her in Lindsay but missed the 2 week deadline. Instead I sold her to the Loblaws in Lindsay, Ontario for \$75.00 for their display.

After the excitement of the weekend fairs, I went in search of some fertilizer fall bargains. Guess what they don't put it on sale, they just put it away. At

Home Depot I was talking to Phil the garden centre manager about my problem and why I was looking for so much fertilizer. He said that Home Depot had a garden club and was really interested about giant pumpkins. He asked if I could bring in pictures and a

letter saying I belonged to the club. He thought he would be able to talk to the fertilizer companies to donate product and that Home Depot would probably be interested in buying a giant orange pumpkin next year.

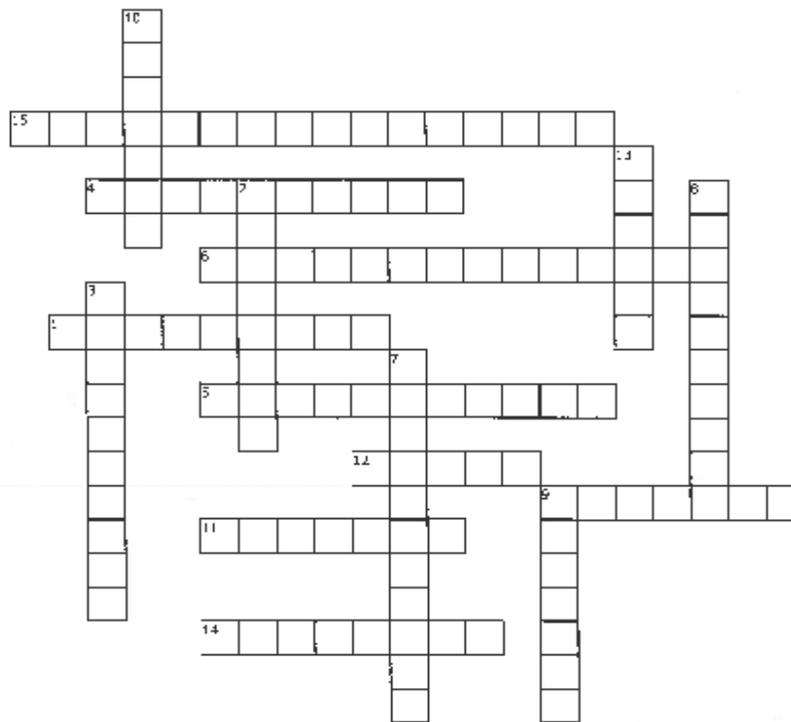


Name: _____

Provided By: TheTeachersCorner.net Crossword Maker

GVGO Winter Crossword Puzzle

Please complete the crossword puzzle below



Across:

1. Once gave a truck as first prize
4. won Sunday Port Elgin weigh off
5. won Keene weigh off
6. grew largest squash in 2012
9. won Wellington weigh off
11. Grower of Largest Ontario Pumpkin
12. growers of largest GVGO tomato last name
14. won Murilo weigh off
15. Has the best pulled pork on a bun (weigh off)

Down:

2. Ran growers pool - last name
3. holds squash world record
7. won Erin weigh off
8. Holds current world record for pumpkin
9. largest glasses at Wellington parade
10. current GVGO past president - last name
13. Master grower at Royal Winter Fair

Phil & Jane Hunt -GPC Hall of Fame INDUCTEES FOR 2013

Please join in celebrating this most terrific news for our fellow long time GVGO Friends. At The GPC convention Feb. 22 to 24 it was announced that Phil & Jane Hunt have recently been inducted into the GPC, Hall of Fame.

Their hard work both within the GVGO as organizers and growers has greatly benefited the Commonwealth. Congratulations from all of us.

Here is a Bio of Phil & Jane's pumpkin career.

Phil & Jane were born & raised in the Cameron/Fenelon Falls area. Both attended & graduated from the Fenelon Falls Secondary School. Jane graduated from Sir Sanford Fleming College & then went on to earn her degree as a Certified General Accountant (CGA). She works as the Senior Financial Analyst & Credit Manager for Crayola Canada & has been with them for 23 years. Phil worked as a material handler & logistics specialist for a major transportation company for over 20 years until an accident forced him into early retirement in 2002.

We were married in 1987 & have been together for 26 years. We were given a 5.25 acre parcel of land that was originally part of her family farm & built our home in 1990. This is where we reside & grow today. We set aside a large garden plot for our dear friend Chris Lyons so he could continue his passion for growing. It's great having someone with his knowledge & experience growing so close and have enjoyed his company & friendship for the past few years.

We started growing the store bought Dill's Atlantic Giant pumpkin seeds in 1991 a year after we built our house. We had seen on the TV that a new WR pumpkin was grown, so we decided to try them. We both like gardening & thought that maybe one day we could break a record with pumpkins.

The 1st year we only got to 65#, but it looked big to us. Year after year we tried to grow a big one, but couldn't break the 180# mark. I couldn't figure out what we were doing wrong. We later found out we were doing everything wrong.

In the fall of 1997 we stumbled on some info about the Ottawa/St. Lawrence Growers Association (OSLGA) & joined right away.

Now we had some basic information & 3 seeds from real giant pumpkins. That next summer as our pumpkin grew bigger & bigger, our excitement level really started to peak. We drove down the road with our first real monster pumpkin, heading to Port Elgin for our 1st official weigh off. We weighed in at 550#, good enough for 28th place. We met & talked with many other growers at the weigh off, but got very little advice from them. Year after year we slowly increase our PB by just a few pounds, but couldn't break through the 600# barrier. It wasn't until the spring of 2003 that I met our mentor & good friend Phil Joynson. That is when our weights started to increase.

It was at Port Elgin that we saw giant watermelons for the 1st time. We started growing them the next year. It took a few years but we broke the Canadian Record for watermelons in 2005 with 207.6#er & have a current PB of 222.4#.

The OSLGA folded in 2001 & that left Ontario growers without a club for a few years. After the weigh offs in 2004 & throughout the winter Phil Joynson, Dave McCallum & I discussed forming a new club for Ontario growers.

In March 2005 a group of Ontario growers (Jane & I, along with Phil Joynson, Russ Landry, Dave McCallum, Al Eaton, John & Chris Lyons & a few other Ontario growers) met during the Niagara convention. It was there that

the new Ontario club was born. I volunteered to head up this new club, along with the help of a couple growers that agreed to hold the positions of regional reps.

As the President of a new club, I asked our prospective members "what they would like to see in a club?" We looked at what other clubs were doing & at the old OSLGPA to see what they have been doing & tried to incorporate some of their ideas into our club. We took all the info gained from asking growers what they wanted & used that info to try to make the GVGO a club that growers wanted to belong to. A club that shared any & all information with all of its members. With all these ideas, we started to form the base for the new club.

Now we needed a name for the new club. We picked out a couple names & consulted with Phil Joynson (the newly appointed VP & right hand man) & decided that the name for the new club would be the "Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario (GVGO)". We named it that because we have a lot of growers in Ontario who grow other plants besides giant pumpkins. I took 1 year of a graphic Design course in college & put together the current GVGO logo using a few ideas from Savio Spada & Phil Joynson.

Next we needed to put together something to attract Ontario growers to join the GVGO. Seed packages were a big hit with the former OSLGPA, so we asked Ontario growers to donate seeds for our 1st membership drive & seed giveaway. The growers responded well & we spend many days packaging up thousands of seeds to give to our 1st year members (2005). They all received a nice package of seeds from Ontario growers. Since then the GVGO has distributed over 100,000 seeds to our members.

Next we were contacted by Marc Levy & recruited him to help put together the GVGO website. I looked to the internet to see what would be available for a website domain name & was lucky that the GVGO.ca name was available. Marc and I, along with Savio Spada designed the site's basic look. Next we added a message board to our website for our members to ask questions discuss ideas & share tips with each other. This was a big hit & is now one of the more popular GP message boards, enjoyed by growers from all parts of the World. We asked some of our more successful members for articles on growing different veggies & sent questions to some of the sport's most successful growers to make sure our members receive the best information possible. Russ Landry was a big help with his scientific articles & still writes for our newsletter today. All these stories & articles can be found on the GVGO website.

Next we were approached by the Port Elgin Chamber of Commerce. They organize the Port Elgin weigh off & the Annual Pumpkin Seminar in Niagara Falls. They produced a newsletter twice a year & asked us if we (the GVGO) would be interested in taking over & produce the content for it. We jumped at the idea as this would be a great way to share our information, ideas, tips & news to all our members. We recruited a few growers from key regions of Ontario, across Canada, the US & overseas to write articles for our newsletter. This helped make the GVGO the only club newsletter to provide information from all parts of the World. We interviewed many of the top growers for info about growing pumpkins. These were a big hit. The newsletter, the GVGO Growers Vine is usually over 25 pages in length & filled with news from around the World, tips from the World's best growers, great new gardening techniques & GVGO business.

I was in contact with Mike Nepereny of the AGGC that same spring. He offered me to give free access to the AGGC site to any growers who joined the GVGO. That was a huge benefit that attracted growers from Canada, the US & 8 European countries to join the GVGO. This was a big step for us & our membership started to grow at a much faster rate in the next season.

All this was done in the 1st year of the GVGO.

In the next couple years we introduced the GVGO bulk purchase program. This program was put together to make specialty products available & more affordable to Ontario members. We purchased products in bulk from Canada & the US & spent many hours breaking it down to smaller sizes for the membership. This was a big hit with members & has grown to offer many products at great prices to our membership today.

To raise money for the club we hold a GVGO message board auction in Nov & a raffle every Dec/Jan. These are a great success & help the club with its financial commitments.

2006 was the 1st year for the Annual GVGO Seminars & Awards Ceremony. We brought in a soil scientist to help our members gain better knowledge of their soil & had Al Eaton (WR holder & GVGO member) discuss his incredible WR season. Awards were given out to our top growers for 2005. We also introduced the GVGO Hall of Fame to recognize Ontario growers for their commitment to the sport/hobby, commitment to the GVGO, for their support of the pumpkin community & for their success & achievements in the sport.

The GVGO recognized the importance of supporting our local weigh offs, but being a young club with very limited funds & 6 weigh offs in the province, it was hard to be able to commit a lot of money to each one. After discussions with the Phil J & John Vincent, we brought together an idea to donate \$200 to each site. This money was to be used to help them cover either their GPC fees or to be used towards prize payouts. This small donation was enough to allow for 2 more of our weigh offs to join the GPC family. It was later raised to \$300.

To also raise some much needed funds I contacted a local artist & commissioned a water colour painting of the Dill homestead called "Great Beginnings". We sent Howard the first signed (by the artist) & numbered print & he liked it so much that he offered to sign 15 artist's proofs (5 for the Windsor weigh off fundraisers & 10 for the GVGO). The regular signed & numbered prints raised over \$1500 for the GVGO. We later decided after the loss of our friend & fellow Canadian, Howard Dill to donate the majority of these funds to the Cancer Society in Howard's name. The Howard Dill signed prints have been auctioned off over the course of several years to help raise money for the GVGO.

We have donated countless seeds to most clubs, along with the GPC and Orange Angel Foundation's Coats for Kids program. The GVGO also held a Haiti earthquake relief fundraiser that raised over \$1000 for the cause. Our 1678# seed was one of the fundraisers main sources of seeds even though we had low seed counts. We currently are members of many (9, I think) of the clubs today.

We have been involved in helping many growers reach their goals. Each year we usually have several growers whom we mentor. It gets us very excited when they do well. We also answer hundreds of emails & phone calls each year from growers from all parts of the World. Our friends call our phone, the pumpkin hotline, as we spend countless hours on the phone talking pumpkins to growers from all walks of life.

The GVGO Membership has grown from 40 members in 2005 to close to 300 members in less than 5 years. This growth inspired us to be the 1st club to offer our members the option of going paperless, by emailing out our newsletters. This helped the environment, while saving the club some money by not printing as many copies.

The GVGO has grown to be one of the hobbies top clubs & we contribute that to all the help & support of many others over the past 9 years. Phil Joynson, Marc Levy, Port Elgin Chamber of Commerce, Dave McCallum, Russ Landry, Kirk Chenier & John Vincent have all played a supporting role in making the GVGO the club it is today. We would like to thank them, along with all our members for helping us bring the club to life.

Jane & I have been involved with just about everything the GVGO has done since its inception in 2005 & plan to continue to help as long as we can.

Phil also volunteered to help the Niagara seminar committee for 2 years before the GVGO's existence.

Achievements

In 2009 we grew the 3rd largest pumpkin all-time at 1678# (#2 in the World in 2009), shattering the Canadian record by over 140#. We also had a PB & former Canadian record watermelon at 207.6#, but since broke that number with a 222.4# watermelon, (our current PB). We also grew a GPC record tomato at 7.33# (still the GPC record).

Jane & I were the 1st growers to receive the GVGO Master Growers award. This is awarded to growers who grow 3 different fruit or vegetables to World class size throughout their lifetime membership with the GVGO. Only 4 other growers have received this award to date. In 2010 Jane & I qualified for the Master Growers award for a 2nd time by growing 3 World class vegetables in 1 year.

In 2009 we were awarded with a Lifetime membership to the GVGO & in 2010 we were the GVGO Growers of the year.

At the GVGO seminar in PEC in 2012, we were inducted into the GVGO Hall of Fame. An award that we hold dear to our hearts.

Phil served as President for 4 years, Past President for 4 years & is currently the Eastern Representative & day to day contact person for the GVGO, while Jane has been the treasurer & Secretary for the club since its inception in the spring in 2005.

Phil & Jane Hunt GPC weigh off event wins

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest

1st 2009 1678# pumpkin

1st 2010 7.33# tomato Port Elgin record & GPC record

Hugli's Blue Berry Ranch

1st 2011 1329# pumpkin

1st 2008 1156# pumpkin

Prince Edward County Pumpkinfest

1st 2006 1086.4# pumpkin

1st 2011 877# squash

1678# pumpkin Receives bonus as it was the Canadian Record!

7.33# Tomato is a GPC Record.

Personal bests include:

1678# pumpkin

877# squash

222.4# watermelon

7.33# tomato

113.75" long gourd

79# cabbage

80# field pumpkin

Kahuna's Keys to a 210 or 2010 in 2113....

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

Q. Why has the GPC and Dave Stelts extended ties?

A. Simply Dave is the best man for the job. He has been always a confident leader he runs a very well organized group. The GPC continues to see the regulated competition of AGP's expand both from a popularity view among new and experienced growers. This has lead to tremendous success financially and a generous public profile at all of the affiliated weigh-off sites.

Keys: The GPC has never been better. Better rules, better convention, more sites, better sponsorship, better grower's equals a Better Commonwealth....

Q. How did Quinn do that again?

A. He's Quinn Werner. There is not a better grower around with more consistent results than Quinn. Somehow he is able to continuously apply seed choices and a grower skill parlayed into large monsters. A 375 square foot Field Pumpkin treated as an AGP left us bewildered. It had no disease problems and was grown with according to Quinn little and few problems.

Keys: start them late, set them late in cooler weather, grow them longer results in grow them bigger.

Q. How about Phil and Jane Hunt in the GPC hall of Fame?

A. Its well past time for this. Founders of the world's best and most informative growers club. They are tremendous growers as well. Leaders in Pumpkins (AGP), Watermelon and Tomato. Years and years devoted to helping others grow bigger pumpkins.

Keys: Huge volunteer efforts, Generosity above and beyond. They have a new grower mentality, of always helping and assisting new growers to build the Ontario commonwealth for all.

Q. What is it that Ron Wallace has done to trigger a march toward 2500 pounds?

A. Science, education & determination. Heard recently on the Hawaii Cruise >"If there is anyone more in tune with what an AGP needs its Ronny". He has taken crop rotation to a new level. Even his cover crops grow on a bed of Myco. He uses every resource available then applies them with the skill of and dexterity of a brain surgeon.

Keys: Preparation planning and testing. There is no skill more underappreciated than testing he does. From soil to tissue he has identified and unlocked all of the plants requirements. Resources & networking is a huge part of the game and Ron has this controlled nicely from Lindermand to Anderson to Taberna and now Dr. Bill Becker. Read "The Ideal Soil" the books, world records and cd's before and in between the Wallace's are leaders of the pack in sharing too.

Q: How do you grow a 2010 pound Pumpkin?

A: All of the above. Mykos, Glomalin, Azos & Chitinase + ROTATION, ROTATION, ROTATION...

Keys: Cover crop in spring with Myco to build up inoculation and glomalin. Reduce pest influence and get rid of nematodes which are easily the largest out of site out mind hidden growth problem most growers never realize they have. Rotation to reduce disease influences. The old real estate adage of location, location, location applies to soil anaerobic disease issues. Get it under control and watch the weight pile up.

Q: Why has the GVGO continued to grow in Ontario and attract new growers?

A: The GVGO is a non-profit organization dedicated to the growing of giant vegetables for the purpose of competition, display, sales and enjoyment.

We are a family oriented group of gardening enthusiasts, formed to unite all the giant vegetable growers of Ontario by promoting and sharing our knowledge and experience with all growers.



We would like to extend our hand out to all the growers of Ontario and throughout the world to help make the GVGO one of the premier giant vegetable growers associations in the gardening community.

Keys: Volunteers and Champion growers dedicated to a thriving community of like minded folks.

Cutting Edge Horticultural

Quality and Yield Enhancing Products

- **Granular Fertilizers**
- **Liquid Micro Nutrients**
- **Plant Health Promoters**
- **Plant & Root Growth Stimulants**
- **Water Treatments**
- **Molasses**

Watch for our spring price list on the GVGO message board

John Vincent
1538 County Rd 15, RR#2
Picton, ON K0K 2T0
Home: 613-476-0405
Cell: 613-921-7961
j.vincent@xplornet.ca

Top 1,000 Lb. Pumpkins Grown in Canada in 2012

By Chris Lyons

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

Name	Weight	Hometown	Site
1. Carl Graham	1,811**	Donkin, NS	1 MIL
2. Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1,753	Ormstown, QC	1 PEO
3. Gerard Ansems	1,727	Kentville, NS	1 WIN
4. Chris Delaney	1,684.5**	Pickering, ON	2 PEO
5. Claude Colbert	1,630	Sainte-Croix, QC	1 GEN
6. Harley Sproule	1,522	Ormstown, QC	3 PEO
7. Joel Jarvis	1,464.5	St.Thomas, ON	4 PEO
8. Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1,456	Ormstown, QC	1 PEM
9. Don Cronk	1,411	Thunder Bay, ON	1 MUR
10. Todd Kline	1,408.5	Shawville, QC	5 PEO
11. John Nieuwenhoff	1,386	Georgetown, ON	1 ERN
12. Chris Delaney	1,381	Pickering, ON	1 WOD
13. John Mackinnon	1,356.5	Strathlorne, NS	2 MIL
14. Jeff Warner	1,347	Englehart, ON	1 PEOS
15. John Matesa	1,313	Breslau, ON	2 WOD
16. Todd Kline	1,302	Shawville, QC	2 PEM
17. Jeff Reid	1,292	Waterville, NS	2 WIN
18. Ray Beaudin	1,275.5**	Coalhurst, AB	1 SMO
19. Don Crews	1,274	Lloydminster, AB	2 SMO
20. Bill & Dawn Northrup	1,257	Sussex, NB	3 WIN
21. Bill & Dawn Northrup	1,251	Sussex, NB	1 NEG
22. Henry Banman	1,242.5	Schanzenfeld, MB	1 ROL
23. Harley Sproule	1,233.5	Ormstown, QC	3 PEM
24. Gerard Riopel	1,217	St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, QC	2 GEN
25. Ron Wray	1,216.5	Simcoe, ON	6 PEO
26. Marge Banman	1,215.5	Schanzenfeld, MB	2 ROL
27. Paul Ferguson	1,205	Canning, NS	4 WIN
28. Bill Smeltzer	1,199	Kentville, NS	5 WIN
29. Martin Chiasson	1,193	Caraquet, NB	2 NEG
30. Catherina Ansems	1,190	Steam Mill, NS	6 WIN
31. Les Quatrouillettes	1,179	Gentilly, QC	3 GEN
32. Brant & Brandon Timm	1,163	Pembroke, ON	4 PEM
33. Dorris Wray	1,152	Simcoe, ON	7 PEO
34. Valerie Reid	1,149	Waterville, NS	7 WIN
35. Jim Reid	1,148	Martintown, ON	1 WEL
36. Ryan Hoelke	1,146.5	Eganville, ON	5 PEM
37. John Vincent	1,133	Picton, ON	2 WEL
38. Mario Morin	1,126	Saint-Georges, QC	4 GEN
39. Aiden Graham	1,124	Donkin, NS	3 MIL
40. Kristopher Robinson	1,117	Cockshire-Eaton, QC	5 GEN

41.Eric Sundin	1,114	Stoney Creek, ON	3 WOD
42.Jeff Warner	1,113	Englehart, ON	8 PEO
43.Danny Dill	1,108	Windsor, ON	8 WIN
44.Gerry Macdonald	1,105	Antigonish Co., NS	4 MIL
45.Louis-Claude Therrien	1,101.5	Luskville, QC	6 PEM
46.Laurent Mallet	1,098	Haut-Shippahan, NB	3 NEG
47.John Dyck / Norm Ireland	1,095.5	Waterford, ON	9 PEO
48.Diana MacDonald Dill	1,092	Windsor, NS	9 WIN
49.Nathen & Jennifer Veitch	1,086	Port Carling, ON	4 WOD
50.Alen Aten	1,082.5	Springvale, PE	1 SPR
51.Jane & Phil Hunt	1,076.5	Cameron, ON	10 PEO
52.John Matesa	1,067.5	Breslau, ON	11 PEO
53.Charles Aten	1,061	Springvale, PE	2 SPR
54.Mary Moore	1,058	Middletown, NS	10 WIN
55.Chad Gilmore	1,044	Pemberton, BC	1 ALD
56.Mike Rusenstrom	1,037.5	Bristol, QC	3 WEL
57.Glen Dixon	1,037	North Vancouver, BC	2 ALD
58.Dave Pitura	1,033.5	Merrickville, ON	12 PEO
59.Shannon Langridge	1,031.5	Picton, ON	4 WEL
60.Todd Kline	1,030.5	Shawville, QC	5 WEL
61.Jason Aldred	1,026	Midland, ON	5 WOD
61.Leo Swinimer	1,026	New Ross, NS	11 WIN
63.Gordon Foster	1,019	Middletown, NS	12 WIN
64.Glen Huffman	1,009.5	Ameliasburg, ON	6 WEL
65.Margaret Sundin	1,009	Stoney Creek, ON	6 WOD
66.John Kapelari	1,008	Athabasca, AB	3 SMO

** Denotes new provincial record

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

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.**

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

All Time List of Pumpkins

By Phil Hunt (2012)

<u>Placing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
1.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1818.5	Ormstown, QC
2.	Carl Graham	1,811	Donkin, NS
3.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1,753	Ormstown, QC
4.	Gerard Ansems	1,727	Kentville, NS
5.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson**	1657.6	Ormstown, QC
6.	Chris Delaney	1,684.5	Pickering, ON
7.	Phil & Jane Hunt *	1678	Cameron, ON
8.	Harley Sproule***	1650.8	Ormstown, QC
9.	Greg Montgomery	1641.4	Port Carling, ON
10.	Claude Colbert	1,630	Sainte-Croix, QC
11.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson*	1618.2	Ormstown, QC
12.	Jake Van Kooten *	1536.5	Port Alberni, BC
13.	Harley Sproule	1,522	Ormstown, QC
14.	Todd Kline**	1489.6	Shawville, QC
15.	Edmond Hemphill*	1468	Mount Pleasant, NB
16.	Phil & Jane Hunt	1464.8	Cameron, ON
17.	Joel Jarvis	1,464.5	St.Thomas, ON
18.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1,456	Ormstown, QC
19.	Eric Sundin **	1451.5	Stoney Creek, ON
20.	Alan Eaton*	1446	Richmond, ON
21.	Bill Northrup ***	1432	Sussex, NB
22.	Todd Kline	1430.8	Shawville, QC
23.	Joel Jarvis	1427.4	St Thomas, ON
24.	Jeff Reid **	1419	Waterville, NS
25.	Don Cronk	1,411	Thunder Bay, ON
26.	Todd Kline	1,408.5	Shawville, QC
27.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1404.4	Ormstown, QC
28.	Darrell Leonard *	1395.5	Wyevale, ON
29.	John Nieuwenhoff	1,386	Georgetown, ON
30.	Chris Delaney	1,381	Pickering, ON
31.	Henry Banman	1379.5	Schanzenfeld, MB
32.	Dave Pitura*	1378.5	Merrickville, ON
33.	Bob Mackenzie	1376.6	Tiverton, ON
34.	Brian Dueck/A.Papez *	1373	St. Catherines, ON
35.	George Lloyd	1372.8	Simcoe, ON
36.	Chris Lyons	1367	Scarborough, ON
37.	Brant & Brandon Timm	1360	Pembroke, ON
38.	John Mackinnon	1,356.5	Strathlorne, NS
39.	Andre Marion*	1355.5	Penetanguishene, On
40.	Jeff Warner	1,347	Englehart, ON
41.	Deanna Lloyd	1344.8	Simcoe, ON
42.	Chris Lyons	1343.5	Scarbourough, On
43.	Harley Sproule	1343.4	Ormstown, QC
44.	John Vincent ***	1339.5	Picton, ON
45.	Todd Kline	1337	Shawville, QC
46.	Art Johnston/John Butler	1330.5	St. Thomas, ON
47.	Phil & Jane Hunt	1329.7	Cameron, ON
48.	Bryan Dueck*	1327.5	St. Catherines, ON
49.	Clifford Picketts**	1318	Kensington, PE
50.	Edmund Hemphill	1315	Mount Pleasant, N
51.	Clifford Picketts	1315	Kensington, PEI
52.	John Matesa	1,313	Breslau, ON
53.	Harley Sproule	1312	Ormstown, QC
54.	Dave Pitura	1310.5	Merrickville, ON
55.	Pierre Slusarek**	1310	Latugue, QC

56.	Glen & Meagan Cheam	1309.7	Stittsville, ON
57.	Ben Hebb	1309	Bridgewater, NS
58.	Art Johnston**	1302.5	St. Thomas, ON
59.	Todd Kline	1,302	Shawville, QC
60.	Al Eaton**	1301.5	Richmond, ON
61.	Harley Sproule	1294	Ormsdown, QC
62.	Jeff Reid	1,292	Waterville, NS
63.	Jake Van Kooten**	1287	Port Alberni, BC
64.	Donna Hebb	1281	Bridgewater, NS
65.	Carl Graham	1280	Donkin, NS
66.	Ray Beaudin	1,275.5	Coalhurst, AB
67.	Don Crews	1,274	Lloydminster, AB
68.	John Lyons	1273	Baltimore, ON
69.	Brant & Brandon Timm	1267.8	Pembroke, ON
70.	John Nieuwenhoff	1,266	Georgetown, ON
71.	Elaine Mackenzie	1265	Tiverton, ON
72.	Todd Kline	1264	Shawville, QC
73.	Dave Pitura***	1263.8	Merrickville, ON
74.	Ben Hebb	1262	Bridgewater, NS
75.	Bill & Dawn Northrup	1,257	Sussex, NB
76.	Chris Lyons	1,258.6	Scarborough, ON
77.	John MacKinnon***	1252	Strathlorn, NS
78.	Bill & Dawn Northrup	1,251	Sussex, NB
79.	Todd Kline***	1250.5	Shawville, QC
80.	Claude Colbert	1,250	Sainte Croix, QC
81.	John Matesa	1249.8	Breslau, ON
82.	Daryl Tingley***	1247	Fredericton, NB
83.	Elaine Mackenzie	1246.2	Tiverton, ON
84.	Claude Clobert	1243	Sainte-Croix, QC
85.	Henry Banman	1,242.5	Schanzenfeld, MB
86.	Charles Ebbett	1239	Stickney, NB
87.	Russ Landry	1238.5	Thornton, ON
88.	Harley Sproule	1,233.5	Ormsdown, QC
89.	Phil Joynson	1233	Enniskillen, ON
90.	Fred Hain	1232.2	London, ON
91.	Eric Sundin	1229	Stoney Creek, ON
92.	Ben Hebb	1227	Wileville, NS
93.	Todd Kline	1226.5	Shawville, QC
94.	Todd Kline	1224	Shawville, QC
95.	Les Quatrouilles	1222	Gentilly, QC
96.	Craig Sandvik	1222	Chemainus, BC
97.	Adrien Gervais	1220	Barrie, ON
98.	Gerard Ansems	1,220	Kentville, NS
99.	Joel Jarvis	1,219.4	St. Thomas, ON
100.	Claude Clobert	1219	Sainte-Croix, QC
101.	Gerard Riopel	1,217	St-Roch-de-l'Achigan, QC
102.	Ben Johnson	1,217	Kakabecka Falls, ON
103.	Ron Wray	1,216.5	Simcoe, ON
104.	Marge Banman	1,215.5	Schanzenfeld, MB
105.	Ben Hebb*	1215	Bridgewater, NS
106.	Brant Timm	1211.5	Pembroke, ON
107.	Jeff Reid	1211	Waterville, NS
108.	Todd Kline	1209	Shawville, QC
109.	Clifford Picketts	1208.5	Kensington, PEI
110.	Andrew Papez	1208.5	St. Catherines, ON
111.	Todd Kline	1206.5	Shawville, QC
111.	Paul Ferguson	1,205	Canning, NS

BLAST FROM THE PAST
By Kirk Chenier

Well here we are once again perusing over some old articles and pictures from past weigh offs and Newsletters. As I said before this is just awesome going over this back in the day material. I hope you enjoy what I have picked out for this edition of the newsletter!

This time around I have chosen a picture showing one of the past Champions of the Byward Market Weigh off - the one and only Harley Sproule. The joy of being the champion that year and being able to share this with his father is written all over his face and rightly so. A great achievement in its day for sure. Some awesome early year growers share that picture with them as well.



Included below is a clip of an advertisement showing that even back in the day you had to get creative to work within the rules of fundraising etc. That Farmer Gus was always thinking! If only we could get him to deal with our PayPal issue when doing the raffle!

SEED ~~RAFFLE~~ DISTRIBUTION PLAN

The 2nd annual Ottawa-St.Lawrence Growers seed "raffle" is not a raffle. It is a seed distribution plan. We have 745 Dill's Atlantic Giant Pumpkin seeds that we are distributing. Everyone that joins the "plan", becomes a "plan member" and will receive 2 Dill's Atlantic giant seeds. A maximum number of 372 units of 2 seeds each will be distributed to plan members. The cost of one unit of 2 seeds is \$7.00 Cdn. or \$5.00 U.S. "Plan members" may join only in multiples of \$7.00 Cdn. or \$5.00 U.S.

The draw part of the plan comes into place when we match the seeds up with the "plan members". We will be drawing to determine which two seeds each "plan member" gets. All names will be put on a paper chit, the chits put in a container, the container shaken up and a name drawn out. The "plan member" drawn will be matched with a specific pre-stated seed.

Remember we have 372 units available. Becoming a "plan member" will ensure that you have two of the below listed Dill's Atlantic Giant seeds available for planting in 1995. The seeds will be matched up with the "plan members" at the Ottawa-St.Lawrence Growers Seminar in Kemptonville on 2 April, 1995.

Seed units may be obtained from:

Farmer Gus, 7930 Blecks Road, R.R. 2 Ashton, Ontario K0A 1B0
613-838-5435 (Fax 613-838-2088)

The following 745 Dill's Atlantic Giant seeds have been donated to the plan.

- | | | |
|-------|------------|---|
| (2) | 511 (93) | Mark Woodward. The seed that begat Herman Bax's 990 |
| (20) | 990 | Herman Bax (511 Woodward x 721.5 Eaton) |
| (15) | 945.5 | Barry DeJong (836 Craven x 721.5 Eaton) |
| (3) | 815.5 | Lorraine Orr (836 Craven x 884 Black) |
| (100) | 804 | Nathan & Paula Zehr (755 Craven x 636 Macdonald) |
| (100) | 801 | Gordon Thompson (715 MacDonald x 884 Black) |
| (100) | 791 | Mike MacDonald (792 Holland x 884 Black) |
| (50) | 786 | Leonard Stellpflug(792 Holland x 612 Black) |
| (50) | 752.5 (93) | Leonard Stellpflug(589 Nesbitt x 699 Brown) |
| (50) | 717 | Richard Goodhue (884 Black x 715 Macdonald) |
| (50) | 707 | Leonard Stellpflug (612 Black x 792 Holland) |
| (25) | 696 | Joel Holland (792 Holland x 827(92) Holland) |
| (25) | 676 | Joel Holland (827 Holland x 722 Holland) |
| (100) | 646 | Donna Marie DeJong (721.5 Eaton x 836 Craven) |
| (50) | 625 | Lorraine Orr (836 Craven x 755 Craven) |

Again: Units of 2 seeds are \$7.00 Cdn. or \$5.00 U.S. They will be available until 1:00 p.m. April 2, 1995 or until all units are taken up (whichever is sooner).

THOMAS
CAVANAGH
CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

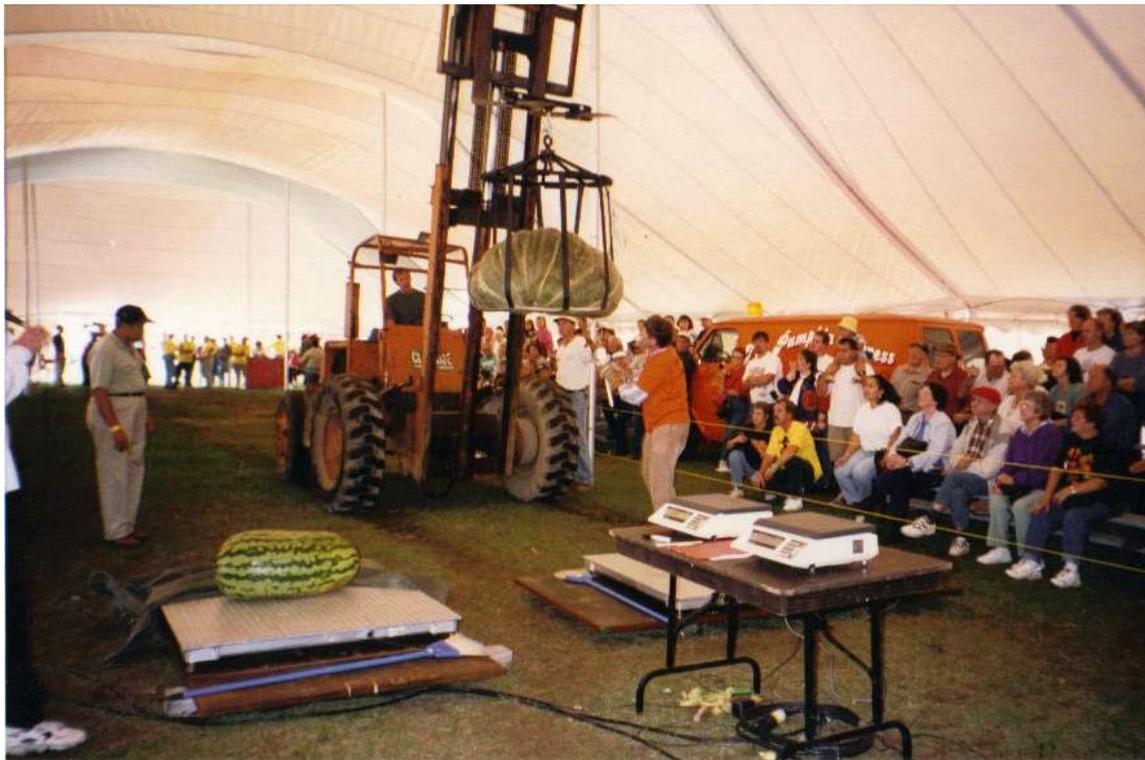
HEAVY EQUIPMENT RENTALS
ROAD PULVERIZING AND RECYCLING
ROAD BUILDING - CUSTOM CRUSHING
EXCAVATION - SEPTIC SYSTEMS
CRUSHED ROCK-ALL SIZES
SAND-GRAVEL - FILL - TOPSOIL

OFFICIAL LIFTER OF THE WORLD RECORD PUMPKIN

When going through the pictures from the Byward Market things and Farmer Gus archives I was given, I came across a picture of this sweet little lady with a giant tomato and knew I had to put it in my article one day so here it is – heck I can't grow one that big now! Isn't it a great picture?



Last but not least is a picture from the Early days of the Port Elgin Weigh off – not sure of the year but well organized as you can see and compared to what it is now we can all see the growth they have achieved with their hard work.



Please remember that if you have some articles from days gone by and pictures to send them along to myself as I don't have an endless supply of material for this article.

Thanks, Kirk Chenier (kirkc1@xplornet.ca)

QUALITY HUMIC AND FULVIC ACID FOR HOME GARDENERS AND THE SPECIALTY GROWER.

I offer Humic and Fulvic Acid that has been manufactured in Canada and that is among the richest and best products available in the world today.

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

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



Natural Products for Giant Pumpkins

Bio-Ag Consultants manufactures & distributes natural products that can help your giant pumpkins.

Products Available:

- Soluble seaweed
- Jersey Greensand
- Black Earth Humates
- Diatomaceous Earth
- Lawn & Garden Fertilizer Mix
- Kelp Fertilizer Mix

For more information call:
John Sweeting, Bio-Ag Dealer
705-740-2269
1-800-363-5278
www.bio-ag.com



Working with Nature – Naturally