

Fall 2011

Port Elgin Pumpkinfest  
October 1 & 2, 2011  
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# GROWERS VINE

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Brought to you by Port Elgin Pumpkinfest and the GVGO

## THE GRAND POOH-BAHS REFLECTIONS OF 2011 By Kirk Chenier, President

Coming up with words to describe the growing season and weigh offs of 2011 has been quite a challenge for me. What we witnessed this year might never be duplicated but I hope I'm proven wrong. For myself and son Jacob having been able to personally witness the Squash World Record shattered at Port Elgin by Joel Jarvis and then witness the turn of events at the Wellington Weigh Off where many of us didn't even think the weigh off would happen due to very poor weather. We were treated to a behemoth of a Pumpkin brought by the Bryson's turn into what is now known as the new World Record 1818.5 Bryson. This year also saw a changing of the guard in some ways as typical names atop the leader board at Canada's largest weigh off in Port Elgin were absent for various reasons and replaced with the likes of Montgomery, Matesa, Watson, Delaney and Nieuwenhoff with Personal bests and Top ten finishes. This is what members of the club have been working towards as new blood was needed to sustain the club and to also develop a strategy to get Ontario growers back on top of the growing world and I think in 2011 we saw that happen with each weigh off that passed. This year saw weigh offs in Thunder Bay, Pembroke, Woodbridge, Port

Elgin, Wellington, Keene and a new one at the Erin Fall Fair which was attended quite well for the inaugural year. We thank all those involved for all their hard work so growers can exhibit their fruits and veggies.

The growing season was once again one of many challenges. From heat to drought and then hail storms galore for some growers really had to dig deep to garner the strength to keep going sometimes but many did prevail as we now know.

Another thing I had the pleasure of witnessing this year was the generosity of people in the growing community or shall I say one family in particular that opened up their farm to growers in a way that most remember from days gone by when it was common place to do so. We here at the GVGO and all those in attendance that day in Wellington would like to thank the Huffman family for their excellent hospitality when the weigh off was moved to their property. That stew we had that day in the kitchen was unbelievable and gave the growers the stamina to persevere the day. It was most gratifying I assume for Glen to weigh in his first pumpkin over 1000 lbs on his own property – who would of thought! Thanks so much to the Huffmans once again for displaying what many might say is hospitality that "people in the county" are all about!

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## **2012 Membership Seed Packs & Membership Info**

At the time of writing this the GVGO Executive are deciding which types of fundraising to carry out this year. The seed packs will have a wide variety of things to grow but we also might have a premium pack that will be used to fundraise for the club. Please watch the message board for further details.

Our dues will be staying at \$25/single & 35/family for this year. Dues can be paid via Paypal at [kirkc1@xplornet.ca](mailto:kirkc1@xplornet.ca) or you can mail in your payment to:

### **Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario**

c/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer  
4376 Hwy 35 N  
Cameron, Ontario  
Canada  
K0M 1G0

Please pay your dues on time to aid in speedy delivery of your seed pack. Many growers have branched out and are growing other veggies now – myself included and the feedback from members as to the veggies available through the seed packs is great to hear. None of this is possible without the donations of seeds from growers in the club so thanks to all who donate seeds year after year. All seeds are to come pre-packaged and once again we are limiting seeds from pumpkins and squash under 800 lbs to 50 seeds – this still gives growers an opportunity to have their seeds circulated while not overloading the seed packs.

*\*We will be having some changes forthcoming in relation to what defines an eligible member for awards in the club. This was brought about after feedback from some members as to*

*the difference between full membership and out of province memberships. The changes will be very helpful in defining this. Stay tuned for an announcement in the near future*

### **NEW SEED SORTING HEADQUARTERS**

Pat Watson has volunteered to take over this duty from myself and has warned his local post office of the upcoming onslaught of seed packs. Please send your seeds to Pat and his band of merry men for sorting this year to the following address. We will be doing up 300-330 seed packs this year.

Pat Watson  
PO Box 25  
Komoka, ON  
N0L 1R0

Thanks for taking this on Pat. Please get your dried seeds into Pat as soon as you can.

### **2011 GVGO Seed of the Year**

This year's seed of the year was the 1012.5 Matesa. This seed was started by many growers as we would hope but not many made it to the scales unfortunately. Oddly enough the largest was grown by John Matesa himself weighing in at over 1200 lbs. Deciding on the SOTY is very tough and we will be having some changes to this contest this year which will be announced in the next issue of the newsletter. Some possible changes are extending the period for which a seed of the year is eligible to encourage further grow out of the seed. Having weigh off sites pay a bonus for weighing in a SOTY winner at that site. Sending out SOTY seeds to only those who request it to cut down on the number of seeds needed to be considered in the contest. Stay

tuned for further info from your executive!

### **2011/2012 Fundraising**

With the ever-changing world of pumpkin fundraising our club is also changing up things a bit this year. We have started an auction on our message board as an added fundraiser this year which is proving to be a good draw of revenue for the club and getting great seeds into the hands of growers. With all the hassle we had last year in relation to PayPal and the raffle and not being able to use PayPal for raffles any longer we are deciding which direction we will head right now. It will either be a raffle with only mail in purchases which will cut down on sales for sure or we will be selling premium seed packs on the website. We hope to have this info to the member's in the near future so watch the website for details. Proceeds from our fundraisers go to help fund the 7 weigh offs in Ontario, our patch tour, spring seminar and newsletters. Thanks to all those who contributed to these fundraisers.

### **Grower of the Year**

While these results are currently being tabulated my gut feeling tells me we might have a repeat winner of this award but time will tell. It really takes a lot of work to come out on top in this category and my congrats go out to those who win each year.

### **Hall of Fame & Lifetime Membership Nominees**

We are now taking nominations for entry into the above categories. Any GVGO member can nominate any Grower for this award. Send through your nominations to me by

mail or email by January 31st, 2012.

The Executive will then review and vote on the growers nominated. Awards will be handed out at our Growers Seminar & Awards Ceremony in April 2012.

### 2011 Patch Tour

I was unable to attend this year's patch tour but the feedback from the growers in attendance was all positive. It was unfortunate that Bryan Maileys patch was under disease pressure as many were looking forward to viewing his Patch.



The Delaneys, Joynsons and Hunts along with a bonus patch at the Hunts where Chris Lyons grew this year was well received and we thank those that put in so many hours prepping their patches for the hard work.



Phil Joynson was hard at work as usual putting out his patch gadgets and he had one of the nicest cabbage growing structures many have ever seen. A great meal was

had GVGO style and we thank the Hunts for organizing this and opening their property up for the meal.



### Final thoughts

I'm extremely proud to be the President of our club this year with all that has been accomplished by our members not only in Ontario but World Wide. Who would have thought levels like we saw this year would be obtained. Congrats to all growers who brought the fruits of their labours to the Weigh Offs and especially to **Joel Jarvis and Jim and Kelsey Bryson** for making this a year to remember with the Double Trouble World Record Squash and Pumpkin being weighed here in Ontario – Way to go!!

The GVGO executive has worked hard this year once again and it shows all the way to the scales. It's a lot of work to run our club and without all the volunteers lending a hand to the executive it would not be possible to do what we do – Thanks to you all!

On a personal note this is a very tough one for me this year. Growing alongside my son Jacob as he worked on his Watermelon & Cabbage plants and watched them grow each day was a rewarding one for myself and my wife

Jennifer, we are very proud of him. It took some coaxing at times to get him out to pull weeds and water but in the end he was very proud of his melon and the cabbage that won him some money at Port Elgin.

Who would have known how special these moments were as I was diagnosed with Cancer in September and all that have experienced cancer touching their families knows what we are going through. Now the prognosis is good so we are forging on as a family and face each day with positive attitudes as best we can. Having to deal with this has made me realize what is truly important in life and that is friends and family. I have a great circle of family and now I'm finding out how great my friends as well as many of my pumpkin friends have been quite helpful in getting us through this initial time and offering to help in any way in the future. Typical of pumpkin people! I will be starting treatments the first week in November so I will be off the radar so to speak for two months but will be back home full time in the New Year. Phil Joynson will fill in any duties as needed that I can't get to on my days back home.

Myself, Jennifer and Jacob thank all of you for your continued support

Kirk Chenier, President



**PORT ELGIN PUMPKINFEST  
UPDATE  
By Sally Hunt**

Well, our 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday was a great party! And our thanks goes to Joel Jarvis who brought us the Birthday present we'd been asking for - A New World Record!



The Guinness paperwork is currently under way and it will be fantastic to hang another certificate on our office walls. Unfortunately, although John Butler and Art Johnston brought us a WR Gourd it was not recognized by Guinness so we have not had an official certificate since Al Eaton's 1446 in 2004.



Although Saturday started off cool, the sun came out and the festival crowds maintained at 55,000 over the two days. The Saturday weigh-off saw great excitement as the crowds eagerly anticipated the weight of the "big one" grown by Harley Sproule of Ormstown, Quebec. Harley rented a large cube-van to make the trip to Port Elgin as his giant pumpkin would not fit in the back of a regular pick-up truck.



According to the tape, Harley's pumpkin had the potential to weigh close to 1850 pounds, but unfortunately, when it hit the scales, it went "light" and Harley ended up finishing in 2<sup>nd</sup> place, just 7 pounds behind his cousin, Jim Bryson and his daughter Kelsey, whose pumpkin weighed in at a whopping 1657 pounds.



But as we all know, Jim and Kelsey weren't done yet, and returned to Ontario two weeks later with the new WR pumpkin.

One of the funniest things I heard all weekend was when Harley told me on Sunday that he had "slept like a baby last night – he slept for two hours and cried for two hours, slept for two hours and cried for two hours".

We can't fret that the world record pumpkin didn't come to our event because Joel Jarvis was the really big news of the day on Saturday when he entered a beautiful squash weighing 1486.6 pounds

which blew the old record away (1236 pounds from 2009).



The Sunday weigh-off had Pat Watson of Komoka, Ontario going away with top prize for his pumpkin of 1180 pounds.



This fruit also won Pat the Novice Grower Award which is a special "Sunday only" prize of \$500 presented to the biggest fruit grown by an individual with less than 3 years growing experience. 4 of the top 5 pumpkins entered on Sunday came from novice growers, so this tells us that interest in this unusual hobby of giant vegetable growing is definitely on the increase.

Other special awards included:

Closest to the hidden weight was won by Richard Nieuwenhoff on Saturday who won a package trip to the Niagara seminar in March, 2012 and by Brian MacDiarmid on Sunday who won a Lazy-Boy Chair.

Howard Dill awards went to John Nieuwenhoff on Saturday



and Dave McCallum on Sunday.



Bob MacKenzie once again won the Fred Weurth Memorial Award on Sunday for the largest pumpkin from Grey/Bruce/Huron County but Terry Chappelle gave him a run for his money coming in a close second for this award.



There were 234 total vegetable entries in 2011. 53 pumpkins and squash were entered and 24 of these were over 1,000 pounds. In total our scales weighed 52,044.55 pounds and our measuring tape measured 5,013.25" of vegetables.

More information about all the entries can be found at our website, [www.pumpkinfest.org](http://www.pumpkinfest.org) and full results for Port Elgin Pumpkinfest 2011 can be found later in this newsletter.

Congratulations to all our growers!



Start collecting those tomato seeds as that will be our 2012 featured vegetable. More news about next year's weigh-off structure will be available after February when we have had a chance to review our prize packages. We will, once again, revisit adding field pumpkins as a category to the 2012 festival.

Now, as we wrap up the 2011 weigh-off we are switching into high gear for Niagara seminar planning. Watch for all the details to be posted on BP and GVGO webpages very soon. Hope to see most of you in Niagara Falls and Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone!

## SOUTHERN ONTARIO NEWS

by John Butler

The 2011 pumpkin growing season has been a great one for Canada. Congrats goes out to the world record breakers Jim and Kelsey Bryson, John and Betty MacKinnon, and our own southern region Joel Jarvis.

It was a good year with 17 pumpkins over a thousand pounds at **PORT ELGIN** and many more across the province. Many of our Ontario members achieved that one thousand pound mark and a

lot had a new personal best. Congratulations go out to all you, great job!

The Norfolk County Fair was once again a great success with Joel Jarvis taking top honours in the pumpkin and squash, Ron Wray won tallest corn and tallest sun flower and George Lloyd winning the heaviest water melon

The **BLUEWATER GROWERS & THROWERS** weigh off was once again a blast. Pat Watson in only his second year of growing won the pumpkin, and for the first year they also judged long gourds which the Johnston / Butler team won. It was a good time with non stop entertainment with potato guns going off and pumpkins being fired through the air by a cannon or catapult, at targets in the river all adding to the excitement of the day. This was well worth attending and is open to everyone who joins the **BLUEWATER GROWERS AND THROWERS CLUB**.

The fall has been cool and wet here in the South. The fall preparations have just been completed and the ground is awaiting that special seed for next year.

Some of the growers achieving personal best in this region were Joel Jarvis, Mike McAvity Pat Watson, George Lloyd, Fred Hain, and Ron Wray.

Thanks go out all of the people that put the weigh offs on.

I would like to say **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to all and I hope everyone has a safe winter.

John Butler

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

The time has finally arrived that everyone has been waiting for its time for the pumpkins to hit the scales and the weigh-offs begin!

Growers from around the Province made their way on a beautiful hot sunny day to the annual Neguac Provincial Weigh off to watch their pumpkins hit the scales on Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup>. Due to an extremely wet summer only 13 giant pumpkins and one squash made it to the weigh-off. Over a thousand spectators came out to watch the event! Third place honours went to Aurele Albert with a weight of 810 pounds. Second place was secured by Madesson Lee with a weight of 937 pounds. First place went to Bill & I with a weight of 1190 pounds and also winning the Howard Dill Award for the best looking pumpkin. Even though there was only one participant in the giant squash category, Laurent Mallet of Shippigan weighed in at an impressive 999 pounds.



The 27<sup>th</sup> annual pumpkin weigh off was held in Windsor, Nova Scotia on October 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 28 entries this year. Tom Dudka came in third placed with a weight of 991 pounds. Ben Hebb and Jeff Reid battled it out for first and

second place. Jeff Reid, of Waterville, was bumped from his first place finish last year, earning second this year with a weight of 1084 pounds. Ben Hebb came in first with an astonishing weight of 1227. As for the heaviest squash, Al Aten of PEI grew the largest. It weighed 936 pounds. Will Neily placed second with a weight of 749 pounds and Tom Corkum came in third with a weight of 606 pounds. Not too often we get to see a new world record hit the scales but we did in Windsor this year in the field pumpkin category. These pumpkins were grown by John McKinnon and Betty McKinnon. Both pumpkins weighed a whopping 162 pounds! The Annapolis Valley Giant Vegetable Growers annually present the Hilda Dill Award to the person who grew the most perfect pumpkin. This year's winner was Danny Dill. Diana MacDonald won the Howard Dill Award.

Congratulations to all!

The P.E.I. Giant Pumpkin Growers Association held their annual weigh off on Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> at Vessey Seeds. Clifford Picketts' pumpkin tipped the scales with a weight of 1029 giving him the trophy.



Now it is time to turn those pumpkins into boats! The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Pumpkin Regatta was held in Windsor on Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>. "Ladies and Gentlemen start your pumpkins"!! Thousands of

spectators came out to watch the race which is always full of surprises, thrills and spills. It was the beautiful sunny day with highs reaching around 25 degrees Celsius! There were 43 pumpkin boats this year and 33 made it across Lake Pesquid. First place went to Joe Seagram, second place went to Chip Peterson and Anthony Cook came in third.

Looking forward to another exciting year in 2012!

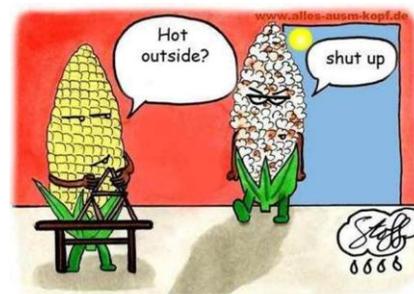
Dawn



**March 9-11, 2012**

**Watch for more  
information on [GVGO.ca](http://GVGO.ca)  
and [BP.com](http://BP.com) in the coming  
weeks!**

**New venue:  
[www.americananiagara.com](http://www.americananiagara.com)**



## WESTERN REPORT by Don Crews

Well it looks like we survived another season. Some of us prospered and some of us struggled. There is a lot of luck involved with this sport and though we do our best to reduce the luck required, it is undoubtedly still a requirement of the winners.

We were lucky to be able to get an early start in the north part of the province of Alberta while the southern part had floods that put them behind. About the time we needed rain we got it.

Unfortunately it came by thunderstorm. 20" of rain came in July most of it in severe thunderstorms that seemed to come every night. That severely impacted my field pumpkins, beating them down and rolling their vines. Tough plants they are and I was still able to beat my personal best, though I wonder what could have been.

I was fortunate to be able to grow some great seeds this year through the generosity of a fellow competitor. Unfortunately I learned that I was a "more-on". I thought that since I had a new patch perhaps more fertilizer was in order. In mid June I had vine growth of a rate that was impossible to imagine on my 1725 harp. Fruit started but then aborted soon after. I managed to get one set but it was very far down the vine and developed a soft spot. It wasn't quite mature enough to have many seeds. Leaves turned brown, burned by fertilizer excess.

I was lucky to be able to grow an 1161 Rodonis seed this year. Slow and steady though the slow could have been caused by my first foaming stump. Remember the rain story? This plant was in a green house but that doesn't matter much when you have that much rain. I cut it open, drained it, then washed it out with bleach. I put a fan on it and washed it out with bleach now and then and it survived without rotting the rest of the vine. I think the main roots do become largely cut off from the main vine though. The fruit grew at a steady rate throughout the season and I was optimistic heading to the weigh off at Smoky Lake.

It was a nice day for the weigh off. As always, discussing pumpkins with someone who doesn't roll their eyes after ten minutes, was relieving. As pumpkins rolled in my 1161 fruit's chances looked good. John Lobay brought one that looked to give the 1161 fruit a run but it had pin hole in it and was brought for the pumpkin drop.

There was a good selection of long gourds this year. Kishore Kadill won with a 101.8" long gourd. Barry Wood was very close with a 100.25" gourd and Alan Makarchuk came third with a 88.6" long fruit.

I won the watermelon with a melon that was a few generations of 239 leonard and true to form never quit growing. It was an early pollination while the plant was small and never grew fast. It ended up at 125lbs. Second was Geraldine and Jordin Karbin with a 77 lb melon and Barry Wood was third with a 58.2lb melon.

Weigh off organizers added a field pumpkin category this year. They had discussed adding the class previously and the fact that two of

us had brought field pumpkins there to get an official weight triggered the addition. My fruit won at 145 lbs. It was off my 137.4 Crews 10. I think this could be a popular class as field pumpkins grow very well here.

Alan Makarchuk continues his previous strong showings in squash with a winning 581.2 lb fruit. John Lobay was second with 318.6 lb fruit and Mary Lobay was third at 269 lbs.

First place in pumpkin was my 1161 fruit at 1081 lbs. John Lobay was next at 775.2 lbs and John Kapelari third with a 525 lb fruit. John Kapelari is moving up the rankings every year and that was a personal best in tough year.

### Smoky Lake top 10 pumpkins

1. 1,081 lbs Donald Crews
2. 775.2 lbs John Lobay
3. 525.2 lbs John Kapelari
4. 452.0 lbs Debbie Kapelari
5. 344.2 lbs Susan Young
6. 341.6 lbs Alex & Andrew Makarchuk
7. 318.4 lbs Alanna Makarchuk
8. 311.2 lbs Helen & Gerry Groten
9. 277.4 lbs Sylvia Wagner
10. 225.4 lbs Chris Reckhard



At the weigh off I was told of Ray Beaudins winning 917 lb fruit at the Children's Wish weigh off in Lethbridge. Pumpkins there are used to raise money for the foundation. Congrats Ray! That was a great thing you did!

Cool, wet weather affected the west coast growers. Weights were a little off but they laugh at what I call alot of rain.

#### Nanaimo top ten pumpkins

1. 914 lbs Jake Vankooten
2. 899 lbs Terry Burley
3. 898 lbs Glenn dixon
4. 807 lbs Dave pley
5. 736 lbs Rod Anderson
6. 599 lbs Andrea Dixon
7. 556 lbs Ken Kapps
8. 500 lbs Kerri Perras
9. 489 lbs Don Ledingham
10. 400 lbs Arne Eggen

Manitoba had some enormous pumpkins this year. We are going to really have to work hard to catch these guys. Alberta is taking a beating. Congrats to Henry Banman winning with a 1379.5 lb fruit. Wow!

#### Roland Manitoba top ten pumpkins

1. 1,379.5 lbs Henry Banman
2. 873.5 lbs Robert Tetrault
3. 853.0 lbs Scott Myslichuk
4. 808.0 lbs Dianne Winkler
5. 798.5 lbs Ray Winkler
6. 797.5 lbs Doug Whitehead
7. 796.5 lbs Ed Raflant
8. 723.5 lbs Bob Brasted
9. 666.0 lbs Brenda Whitehead
10. 640.0 lbs Miranda Barker

That should wrap up the season. It's time to digest results and plan for next year.

Good luck everyone!

### NEWS FROM OVERSEAS by Brad Wursten

European giant vegetable growers broke six world records and six European records this year. The six world records were broken by three growers from the United Kingdom. Ian Neale of Wales broke three of them. He set new records for swede/rutabaga (85.8 lbs), celery (75.0 lbs) and long cucumber (42.1 in). David Thomas of Cornwall smashed the old heavy parsnip world record. His parsnip weighed in at 17.3 lbs. Peter Glazebrook broke his own potato record with a specimen weighing 10.98 lbs. He also destroyed the much coveted onion world record. The old record dated back to 2005 and Peter was very determined to break it. Each year he came closer, and when his onion tipped the scales at the Harrogate onion show at 17.97 this September, he could finally add this world record to his collection.



The European pumpkin record held again this year, though Jos Ghaye of Belgium came close to the 1611 lb record held by Mehdi Daho of France, with a pumpkin

weighing 1582 lbs and grown on the 1207 Young. But six other European records did fall in addition to the six world records already mentioned. Team Heavy East of Germany (Baumert/Teichert) weighed in a 1263 lb squash, the second heaviest ever grown in the world. It beat the old record of 1234 lbs, grown by yours truly. Mehdi Daho of France grew a new Euro cantaloupe record (40.5 lbs) and a new Euro field pumpkin record (126 lbs). Bo Persson of Sweden just missed out on a world record amaranth. His 26ft 7in specimen did earn him a European title. Bernhard Preis of Germany really smashed the old tall corn record. His tallest stalk measured 27ft 0in, just four feet short of a world record and almost seven feet taller than the previous record set a few weeks earlier by Johannes Offermann, also of Germany. The final European record which was broken was long gourd. It got beaten three times, but fortunately mine came out on top. At 122in it was decisively longer than the old record of 114.5 in held by Mehdi Daho of France.

We are still waiting for the last results in order to decide who is the EGVGA grower-of-the-year. The grower who scores the most points in the thirty giant vegetable classes gets to go home with the title. None of the growers entered in all thirty categories, though a few came close. At the moment it is a three-way battle between Peter Glazebrook, David Thomas and myself. Chances are Peter Glazebrook will edge us out by one or two points.

For myself, next year I will take it a bit easier. That means growing less different classes and in some cases less specimens of a particular class. I'm currently setting up a new covered growing

area for most of the giant vegetable classes. And of course I'll attempt to get back my European squash record. And I think I can do an awful lot better on the LG if the weather cooperates.

In any case, work in a giant vegetable patch has no winter breaks. Some growers have already started their new onions and cabbages. I start at the beginning of January with my giant leeks, closely followed by carrots and sweet peppers. When the frost hits, we move our work into the greenhouse. It keeps us busy. No winter depression here.

Brad J. Würsten  
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### **THE STORY OF ABLE By Jennifer Grigg**

And so it began...last year our friend and neighbour Greg Montgomery grew a giant pumpkin and my husband Nathan and I and our four children were captivated by it. It grew 1118lbs which was to us, utterly enormous. At the end of the season "Mr. Monty" as our children affectionately call him, gave us a seed to grow the next year. So, much to my chagrin I was out voted, my salad garden was relocated and all were in favour of planting the pumpkin seed in its place. Did I think it would grow? Well, maybe to 100lbs or so...with four children I must say the pumpkin was not MY top priority. Nathan became the Mastermind behind A.B.L.E (Ashley, Ben, Lily and Emma named after our children) he doted on the thing; from pollination, though burying the vines, the manure and compost teas, the covering and uncovering

and with the help of his mentor and coach Greg we watched ABLE grow and grow and grow! Before our eyes she was becoming enormous, she was doing so well that we all became infatuated with growing giant things...we planted Giant Sunflowers, 10lb Zucchini's, more giant pumpkins (Ken & Barbie) and a myriad of Jack-O-Lanterns, and Pie Pumpkins. Mr. Monty had created Monsters of us! In fact, Nathan dubbed he and Greg the PCPF's (Port Carling Pumpkin Freaks) And as Greg's pumpkin Rodonis was doubling the size of our ABLE we quickly began to appreciate the time and dedication it takes to be a serious grower. Poor Nathan had a series of hardships with ABLE from blossom end split, to stem split, her skin was burned by solvent on an old blanket which required emergency surgery. As a member of GVGO, Nathan could send a series of emails to Master growers for advice on how to keep her growing. And amazingly she did! Approx 300 more pounds and after all of those casualties. All Greg Montgomery could do was shake his head...he couldn't believe she survived. He called her the "wounded warrior" and told Nathan, "she has survived all of that you have GOT to drive her down to Pumpkinfest in Port Elgin!!!" So, we loaded up the truck and we moved to Port...ELGIN... that is...land of Giant Vegetables and World Record Squash!! I must say we felt like Movie stars with 2500lbs of Pumpkin on board. We may never forget the looks on people's faces as we drove by with our precious cargo! At weigh in on Saturday, Nathan was astounded at the number of entries and the size of them!! If we weren't hooked on growing giants before we got there we certainly were once we arrived. I was impressed by the

camaraderie of the GVGO members, it was like a family...to be behind the scenes in the growers only area was almost like watching our children on Christmas Day waiting to open their beautifully wrapped boxes! I said to Nathan, this is their day to shine...all of the fruits of their labours have finally paid off. Can't tell you how nervously excited we were when ABLE was weighed in...She had taped 800lbs when we left for fair and as the announcer called out the weight...2/.4/92...Oh my gosh...924.2lbs!!! It was crazy. We were all thrilled and Nathan could definitely be proud of his first Giant! What an accomplishment! To stand with Greg and Barb Montgomery at the weigh in of Rodonis was even more nerve racking, we could tell it was a leader...but by how much? He had huge pressure from Harley's entry, so all we could do was cross our fingers! To have come in 3rd at 1641.40lbs was soooo exciting. I was speaking with Barb Montgomery after the awards ceremony and at the very moment that we were commiserating with each other that we were no longer "pumpkin widows" and laughing at what we might do now that our men would have time for us...Greg turned to Nathan and said "Hey Nater...we'll get home tomorrow, get those gardens cut down and start getting those patches ready for Spring!" WELL...we almost had them back ;)

A GIANT thank you to the Montgomeries for a year full of help and encouragement. We can't wait to grow again with you. P.S I think next year you will have more entries...according to our children we are now growing Giant Squash, Watermelons and Tomatoes also!!! Pumpkinfest 2011!

## Top 10 Amazing Pumpkin Facts!

(Some of them are actually TRUE!) by Phil Joynson

10. The circumference of the 1246 Vincent squash was 205 inches or 17 feet 1 inch. That's about the height of an adult giraffe. Amazing!
9. The weight of an average adult polar bear (900 lbs.) riding an average sized Harley Davidson (682 lbs.) would be 1582lbs. That would have been a good enough weight for only 4<sup>th</sup> at the Port Elgin pumpkin weight off this year. Amazing!
8. The highest price ever paid for a pumpkin seed was \$1600 paid for the 1810 Stevens 2010. Amazing! Well actually it's kind of sad...
7. Adolphustown Ontario was at one time nick named pumpkin town by the surrounding towns as a slight. Only lazy farmers were pumpkin growers. Amazing!
6. Phil Hunt has never admitted to be having a great growing year. Amazing!
5. In 1996 the Zehrs were awarded \$50,000 for breaking the 1000 lbs. pumpkin barrier. Something that's very common now. Amazing!
4. Ivor Biggin of Kinmount Ontario once dislocated both of arms whilst describing the size of the pumpkin he lost during the fall of 2007. Amazing!
3. Most pumpkin pie recipes call for 15 oz of pumpkin per pie. Using this as a yard stick, you can get about 107 pumpkin pies per hundred pounds of pumpkin. A one thousand pound pumpkin could make 1070 pies. AMAZING!
2. There were only 90 1678 Hunt 2009 seeds. Of those 200 were genuine and 300 were sold over the internet during the winter of 2010. Amazing!
1. The world record for field pumpkin is 162 lbs. but if you think about it, it's still a really small pumpkin. Amazing!

# News from Quebec

## By Claude Colbert

### A new world record from Quebec .

The year 2011 has been the year of a new world record in province of Quebec. Congratulations to Jim and Kelsey Bryson from Ormstown, Quebec, Canada for their record breaking 1818.5 pounds pumpkin presented at Prince Edward County Pumpkifest, on October 15, 2011. The Bryson's had also won first place in Port Elgin with a fruit weighted at 1656.7 pounds, just ahead of Harley J. Sproule also from Ormstown, Quebec who finished second with a pumpkin of 1650.8 pounds. Way to go guys, this allowed raising the Quebec top ten average to 1506 pounds.

### Update from Gentilly club : « Le Potirothon .

Unique event of its kind in Quebec because of its size, the Gentilly Potirothon distinguishes from other competitions of giant pumpkins taking place elsewhere in the world as a family and friendly competition where honour is the only rewards. Some participants can be qualified as an expert while others are growing AG just for the fun of it.

The Potirothon of Gentilly is the largest competition of giant pumpkins in the province of Quebec. The 2011 Gentilly Potirothon season began with the spring seminar. At this meeting, participants receive their free packet of seeds and attend the presentation and discussion on growing giant pumpkins. This year, we recorded 65 participating teams in the competition for the largest pumpkin. The official weigh off was held September 24, 2011 in Gentilly. There were 26 pumpkins presented at the weigh off. Here are the results for the top ten:

Rank	Weigh	Name	Town
1	1243	Colbert, Claude	Sainte-Croix
2	1146	Morin, Mario	St-Georges-de-Beauce
3	987	Les Quatrouilles	Gentilly
4	963	Colbert, Claude	Sainte-Croix
5	860	Courchesne, Marc	Sherbrooke
6	806	Riopel, Jocelyn	St-Roch de L'Achigan
7	803	Les Quatrouillettes	Gentilly
8	791	Forest, Paul	Sherbrooke
9	742	Gagnon, Tony	Gentilly
10	706	Saffin, Jeff	St-François-du-Lac

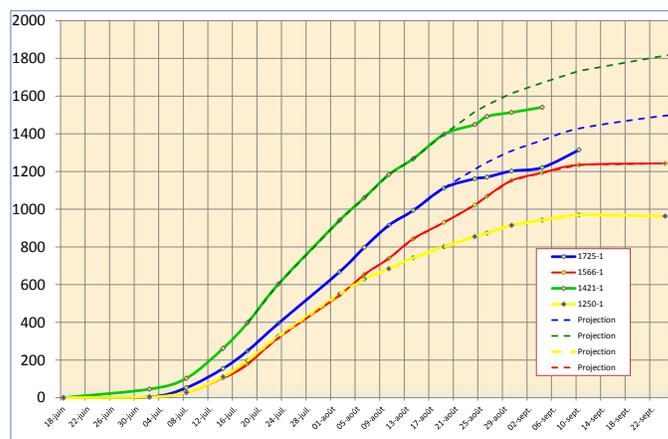
Following the weigh off, a pumpkins regatta was held on the Becancour River on October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to close the season activities.

### Colbert pumpkins patch 2011

It was a pretty good season here even though I lost my two biggest pumpkins to a rib/Dill ring split in early August. The Colbert patch produced 4 pumpkins this year. In the spring, I planted the following seeds:

Patch	Seeds	Back up
1	1725 Harp 2009	1264 Kline 2009
2	1161 Rodonis 2007	1566 Rodonis 2007
3	1421.5 Stelts 2009	1556.5 Werner 2007
4	1250 Colbert 2010	1460 Colbert 2010

The 1161 Rodonis plant was a very slow grower and the plant was removed to continue with the back-up plant. After a cold and wet spring, weather conditions have greatly improved in summer. Before my best fruits splits, I was hoping for the best so to reach the 1800 pounds level as shown in the projected curve of growth of the 1421 fruit.



I ended the season with these cross:

Seed	Female	Male
1475 Colbert 2011 DMG	1421.5 Stelts 2009	1250 Colbert 2010
1386 Colbert 2011 DMG	1725 Harp 2009	1250 Colbert 2010
1243 Colbert 2011	1566 Rodonis 2007	1725 Harp 2009
963 Colbert 2011	1250 Colbert 2010	1725 Harp 2009



The Colbert pumpkins patch is on Facebook :  
<https://www.facebook.com/Colbert.pumpkin.patch>



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**DATE WITH "JABBA"  
GVGO SCIENCE NEWS  
By Russ Landry  
October 26, 2011**

The dawning of another mid fall day marches the Atlantic Giant Pumpkin patch ever closer to the many frost filled nights yet to come. Air chilled below the freezing point hastens in winter's icy grip. Pumpkin patches begin to yield to the passage of fall's cool air as it approaches closer each day from the far white north.

Growers who cast a glaring eye at what was once gleaming, green canopy find nothing but plants filled with grey and white spotted leaves. The AGP is often left devastated with a single lone standing fruit in the patch. So important is a healthy plant free of Powdery Mildew that it is the difference between a huge porch pumpkin and a scale over hanger like the 1818.5 Bryson.

The remedies' are plentiful and often thought to be unfriendly brews of ingredients or components that at the very least could be law bending and or law breaking in some areas of the country. Most growers are preferring to apply the latest and myriad of manmade fungicides which frankly do work very well.

The focus instead here is on what I have found works best for me. That is, in my yard in my local conditions and on my plants. My remedies have focused on controls that fit effectively within the confines of the Ontario pesticide laws. These are options in a grower's chest allowing some

pumpkin propagators to blend in a little tad of what Mother Nature provided.

Traditional natural organic spray or dust and control or contact foliar are not costly. They do work to some degree but they need to be constantly applied after rainfalls or irrigation events. This is the main factor in growers abandoning their use. They are labour intensive and growers often lack knowledge in proper application and or avoid them entirely.

Never mind that baking soda actually controls PM effectively enough to make it well into mid September below epidemic levels of infestation. Milk too; there is another great cheap tool that is well documented to at least partially work. Hydrogen Peroxide (HP) is known to kill active spores and works as a contact killer. Not the best tool however, as HP's toxic sauce carries harmful effects that are felt directly by the leaves plethora of biology.

The new and best tools in a grower's tool box are of course Phosphites. They are organic, cheap, work effectively and are generally easy to apply at intervals of 10 to 14 days or more. Then can be soil applied at planting, vine buried, drench irrigated and foliar applied. They can be combined with hard to reach elements and in future will be jammed packed with nano-nutrient concoctions. They are thought to be able to help uplift Ca, Mg and just about any other negation ion or element. They come in all sizes from nano to macro.

Modern Phosphites in fact work so successfully they can completely control a plant and can maintain it in growth mode. Leaves that are clear and green are able to see the suns brightly pumping rays. Producing ever more sugary fructose by-products of which fruits are made of. Behind the humbled beginnings of any grower's porch melons therein lies the main objective of bigger fruits. The destiny for such plants is not a date with the Halloween devil but an evening out with "Jabba the Hutt".

If you remember, Jabba the Hutt was a scale over hanger of rather large proportions.

Helping you grow BIGGER  
**PUMPKINS.**

**FALL PATCH PREPARATIONS  
AMENDING SOIL AND  
GROWING ATLANTIC GIANT  
PUMPKINS  
By Russ Landry  
October 31, 2011**

**GETTING STARTED**

After the weigh off, truly the hardest work for a pumpkin grower begins. This includes not only harvesting the seeds and carving your many fall progeny. The strenuous work involves a strong back and determination to improve your patches soil. A grower's patch preparations begin the moment the first fruit leaves the garden.

The most important of these chores involves soil preparation. Incorporating large amounts of

organic matter into Atlantic Giant patches greatly enables the grower's chances for a larger pumpkin. A ticket to "Heavy Hitter" status awaits a well prepared grower.

Healthy, fertile soil is a mixture of water, air, organic matter and mineral nutrients. Organic matter (OM) consists of dead plant and animal material that is in the process of decomposing. One of the best ways to improve soil fertility is to add organic matter. Building organic matter is a slow process. Native soils of many Southern Ontario regions and for that matter in most of North America are composed of only 3 to 5% organic matter. Giant pumpkin growers strive to maintain levels approaching 10% or more in the regions of Ontario and the Mid-Western States. Organic matter added to the soil raises the soils Cation Exchange Ratio (CEC) or simply its nutrient holding capacity. This factor along with the OM's ability to hold more water and oxygen greatly profits the soil and your pocket book at weigh off time. Tilt or bulk density is also assisted by changing the soils structure. Organic matter binds or clusters the soil together making it easy to dig. Helping poor soils, either sandy or clay laden organic matter improves the soils by providing good nutrient holding capacity.

### **SOIL TESTING**

Begin any fall preparations by taking soil samples and determining a base line for future reference. The importance of a soil test cannot be understated. Generally, while organic matter can be added at any time you need to know the current standing of your soil. This helps to determine if any supplemental

additions are required to lend a hand in modifying the soils composition. Firstly, starting with the pH level and then moving on down to the major nutrients NPK and then to the macronutrients of calcium, magnesium, and then finally, the minor nutrients such as iron and manganese.

AGP's grow best in a pH range from 6.5 to 7.2 with 6.8 thought to be the optimum level. Any discussion about soil nutrient levels is very complex. Recommendations listed in your lab report will provide a good base of support. Many growers tend to push soils that are extremely high in nutrients of NPK.

Calcium (Ca) is considered a major nutrient when growing AGP's for competition. The plant uses Ca readily during the later stages of the summer as the fruit begins to expand and develop. Maximizing its uptake during this time can great reduce the incidence of Blossom End Splitting. A supplemental addition of Ca often requires additions of Gypsum or Calcium Magnesium Sulphate. It is very important to note that many local conditions will leave soil deficient in Ca despite overall high ppm levels. This is often caused by insoluble Calcium bicarbonate molecules tying up the vital macro nutrient rendering it useless to the plants roots.

### **ORGANIC MATTER**

Working in a minimum of four inches or more of well rotted OM will compensate you with big dividends come next summer. The autumn provides the best time of year to add OM to the soil. Materials such as grass clippings, leaves, yard wastes and compost are the most readily available supplements for the urban and

rural grower. All types of older manures can be added during the fall as well.

Cow, chicken, horse, sheep and rabbit manures are some of the most popular choices but should be avoided until harmful nitrogen is consumed by bacteria or leached out. I prefer older manures as they are usually free of most weed seeds. An application of these types of organic matter into the top 18 to 24" of your soil is most advantageous for many reasons. Firstly, the new additions are able to lift the soils OM percentage and raise its nutrient holding capacity while at the same time, increase the oxygen content and the water carrying potential of your soil. Fall applications of OM come with a built in self-curing period. They will work in the soil for many months and will begin to balance out the effects of the many nutrient combinations you have just added to the soil.

Many other organic manufactured products are now available to the grower. These are also of great advantage to many small patch growers. Products such as organic fertilizers and pelletized compost are great ways to encourage good healthy patch practices. Other more common bagged supplements include kelp meal, alfalfa meal, corn meal and dried black strap molasses. Kelp and alfalfa meal add natural rooting hormones. Corn meal aids in disease fighting capabilities. Molasses, the tar like sticky, sugary black substance, feeds the soils microbes which in turn releases nutrients into the soil in a quick and easy form that the plants uptake eagerly.

## SOIL CONDITIONERS

Humic Acid (HA) is another great way to improve the soils CEC. In sandy soils, it can quickly and permanently raise the CEC. HA is natural by-product of thousands of years of OM decay. The result is a blackened extremely porous structure that lasts a lifetime in the soil. The porosity of the HA particles brings with it a great chelating or holding power for nutrients, water and oxygen.

Other products used to enhance soil available to the grower are perlite, vermiculite and peat moss, both working in similar ways to enhance the soil. One of my favourites is Pro Mix, BX with Myco.

Jersey Greensand is an additional supplemental product. Considered as a soil conditioner it will raise the Calcium levels of soil and it can permanently raise CEC while adding some minor amounts of potassium to the top soil.

Other more common soil supplements include Sulphur, Gypsum, Lime, Dolomite Limestone and Magnesium Sulphate (Epsom salts).

### Important Tips

- Sulphur is used to lower pH.
- Aluminum Sulphate dramatically and instantly lowers pH.
- Gypsum is used to maintain pH, add Ca & Mg and improve tilth.
- Lime, (calcium carbonate) raises pH and adds calcium.
- Dolomite Limestone raises pH, and adds Calcium and Magnesium.
- Magnesium Sulphate adds magnesium while lowering pH moderately.

## COVER CROPS

Adding new biomass to the soil is the last fall step we can take. Certain grasses, grains, and legumes are used in gardening to gain an advantage on Mother Nature. Cover crops begin to get the mixture working prior to spring planting. They protect the soil from wind and water erosion while conserving moisture and preventing weed germination. The OM contribution is an added benefit to the soil as certain types of crops can extract nutrients from the soil and leave them in readily available forms for quick uptake by the plants once they are ploughed back into the soil.

Some types of cover crops pull nitrogen from the air (Fix Nitrogen) while others consume nitrogen. The fixers help put atmospheric nitrogen back into the soil while the consumer's conserve and prevent leaching of the elements to the surrounding watershed. When roto-tilled back into the soil they give back the nitrogen.

Good fall patch preparation examples of cover crops for planting by mid October include winter wheat, winter rye and oats. They are fast growing and relatively easy to roto-till. They do not fix nitrogen but add organic matter come spring. Sowed in early October, before freeze up, they can store large amounts of nitrogen from the soil.

Broad leaf crops like Buckwheat and Sudan, Martin or Sorghum grasses are best planted in spring or early to mid summer. If you have an open area during August due to a lost plant, it may be a good idea to get buckwheat or one of the others up and growing. The benefits are rapid growth and phosphorus fixation from the soil.

Frost intolerance makes this a good rotational crop when combined with a tilled early spring legume crop. Many growers are currently taking advantage of the phosphorus by planting buckwheat after the last frost and ploughing it down just ahead of vine growth.

Legume crops like Vetch and Clover fix nitrogen but generally require a spring or summer planting, and as such, are not well suited to fall preparations.

## BACTERIA & FUNGI

Beneficial bacteria, fungi, earthworms and a host of other organisms thrive on the addition of organic matter and the fresh carbon it brings along for the ride. Healthy patches depend on good microbial activity to provide a constant supply of nutrients to plants with vigorous and burgeoning root systems.

Adding OM, to the soil of a pumpkin plant is like putting food on your plate. The increased microbes feed on the organic matter and leave behind nutrients in the soil that are available to be quickly absorbed by the plants developing root system. It is also very important to feed these bacteria with sugars. High Fructose products are best and include molasses, corn syrups and maple syrups.

Inoculation of cover crop roots at planting with beneficial endo-fungi And bacteria are now considered to be of major importance. Deep rooting Sudan grasses are thought to be able to allow for over wintering of fungal spores.

There you have it, basic fall preparations in a nutshell. Treat the soil with kindness and it will reward you with a yellow and orange glistening orb that pokes its

shimmering head above the green sun baked leaves by the end of September. The soil is the key component in growing giant pumpkins. Fall preparations start with hard work and determination to improve the soils tilth.

Building your soil is a continuing process that never ends. Organic Matter is consumed at a fast pace during the summer months. Annual replenishment is required to unlock the right combination of desire and skill involved in the growing the AGP. Consider this as your future guide to Heavy Hitter status.

**“The green is keen but it's what's underneath that makes a difference. Because Bigger Roots mean Bigger Fruits”.**

**INSIGHT FROM LA BELLE  
PROVENCE  
Todd Kline**

#### **“Insight from La Belle Provence”**

After another year of great success our good friend Todd Kline from Quebec was asked to submit answers to some questions put forth by the Prez. Todd has been weighing in pumpkins and giant veggies for many years in Ontario and the membership would really like to know some of his techniques. Hopefully they will provide some insight into what makes the Quebec growers excel year after year.

**“Todd the following are some questions and if you choose to take a few minutes to give our members a peak into your growing success that would be great and much appreciated.”**

**What do you do for fall prep in your patch – till, no till, fertilizers (organic or not), do you incorporate leaves or grass clippings, what kind of manure and how much? Do you spray anything on your patch in the fall for disease protection? In your opinion what are three things that a grower should do in the fall to aid in being successful the following year?**

I clean up the patch then add maple leaves and lightly till them in, then add cow manure. Not a lot just enough to cover the soil. No spraying of anything.

**Spring patch prep, same as above but do you add anything else this time of the year?**

I add compost, about 8 to 10 wheelbarrows per 1000 sq. ft. I make my own compost here at the patch. I spray both the compost pile and patch with a bit of maple syrup to help wake things up.

Soil amendments are added including calcium carbonate, dolomite, gypsum, humic acid and either kelp or alfalfa pellets. I also plant buckwheat around the perimeters of the patches which is for wind breaks and green manure crop. The greens are added to the compost pile and the stubble is tilled in the soil.

**Why do you choose the seeds that you do, what is your seed starting method and did you use any products on them?**

I pick my own seeds that I think have promise or did well the year before, and I like to grow potentially good seeds from other growers, some of which are good friends of mine. Then I like to try a couple of proven seeds as well.

I use Pro Mix or Fafards for seed starting. I don't like to treat the potting soil until well after the plants have popped up and grown a leaf or two.

**What type of soil do you have and how does it drain?**

Sandy soil with excellent drainage. It is now a dark loamy sand with all the stuff I've been adding through the years.

**What is the make up of your soil in relation to a soil test and how did you adjust it?**

I haven't done any soil testing in a long time. Just check the PH and adapt with different limestones.

**How many plants do you start with?**

This year I'll start 10 pumpkins, two squash, two or three watermelons, and two or three long gourds.

**Do you use greenhouses (small or large) additional heat or heating cables?**

Small 4x6 huts, some bought, some homemade. No heat or heating cables. I use heavy blankets and candles for cold nights.

**Do you believe its more important to get a large plant first or get a great pollination?**

In this climate, pollination at the right time is number 1 for me. This year was tough because we had a cold spring and the plants were smaller than I'd of liked. I run the early secondaries extra long to help compensate.

**Do you use material under your fruit?**

pulp mill fabric

**What chemical sprays are you using for insect control and disease control?**

Just the usual stuff everyone else uses.

**What products do you use during the growing season and at what time – foliar or drench?**

I use a garden hose end feeder and also pump some through overhead sprinklers. Combinations of fish, seaweed, maple syrup. I also sprayed with Lithovit, seaweed, and maple syrup in a three gallon back pack sprayer. 2-3 pounds of mycor fungi per plant. Also used Rootshield and Biota Max this year.

**What type of covering do you use on your fruit as Jim Bryson's looked like it had never seen the light of day – LOL**

White sheets and I put a tarp roof over the best ones.

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

I use enough to keep the soil lightly moist at all times if possible. No idea on the amount as I pump it from the lake here.

**What was the pattern of growth of your monsters?**

Nothing ever got over 30 a day this year except for one which blew up in early Aug. Steady growth up to freeze up which was Sept 17.

**Do you use maple syrup in your sprays and if so how much?**

I have been using it in sprays since 04. Before that I used to dump the sugar sand from the boiling off process on the compost and manure piles. It's the late season syrup or "bud syrup" which is comprised of fructose sugar that is important. Plants absorb fructose better than the other sugars. When spraying a three gallon mix I add about 1 cup per tank. I think the pumpkins love this stuff and never have I seen any problems other than if you use too much you'll attract insects.

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

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

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

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

**If there are other things that are key to your success and you would like to share them please do so.**

Treat all your plants equally and give them a chance to finish off properly. Some grow quicker than others but some also grow longer than others.

**We do understand that it is not all techniques and products as the amount of work that you all have put into growing your fruit is huge I'm sure.**

**If you could list three things even if they are mentioned already that all growers should make sure they do what would they be.**

Try and obtain the best seed stock. Proper soil amendments and good quality manure and compost. Make friends with experienced growers for advice and help with problems that will arise.

**Also, if you were starting out growing and had \$1000 to spend what would you buy to start this crazy hobby?**

Good manure, soil amendments, hot huts, and a good tiller. I use an old 4 horse Honda myself.

**We thank Todd for sharing his growing knowledge and providing some great insight into what has made him a Champion and one of the top growers year after year. Never be shy when approaching Todd with questions as he is another one growers in a long line of many that is always willing to help.**



## **GVGO Foaming Stump Guidelines: By Russ Landry, gvgo.ca. April 2011 Atlantic Giant Pumpkin, Vine Anoxia.**

### **Signs & Symptoms:**

Foamy rotting and necrotic areas near or around the crown

### **Cause:**

Vine stress & internal xylem or phloem cracking. Poor angle or landing conditions

Wind damage ruptures xylem primary or secondary channels

Peduncle resistance due to early fruit maturity and sink partitioning (reduction of xylem & phloem flow)

Alternating weather conditions. Sudden, Hot & Dry (HD) followed by Wet & Cool (WC). Changeable conditions with extreme norms promote fruit maturity partitioning & resistance.

Irrigation events > soil conditions too wet, builds anaerobic conditions and clogs soils macro pores displacing oxygen.

Compensation (plants balance of supply & production) point is high above what is required by the plant and its Primary Fruit Sink (FS).

Root Pressure created by sudden lack of Osmotic Pressure > Osmosis is the movement of any solvent through a semi-permeable membrane to equalize the solution on either side.

Lowered Canopy Transpiration > High humidity reduces evaporation loss less osmotic force in canopy thought to increase localized vine stress near crown area.

### **Prevention:**

Planting seedling at an angle (45\* or less) to reduce vine stress & future cracking as the stem grows larger. Mound soil to support vine as it lands.

Drainage > Ensure water occupies only micro pours. Allow for free air movement in the root zone. Incorporate sand and other oxygen holding amendments. Sand increases drainage and provides macro pores. Peat, perlite and vermiculite can increase water retention also hold plenty of pore space (macro & micro) for oxygen infiltration after rainfall or irrigation events.

Soil OM > should generally be kept to moderate levels depending upon local conditions. Lower in clay (<10%) and higher in loamy to muck soils.

Active growing sections on the plant to ensure plant balance between roots, shoots and fruits. Excess osmotic xylem flow can be shared by all sinks.

Decrease transpiration during HD & low humidity. Co2 > spray in periods immediately after cold weather front arrival. Excessive rainfall or irrigation events worsen potential after such days. While Open stomata allow for transpiration consuming increased xylem flow.

Keep stem (crown area) dry. Thought to reduce water uptake, internal vine stress and anoxia.

## Treatment:

Vine bleeding > cut off new sections of vine removing to the next node. Relieves pressure and drains the vine. Worked for Phil Hunt.

Scoring> in the vine to induce a Systemic Acquired Response (SAR) localized to affected areas only.

Disinfection > apply to infected area. Captan powder, bleach or hydrogen peroxide 10%.

Dry > absorbent powders, crushed kitty litter, calcined Clay, baby powder, corn starch, milled flour & fine corn meal.

Evaporation > Set fan overhead and cover 24/7 for the remainder of the year. This removes ethylene ripening, maturity promoting gas. Air circulation promotes drying air around necrotic vine sections.

Aeration > allow air to enter the root trunk leaders in the soil around the crown area. Disrupts anoxic condition within the plant and allows for gas exchange within the plant.

Irrigation > cautiously irrigation to fill soil micro pores. Guard against saturation of the soil by excessive irrigation. If water rate exceeds the infiltration rate, runoff can occur filling soil macro pores. Perform perk test, install moisture sensors.

## Conclusions:

**While Fruit growth can be affected by foaming stump and anoxic conditions it is possible to grow a large fruit and reduce the damage caused by the condition. Limiting the conditions which cause foaming stump will prolong fruit growth and size.**

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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](mailto:mknr@mts.net) or 204-880-0884.  
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Working with Nature ~ Naturally

## ONTARIO WEIGH OFF RESULTS – 2011

### Murillo Pumpkinfest

#### **Pumpkins**

1. 1122	Ben Johnson	12. 405	Arnold Arps	23. 204	Kaler Foresta
2. 1025 EXH	Ben Johnson	13. 396	Gary Klages	24. 183	Owen Vaillant
3. 912	Don Cronk	14. 391	James Valley	25. 149	Amanda Donolovitch
4. 856 EXH	Don Cronk	15. 385	Jeannine Abrunzo	26. 143	Jorja Turecki
5. 643	Shannon Johnson	16. 331	Erin Dejardine	27. 138	Amaber McLean
6. 478	Susan McLean	17. 322	Lorne Vaillant	28. 101	Braeden McMahan
7. 471	Cliff McLean	18. 321	Cody Shedden	29. 76 EXH	Arnold Arps
8. 471	Tyson David	19. 217	Cliff McLean	30. 73	Tricia Taggart
9. 443	Brady Main	20. 294	Vincent Foresta	31. 45 EXH	Arnold Arps
10. 428	Kallen Foresta	21. 288	Louisa Posthumus		
11. 421	Taylor Vaillant	22. 272	Alexis Foresta		

#### **Squash**

1. 64	Gary Klages
-------	-------------

#### **Tomato**

1. 1.42	Eleanor Vaillant
2. 1.06	Don Cronk
3. 0.79	Cliff McLean

#### **Watermelon**

1. 112	Lesley Johnson
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## Hugli's Blueberry Ranch – Pembroke, Ontario

### ***Pumpkins***

1.	Harley Sproule	1312
2.	Gerry Cavanagh	1185
3.	Todd Kline	1133.5
4.	Brant & Brandon Timm	1129
5.	Dave Dudley	1125.5
6.	Jim Bryson	1057.5
7.	Larry & Debbie Marsland	947
8.	Keith MacLellan	927.5
9.	Glenn & Meagan Cheam	756

### ***Tomato***

1.	Brant & Brandon Timm	3.40
2.	Brant & Brandon Timm	3.14

### ***Field Pumpkin***

1.	Al Eaton	83.5
2.	Sharon Eaton	83
3.	Will Hugli	54.5
4.	Heidi Hugli	45.5

## Port Elgin Pumpkinfest – Saturday

### ***Pumpkins***

1.	Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1657.6
2.	Harley Sproule	1650.8
3.	Greg Montgomery	1641.4
4.	Jane & Phil Hunt	1464.8
5.	Todd Kline	1430.8
6.	Joel Jarvis	1427.4
7.	George Lloyd	1372.8
8.	John Matesa	1249.8
9.	Fred Hain	1232.2
10.	Phil Joynson	1203.4
11.	Ron Wray	1152.2
12.	Deanna Lloyd	1133.8
13.	Terry Chappelle	1089.4
14.	John Nieuwenhoff	1088.8
15.	Doris Wray	1069.6
16.	Chris Lyons	1032.8
17.	Bob MacKenzie	1006.8
18.	Richard Nieuwenhoff	968.2
19.	Jason Alldred	943.8
20.	Andre Marion	933.8
21.	Nathan Veitch	924.2
22.	Pat Watson	904.2
23.	Art Johnston & John Butler	861.8
24.	Kirk Chenier	797.8
25.	Troy Nayler	790.2
26.	Mike McAvity	667.8
27.	Dave McQuay	648.6
28.	Jeff Warner	584.6
29.	Dave McCallum	578.2
30.	Lonnie Bourne	512.6

### ***Squash***

1.	Brant & Brandon Timm	539
2.	Brant & Brandon Timm	849 DMG

### ***Long Gourd***

1.	Al Eaton	131.81
2.	Cathy Craig	123.5
3.	Sharon Eaton	123
4.	Todd Kline	121.63
5.	Jenny Craig	116.88

### ***Watermelon***

1.	Todd Kline	99
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### ***Squash***

1.	Joel Jarvis	1486.6
2.	John Vincent	1246.4
3.	Doug Court	593.8
4.	Dennis Hartung	254.8

### ***Long Gourd***

1.	Todd Kline	127.5
2.	Phil Joynson	119.75
3.	Art Johnston & John Butler	119.5
4.	Jane & Phil Hunt	113.75
5.	Fred Hain	111.5
6.	Marvin Mitchell	104.75
7.	John Nieuwenhoff	102.25
8.	Dennis Hartung	94
9.	John Twelves	78
10.	Kelly Sheffield	76.5
11.	Justin Twelves	75.5
12.	Julia Twelves	73.75

### ***Tomato***

1.	Chris Lyons	5.32
2.	Dennis Hartung	4.84
3.	Fred Hain	4.27
4.	Jane & Phil Hunt	3.52
5.	Russ Landry	3.50
6.	John Twelves	3.23
7.	Kelly Sheffield	3.05
8.	Kirk Chenier	2.92
9.	Justin Twelves	2.73
10.	Julia Twelves	2.65

**Watermelon**

1. Marvin Mitchell	220
2. Jane & Phil Hunt	198.8
3. George Lloyd	197.4
4. Tyler Leonard	156.6
5. Doug Court	153.4
6. Dennis Hartung	128
7. Jacob Chenier	126.4
8. Kirk Chenier	108.8

**Field Pumpkin**

1. Art Johnston & John Butler	93.6
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**Port Elgin Pumpkinfest – Sunday****Pumpkin**

1. Pat & Karen Watson	1180.4
2. Bob MacKenzie	1146
3. Mike McAvity	1126.6
4. Delaney Family	1065.6
5. Terry Chappelle	1058.4
6. Elaine MacKenzie	893.2
7. Peter Mathonia	762.4
8. David McCallum	712.2
9. Doug Court	647.2
10. Brian McDiarmid	635.8
11. Braydon & Zachary McDiarmid	580.8
12. Paul Johnson	481.5
13. Dianne Cook	393.4
14. Jeff Groves	336.2
15. Tammy & Ron Wilken	200.8

**Watermelon**

1. Marvin Mitchell	189.2
2. Doug Court	164.8
3. Bob Henry	137.4
4. Tamri Ashton	130.6
5. Dennis Hartung	126.4
6. Delaney Family	85.8
7. Tammy & Ron Wilken	33.6

**Squash**

1. Tamri Ashton	723.8
2. Doug Court	666.2
3. Louise Court	617.8
4. Bob MacKenzie	475.2

**Long Gourd**

1. Dennis Hartung	116.75
2. Marvin Mitchell	107
3. Bob Henry	103.5
4. Doug Court	88.5

**Tomato**

1. Dennis Hartung	4.7
2. Doug Court	4.51
3. Pat & Karen Watson	3.72
4. Delaney Family	3.71
5. Marvin Mitchell	3.25
6. Luke Melnyk	2.88

**Field Pumpkin**

1. Delaney Family	73.2
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**Woodbridge Fair Weigh-off****Pumpkin**

1. John Matesa	1180.5
2. Terry Chappelle	1166
3. Eric Sundin	1132
4. Fred Hain	905
5. Bryan Mailey	879.5
6. Jason Alldred	809
7. John Vincent	793
8. Chris Lyons	720.5
9. David McCallum	376.5
10. Luke Melnyk	310
11. Luke Melnyk	150 EXH
12. Eric Diamario	139.5

**Squash**

1. Joel Jarvis	1037.5
2. Fred Hain	574.5
3. Art Johnston & John Butler	526
4. David McCallum	383
5. John Vincent	92.5

**Long Gourd**

1. Art Johnston & John Butler	120.5
2. Bryan Mailey	118
3. Chris Lyons	111.5
4. Eric Sundin	109
5. Fred Hain	100
6. John Matesa	98
7. John Vincent	93.5

**Tomato**

1. Chris Lyons	4.91
2. Russ Landry	4.42
3. John Matesa	3.57
4. Fred Hain	3.52
5. Art Johnston & John Butler	3.28
6. Russ Landry	3.83 EXH
7. Art Johnston & John Butler	2.85 EXH
8. Russ Landry	2.80 EXH
9. Art Johnston & John Butler	2.52 EXH

**Watermelon**

1. John Matesa	116
2. Eric Sundin	113.5
3. Margaret Sundin	110
4. Russ Landry	90.5
5. John Vincent	82
6. Art Johnston & John Butler	40.5

**Field Pumpkin**

1. Chris Lyons	99
2. Art Johnston & John Butler	85
3. Russ Landry	73.5
4. John Vincent	72

**Prince Edward County Pumpkinfest****Pumpkin**

1. Jim & Kelsey Bryson	1818.5
2. Brant & Brandon Timm	1360
3. Harley Sproule	1294
4. Gerry Cavanagh	1290.5 EXH
5. Phil Joynson	1233
6. Todd Kline	1142
7. Glen Huffman	1048.5
8. Greg Montgomery	1046
9. Russ Landry	1030
10. John Matesa	937
11. John Vincent	889.5
12. Dan Langridge	800.5
13. Chris Lyons	797.5
14. Kirk Chenier	777
15. Shannon Langridge	745.5
16. Sue Vincent	743.5
17. Dave Leeworthy	700.5
18. Sarah Langridge	692.5
19. Annette Langridge	687
20. Bryan Mailey	637.5
21. Elmer Daley	620
22. Clifford Webb	606.5
23. John Vincent	546 EXH
24. Noah McGill	460
25. Josh McGill	289
26. Isaac Krentz	179.5

**Field Pumpkin**

1. Chris Lyons	97
2. Al Eaton	85
3. John Vincent	84.5
4. Phil & Jane Hunt	68
5. John Nieuwenhoff	60
6. Sue Vincent	59
7. Shannon Langridge	55
8. Dan Langridge	53.5
9. Sarah Langridge	52
10. Annette Langridge	50

**Squash**

1. Jane & Phil Hunt	877
2. Brant & Brandon Timm	542.5
3. Sarah Langridge	525
4. Joseph Burley	332

**Long Gourd**

1. Al Eaton	121.75
2. Cahty Craig	120.38
3. Phil & Jane Hunt	113.44
4. Bryan Mailey	110.13
5. Todd Kline	106.94
6. John Nieuwenhoff	101.06

**Tomato**

1. Russ Landry	5.41
2. Brant & Brandon Timm	3.91
3. Chris Lyons	3.23
4. Glen Huffman	1.51
5. Russ Landry	3.85 EXH
6. Brant & Brandon Timm	3.71 EXH
7. Chris Lyons	3.23 EXH

**Watermelon**

1. Bryan Mailey	206.5
2. Phil & Jane Hunt	174
3. Dave Leeworthy	148.5
4. Kaleigh Leeworthy	141
5. John Matesa	93
6. Kirk & Jacob Chenier	91.5
7. Shannon Langridge	69.1
8. Gladys Webb	60.5

**Erin Fall Fair Weigh-Off**

**Pumpkin**

1. Jane Hunt	1450
2. John Nieuwenhoff	1266
3. Bob MacKenzie	1133
4. Darren Skiva	588
5. Conrad Wheildon	557
6. Arlene Wheildon	518
7. David Meek	817
8. Brittany Armstrong	315
9. Mike Black	294
10. Grace Black	288
11. Mike Reid	256
12. Amanda Reid	254
13. Paige Simmons	246
14. Ken Leslie	195
15. Fuller Family	
16. Joey Parkinson	171
17. Natalie Klein	155
18. Wade Smith	149
19. Sarah Parkinson	142
20. Jim Overland	106
21. Brookland Smith	94
22. Larissa Nieuwenhoff	80



**Keene Pumpkin Weigh Off**

**Pumpkin**

1. Phil Joynson	1247
2. Pat Watson	1182
3. Gerry Cavanagh	1164
4. Luke Burton	820
5. Kirk Chenier	780
6. Dana Shay	637
7. Ben Loucks	492
8. Dean Hurren	478
9. Ken Burton	448
10. Addy Allen	428

**Royal Agricultural Winter Fair**

**Pumpkin or Squash**

1. John Vincent	1199.4
2. Glen Huffman	1038.6
3. Chris Lyons	1004.8
4. Joanne Borcsok	313.4
5. Luke Melnyk	304.6

## 7th Annual GVGO Fundraising raffle - Dec 17th - Jan 21st?

<u>Lot #</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Genetic Cross</u>
Lot 1	1678 Hunt 901 Hunt 1156 Hunt 1329.7 Hunt 1080 Hunt 1080 Hunt 1093 Hunt 1269 Hunt	901 Hunt x 1156 Hunt 1093 Hunt x 898 Knauss 1631.5 Mckie x 1689 Jutras 901 Hunt x 1068 Wallace 1678 Hunt x 898 Knauss 1678 Hunt x 898 Knauss 1068 Wallace x 842 Eaton 901 Hunt x 1631.5 McKie
Lot 2	1689 Jutras 1674 Marsh	998 Pukos x 1225.4 Jutras 1488 Marsh x 1544 Revier
Lot 3	1622 Young 1185 Kline 1185 Kline 1224 Kline	1385 Jutras x 985 Werner 1385 Jutras x 985 Werner 1264 Kline x 1207 Young
Lot 4	1461 Werner 1556.5 Werner	1236 Harp x 1462 Starr 1308 McKie x 985 Werner
Lot 5	664.5 Liggett 1568 Connolly 08 dmg 1636 Liggett	1005 Mombert x 1097.5 Beachy 1566 Rodonis x 1689 Jutras 1375.5 Liggett x 1450 Sundstrom
Lot 6	1180 Pukos 1663 Zoellner	1068 Wallace x 998 Pukos 1421 Stelts x Sib
lot 7	1662 Stelts 1662 Stelts 1537 Stelts	904 Stelts x 1350 Starr 904 Stelts x 1350 Starr 904 Stelts x 1407 Wolf
Lot 8	222.4 Hunt Watermelon 291 Kent Watermelon - 2 seeds	224 Westfall x self 239 Leonard x 157 Bright
Lot 9	7.33 Hunt tomato 5.18 Lyons tomato 5.18 Lyons tomato 5.32 Timm Tomato	5.0 Timms x self 7.18 Harp x open 7.18 Harp x open 3.9 Catapano
Lot 10		

Long Gourd	121.25 Lyons 121.25 Lyons 135 Jacobus 134.25 Johnston Butler	88.5 Eaton x 134.25 JB 88.5 Eaton x 134.25 JB 134 JB x self
lot 11	239 Leonard watermelon - 1 seed 222.4 Hunt watermelon - 2 seeds 207.6 Hunt Watermelon - 2 seeds	192 Leonard x 211 Leonard 224 Westfall x self 207.5 Donkers x self
Lot 12 Squash	848 Mackenzie 1236 Vincent/McGill - WR 1234 Wursten - WR	895 Hester x 756.8 Kennedy 800 Neily x 1132 Vincent/McGill 1055 Pitura x self
LOT 13	Field Pumpkins 106 Crews 106 Crews 103 Lyons 99.2 Lyons 103 Lyons 76.2 MacKenzie - 3 seeds 76.2 MacKenzie - 3 seeds	81 Wolf x Self 81 Wolf x Self 137.5 Orr x self 137.5 Orr x Sib 137.5 Orr x Self 100 Starr x self 100 Starr x self
Lot 14	1140 Stevens	1073 Carlson x 998.6 Pukos
Lot 15	GVGO Grab Bag # 1 1536.5 Van Kooten 1197.6 Matesa 1330 Johnston/Butler 1330 Johnston/Butler	1142 Van Kotten x 998 Pukos 1161 Rodonis x Self 985 Werner x 1161 Rodonis 985 Werner x 1161 Rodonis
Lot 16	Mixed Giants 20'+ Johnston/Butler Corn - 1 package of seeds 20'+ Johnston/Butler Corn - 1 package of seeds 7.33 Hunt tomato - 2 seeds 7.33 Hunt tomato - 2 seeds 160" Tall Corn - Brant Timm - 3 seeds 160" Tall Corn - Brant Timm - 3 seeds 222.4 Hunt watermelon 222.4 Hunt watermelon 42.6 lb Giant Cabbage Johnston/Butler	5.0 Timms x self 5.0 Timms x self    224 Westfall x Self 224 Westfall x Self
Lot 17 Super Squash	1002 Jarvis - World Record Squash maker 1217.5 Jarvis	1217.5 Jarvis x 982 Sherwood 800 Neily x 1132 Vincent

Lot 18	1618 Bryson	1556.5 Werner x 1544.5 Revier
Big Bryson's	1618 Bryson	1556.5 Werner x 1544.5 Revier
	1618 Bryson	1556.5 Werner x 1544.5 Revier
	1091 Bryson	1544.5 Revier x 1333 Young
	1657 Bryson - 1st place at Port Elgin 2010	
Lot 19	260.5 Clementz Watermelon	255 mitchell x 239 Leonard
Clementz	228 Clementz Watermelon	239 Leonard x 157 Bright
Biggies	219 Clementz Watermelon	157 Bright x 239 Leonard
Lot 20	1225 Pukos	1231 Pukos x Selfed
Grab Bag	1149.5 Pukos	998 Pukos x Sibbed
	1467 Perham	1385 Jutras x 724 Perham
	1568 Connolly	1566 Rodonis x 1689 Jutras
	1236 Vincent/McGill	800 Neilly x 1132 Vincent/McGill
	1330.5 Johnston/Butler	985 Werner x 1161 Rodonis

Payments by cheque or money order only mailed to the following address. Please indicate which lot you want you tickets put in please. Tickets are \$10/each or 3/\$25

### **Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario**

C/o Jane Hunt, Treasurer  
 4376 Hwy 35  
 N  
 Cameron, Ontario  
 Canada  
 K0M 1G0

One ticket gets one draw for available seeds in each particular lot until all seeds have been drawn so this means this year there will be multiple winners in all lots.

If you have any questions please email Kirk Chenier at [kirkc1@xplornet.ca](mailto:kirkc1@xplornet.ca)

Raffle runs from Dec 17th to Jan 21st

**MORE LOTS WILL BE ADDED SHORTLY SO CHECK THE WEBSITE OFTEN TO ENSURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT!  
 AS WE HAVE SOME LATE ARRIVALS COMING OF GREAT SEEDS!**