Giant Vegetable Growers of Ontario

OVER THE TOP

Spring 2017

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

President's Message

Phil Joynson

There's lots of good things to talk about this spring.

After a long absence the GPC will be holding their **annual convention** back where it belongs, in Niagara. This will be held at the Marriott Gateway (formally the Falls view Sheraton) Hotel on **March 17th-19th**. Tickets are still available on the Bigpumpkins.com website. A full weekend package is $120 and there are discounts for kids (under 16 $60) and a Saturday night dinner ticket only for $35. Due to the generosity of Eddy Z. Canadians can get a break on the exchange rate by paying Eddy directly. Details are on the website also. Thanks Eddy! No excuse for there not being plenty of Ontario growers being there. The GVGO will be sponsoring the "Hospitality Room" again on Friday and Saturday night. Should be a great time to learn a few things and then forget them after spending too long in the hospitality room….

The GVGO will be coming back to the Polish Hall, 2711 Shantz Rd in Breslau **(map on www.gvgo.ca)** for our **annual seminar**. This will be held on **Saturday the 8th of April**. This again will be free to all paid up GVGO members and guests. We may ask for a small fee for lunch depending on finances and outlay. Club prizes and door prizes will be handed out and we'll get into in depth growing discussions. Come on out for a great time, great eats and learn a few things too, unless you spend too long in the hospitality room downstairs…

O.K. This is the part of my message I was told I had to nag you guys to **renew your GVGO memberships**. Apparently renewals are down a bit from last year and unless you renew soon, you won't get a seed package and this will be your final newsletter. Consider yourselves thoroughly nagged!

Speaking of **membership seed packages**. These have been sent out by the GVGO. Thanks go out to John Nieuwenhoff and family and friends for putting this together. It's an amazingly tough job and we thank these folks for taking this on. You'll find this year's seed package a treasure trove (what the heck is a trove anyway?) of great seeds. If you have a problem with your seed package (i.e. it didn't arrive), please contact us and we will try to get a new one sent out.

As you know, the GVGO's **"One Ton Challenge"** was not won in 2016. This means the prize money will be upped (is that even a word?) from $5500 to $6000 and a further $500 if it was grown from a GVGO donated seed. The rules for this contest will be the same as last year. This contest is open to any paid up GVGO member who enters his/her pumpkin at a Canadian GPC sanctioned weigh off site.

The **"other" vegetable challenge**. The GVGO has tried to get growers to try out "other" varieties of vegetable that we don't normally give awards to. Last year we had turnips and we'll hand out prizes for this at our seminar. This year the GVGO executive decided that they couldn't stand the President of the GVGO having even a single Canadian record (10 pounds) and have picked **"Carrots for Weight"** as the featured veggie for 2017. I am truly appalled by this disloyalty. They even managed to sneak some great giant carrot seeds into this year's GVGO seed package. Swines! I will get them back somehow if my record falls. Maybe make them all wear Walmart greeter type vests at club functions.

Hope to see you folks at the spring seminars!

*Phil Joynson GVGO President and soon to be **former** Canadian heavy carrot record holder. :0(*

GVGO News

2017 GVGO Memberships

The 2017 GVGO membership seed packs have been mailed out to all growers who have paid their membership for the 2017 season. You must renew your 2017 GVGO membership ASAP to ensure you get your 2017 seed package. This seed offering could rate as one of our best seed packs of all time. Membership is still only $30 for a single member, $40 for a family membership.

Also, this will be the last GVGO newsletter that you'll receive unless membership dues are paid up ASAP. The seed pack, the 3 newsletters per year, free admission to the Patch Tour & GVGO Seminar, product discounts (only for pick-up at the GVGO seminar) and a 10% discount on soil reports. All this and more for only $30.

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

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

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

GPC Convention

The GPC Convention is coming up fast, on March 17th-19th in beautiful Niagara falls, Ontario. If you navigate to the link below, you can see the agenda and list of attendees. Eddy Z is subsidizing the registration for Canadian attendees, getting the registration at par. There is a tab on the web page for PayPal, to send the registration fee to Eddy. We are having some stress with the Falls view Hotel with the room block. If you intend to stay in the convention hotel, you need to contact them asap and make your reservations, as they are filling up, not necessarily with convention attendees. Our convention cost is dependent on total hotel reservations, i.e. we have minimums we have to meet, so I would encourage you to make your reservations soon.

This is going to be an awesome event. For newer growers, this is a great place to meet and talk to the best growers in the world. There are lots of seeds exchanged and plenty of advice and growing techniques.

http://www.greatpumpkincommonwealth.com/news-events/the-big-show

See you all there!

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Editor's Note

Thanks to all who provided information and articles for this edition of the newsletter. The GVGO board has chosen **heavy carrot** as vegetable of the year. In the last edition I wrote an article about growing them but have included it again on page 22 for those that might not have the last edition anymore.
Wishing you all the best for this new season.

Featured Giant Vegetable

LONG ROOTS

by Peter Glazebrook

I have been growing long roots for many years now and have obtained world records for **carrot**, **parsnip** and **beetroot**. The body of the roots are of normal size: about 1m long but the attached root can be up to 5m or so long.

To most people the long roots are a disappointment because they expect it to be big as well as long. But of course to make them extra-long you need to encourage the root to grow and not its body. This is the clever part of my method of growing and I go to great lengths to achieve this. Just look at this rig: it's a work of art, (or a labour of love, depending on your viewpoint) in essence the carrot is grown in an elevated drainpipe and watering is controlled in such a way as to encourage the root to follow the water.

The seed is not terribly important (you need the long varieties) because it's the skill of the grower that counts, not the genetics of the seed like many other giant vegetables. Before embarking on this method of growing long roots you will need a SE to SW facing wall in full sun that can support pipes up to 21ft long (if you are after a world record). In the early days I used to simply clip the pipes to the wall and scale the heights with a ladder. But now that I have formed this purpose built structure it makes life easier and safer. Also the small greenhouse built at the top makes for better control of the growing environment as wind can be a major problem.

The pipes do not need to be near vertical, an angle above 45° would be ok.

BASIC DESCRIPTION OF STRUCTURE

*Plastic 70mm dia. pipe, 6m long. Each pipe is cut in half lengthways and then taped back together.

*Ladder up to 18ft long.

*Timber platform to stand on.

*Weather protection around top of pipes.

PIPE COMPOST MIXTURE
1/3rd clean garden soil. Fine sieved 1/4in
1/3rd peat ditto
1/6th grit sand 1/8th sieved
1/6th medium Perlite
Add fertilisers in form of superphosphate and sulphate of potash
Calcified seaweed and seaweed meal can also be added

Each year I try a different mix but there are so many variables that it is difficult to be definitive.

The year starts in March when the pipes are filled with the compost. This must be done when the pipes are in place. They are then watered, left to settle and then topped up as required to within 1in of the top with more of the compost mixture and lightly watered again.
To each pipe sow directly into the compost 3 seeds in the centre of the pipe, cover lightly, water and seal with a polythene bag to prevent seeds drying out.

Seeds are slow to germinate at this time of year so it will take between 14 to 21 days. As soon as they show, remove the covering polythene bags to let in the air. A week or so later thin out to the best two seedlings. One more week on, thin out to leave just one per tube.

GROWING ON THROUGH THE SUMMER
It's now all about watering, ventilating, feeding and nurturing.

Carrots, parsnips and beetroot in early July

Watering little and often is the secret here. Check on a weekly basis and only water enough to keep the soil moist. This is done with the aid of a small house plant watering can.

With regard to pests and diseases, I do not have carrot root fly problems but greenfly and caterpillars need to be prevented by a regular spray programme. Manage the ventilation on a daily basis.

REMOVAL

Pipe laid on low wall to make it easier to work on

The final stage is to find out what is in the pipes. It pays not to water a few days before opening so as to dry out the compost in the pipes. Bring the pipes down carefully and place on a level surface with the bottom side of the pipe uppermost. Remove the tape and open up. Take a few nerve pills and start the process of removing the carrot from the compost.

The main root is normally visible between the compost and the pipe, allow to dry out slightly and then carefully tease away.

Problems. Compost had parted stopping or breaking carrot root.

Fine main root near tip, showing on bottom surface.

Swelling carrot has forced the pipe to open up.

TRANSPORTATION

Now comes the problem of storage and transporting. All the hard work can be destroyed in a flash if you are not careful.

If kept damp, the long root can be coiled in a large box, using paper to separate the coils and moved to the show.

Special long root measuring table provided by the show, with the two NVS qualified judges

FINAL COMMENT

If you do not have a suitable wall, long vegetables can be grown in shorter tubes attached to the side of a fence and laid at an angle of about 45 degrees. They are grown in the same way, but if no top protection then delay sowing until April, depending on your location. A long growing season helps to obtain a longer root. Our Giant Vegetable Show at the beginning of September is too early, but we have to grow for it.

It is fairly easy to grow roots up to say 3m, but progressively harder above this.

I could not grow these without the help of my wife Mary, so hopefully you can call on your family and friends.

This article was written in 2012. Since then, Joe Atherton of the United Kingdom has broken all of Peter Glazebrook's records for long vegetables.

Beetroot (long)

721cm (284.0in) - Joe Atherton – 2015

Carrot (long)

584cm (230.0in) - Joe Atherton – 2007

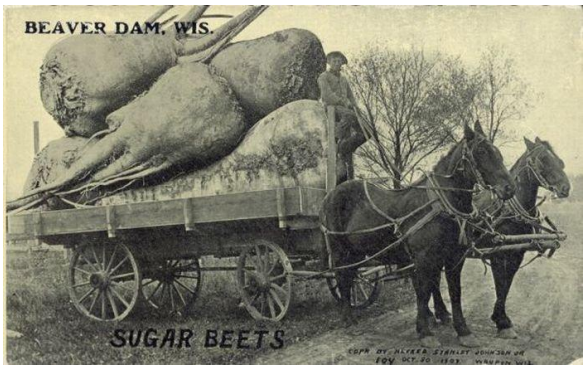
Parsnip (long)

628cm (247.0in) - Joe Atherton – 2014

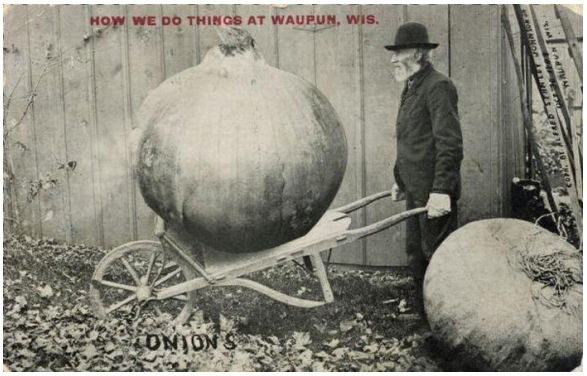
Flashback

by Bradley Wursten

For this flashback, we go back to **1908** when modern day photoshopping was developed, or at least became very popular. And the subject of choice was giant vegetables.

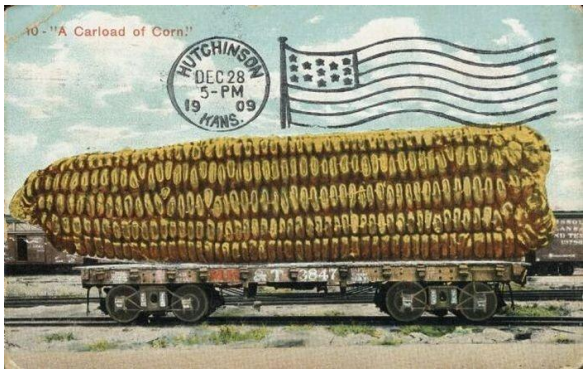


During the early years of the twentieth century, the tall-tale postcard flourished in the American Midwest (but also in the Canadian prairies) especially within the boasting, expansive atmosphere of the American frontier. Around the turn of the last century, when postcards came to function as surrogates for travel, people soon realized that they could be used to create or sustain a certain utopian myth about a town or region. Crafty photographers began to physically manipulate their photographs. Close-up photographs of ordinary-size produce and/or animals were combined, in skewed scale, with photos of people.



Painstaking scissor-work resulted in humorous, proto-surreal shots: children ride harnessed roosters, potatoes are so big that one alone fills a flatcar, giant trout caught in lakes and so on. Little did they realize that one day the pumpkins would become as big as they had fantasized about.

While many of the postcards were black and white, several were coloured in later.



Like King Solomon said thousands of years ago: there is nothing new under the sun.

Analytical Report

The Atlantic Giant 2016 Elite Gene Pool

By Al Eaton

This year there were 48 official GPC AGs over 1750 pounds and I have chosen these 48 specimens to identify the surviving genes of the many great past AGs. I think many growers must lose track of what happened to their AG from past years and wonder if any of the genes they produced are still in play.

I have made pedigrees for these 48 AGs, going back 4 generations. The list starts with the mothers' "parents", so the youngest are from 2014. Decimal pounds have been dropped as well as any "uow" or "dmg" tags. After the grower's name, the number of occurrences is shown. The AG could be in generation 2, 3 or 4 behind the 2016 mother. The occurrence number shows the relative importance of each AG in that year in the modern gene pool. Also in each year I have shown the number of repeats and unidentified singles.

2014		
1756 Howell-Jolivette	9	WI
1916 Barron	6	MI
2323 Meier	5	Switz
2036 Glasier	2	CA
1651 Breznick	2	VT
Repeats 5, Singles 11		

2013		
1057 Howell	21	WI
1625 Ganter	11	WI
220 DeBacco	9	CT
2328 Meier	9	Switz
1985 Miller	5	CA
2032 Mathison	4	CA
1734 Steil	4	MN
1530 Breznick	2	WI
1338 Martin	2	WI
Repeats 9, Singles 5		

2012		
2009 Wallace	83	RI
1730 Werner	11	PA
1676 Daletas	3	OR
1843 Geddes	2	NH
1391 Würsching	2	Germ
1872 Wallace	2	RI
1623 Wallace	2	RI
Repeats 7, Singles 3		

2011		
1494 Bordsen	11	CA
1554 Mathison	5	CA
1789 Wallace	4	RI
1807 Stelts	3	PA
1582 Werner	2	PA
1647 Wallace	2	RI
1704 Urena	2	CA
1140 Finders	2	SC
1278 Goetze	2	MA
Repeats 9, Singles 1		

2010		
1409 Miller	54	CA
1495 Stelts	33	PA
1381 Checkon	23	PA
1596 Werner	14	PA
1674 Marsh	8	SD
1622 Liggett	4	OH
1274 Stelts	2	PA
1810 Stevens	2	WI
Repeats 8, Singles 2		

2009		
1725 Harp	62	OH
1622 Young	17	IA
1658 Young	16	IA
1421 Stelts	7	PA
1462 Starr	6	OR
1303 Sweet	4	MI
1488 Marsh	3	SD
1544 Revier	2	MN
Repeats 8, Singles 0		

2008		
1288 Wallace	9	RI

2007		
1385 Jutras	43	RI
1161 Rodonis	32	NH

2006		
904 Stelts	25	PA
1450 Wallace	2	RI

2005		
998 Pukos	6	NY
1231 Pukos	2	NY

2004		
1446 Eaton	2	ON
1420 LaRue	2	WA

2003		
1068 Wallace	10	RI
1370 Rose	2	OH

In summary this list of 57 repeat AGs represents the modern AG gene pool. In 2010,for example, there were **1850 AGs** on the GPC list, but genes of **only 10** have survived to 2016, on this elite list. I find this evolution fascinating and I hope others do too. Even Charles Darwin would be amazed.

Where grown? USA -- 53 Switzerland -- 2 Germany -- 1 Canada -- 1

I would appreciate any comments on the above list: eaton1446@rogers.com

Azos in the patch

By Russ Landry

Azospirillum or **Azos** is a very popular well-known supplement in the giant grower's community. A few years ago, Azos was first promoted by Ron Wallace with guidance from Neil Anderson at RTI. It is a plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) that can have tremendous and beneficial influences on plant growth. When present in the root zone in adequate concentrations Azospirillum was assumed to be responsible for plant growth effects noticed in several large fruits grown as the 1500-pound mark was eclipsed. Initially, this plant growth-promoting effect was thought to be the result of increased nitrogen in the root zones. However, could it be that IAA (indole-3-acetic acid), a growth hormone that is formed by Azospirillum in significant amounts is the major factor in increased growth?

The answer per some newly released research is that Azos usage seems to indicate that IAA is primarily the perpetrator. The effect of inoculation with Azos has been demonstrated to mirror the growth affects when is IAA applied to the seeds. The study assessed the effect of inoculation with Azos on the seedling of cucumber, lettuce, and tomato. Seeds that were inoculated with Azos. brasilense applied at germination resulted in positive growth benefits.

In cucumbers, seeds increased in growth rate and vigour of plants by up to 55%. In lettuce, inoculation produced greater seedling growth with better-quality and seedling vigour. In addition, tomato growth increased by more than 20%. Azos boosted root zone concentrations of IAA by more than 171% above normal. Plant roots in all cases were observed to have been larger and more robust.

The Azos bacteria-provoked production and elevation of plant PGR's and IAA undoubtedly improved plant growth. These results demonstrate that seed inoculation with Azos strains clearly stimulated early seedling development. This confirms that Azos is a must have in your patch.

Weigh-off Results

Alberta, Smoky Lake

PUMPKIN

1	1,365.00	Crews, Donald
2	1,132.50	Zaychkowsky, Eddy
3	1,045.50	Zaychkowsky, Jennifer
4	915.50	Hards, Nancy
EXH	831.00	Hards, Nancy
5	807.00	Meyer, Brian
6	723.00	Meyer, Rhonda
7	669.50	Caffet, Glen
8	630.50	Lobay, Mary
9	579.00	Kapelari, John
10	536.50	Lobay, John
11	528.50	O'Connor, John
12	498.00	Makarchuk, Alan
13	387.00	Young, Susan
14	250.00	Groten, Gerry
15	238.50	Groten, Brian
16	218.80	Kurceba, Sharon
17	195.80	Romanchuk, Doris
18	179.20	Jacula, Stephania
19	172.70	Ruhl, Neil
20	170.00	Semotiuk, Ruby & Judge
21	151.10	Groten, Helen
22	139.20	Jacula, Bill
23	116.30	Everhart, Claude
24	79.60	Prockiw-Zarusky, Marianne
25	72.30	Bruer, Jada
26	66.20	Wagner, Sylvia
27	55.90	Bruer, Lisa
28	52.10	Bruer, Don
DMG	196.70	Bruer, Morgan

SQUASH

1	624.50	John, Lobay
2	486.50	Lobay, Robert
3	457.00	Caffett, Glen
4	424.50	Lobay, Mary
5	323.00	Crews, Donald
6	308.00	Paul, Tim
7	226.00	Makarchuk, Alex
8	113.50	Kapelari, Debbie

LONG GOURD

1	111.25	Zychkowsky, Eddy
2	96.25	Makarchuk, Alan
3	93.50	Lobay, Mary
4	74.00	Lobay, John
5	67.75	Lobay, Robert

WATERMELON

1	111.00	Crews, Donald
2	13.00	Lobay, Mary
3	11.50	Chilibecki, Terry
4	8.50	Groten, Helen
5	8.00	Lobay, John

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	189.00	Crews, Donald
2	142.50	Kapelari, John
3	130.00	Lobay, Mary
4	114.00	Caffet, Glen
5	111.50	Lobay, John
6	99.50	Kapelari, Debbie
7	76.50	Paul, Tim
8	73.50	Paul, Ashley
9	43.00	Jacula, Stephania

Don Crew won the pumpkin, watermelon and field pumpkin class at Smoky Lake. His field pumpkin finished first in the world in 2016.

British Columbia, Langley

PUMPKIN

1	1,172.00	Carley, Scott
2	1,077.00	Dixon, Andrea
3	1,036.00	Love, Janet
4	1,029.00	Dixon, Glenn
5	958.00	Chan, Dave
6	617.00	Mumford, Kate
EXH	498.00	MumFord, Kate
7	410.00	Pelletier, Jeff
8	347.00	Hoskins, Justin
9	145.00	Pavan, Eileen
10	132.00	Camparmo, Maurizio

Dave Chan with his and Glenn Dixon's pumpkins

SQUASH

1	457.00	Pelletier, Jeff

TOMATO

1	2.00	Camparmo, Maurizio

Langley pumpkin line-up

Manitoba, Roland

PUMPKIN

1	1,338.00	Lukes, Milan
2	1,102.50	Banman, Cornie
3	1,072.50	Stremick, Ed
4	1,034.50	Skoien, Dean
5	1,029.00	Banman, Henry
6	965.00	Terwin, Jason
7	946.50	Whitehead, Doug
8	908.50	Raynard, Ryder
9	855.00	Banman, Helen
10	848.00	Terwin, Marlene
11	843.50	Winkler, Ray
12	840.00	Winkler, Chloe
13	814.50	Whitehead, Brenda
14	765.00	Brasted, Bob
15	746.00	Downton, Adam
16	721.00	Friesen, Dan
17	718.00	Downton, Lisa
18	716.00	Bilinsky, George
19	707.50	Skoien, Leona
20	655.50	Friesen, Tiana
21	616.50	Enns, Wes
22	601.00	Friesen, Barrett
23	584.50	Schultz, Clive
24	564.50	Wojciechowski, Laverne
25	508.00	Hofer, Levi
26	140.50	Bankert, Rebecca
27	123.00	Reimer, Sarah

TOMATO

1	3.75	Wiebe, Mary
2	2.88	Thiessen, Katherine
3	2.80	Thiessen, Evan and Marcia
4	2.58	Winkler, Raymond
5	0.92	Wojciechowski, Laverne

WATERMELON

1	99.50	Cameron, Art
2	51.00	Downton, Lisa
3	49.00	Wojciechowski, Laverne

New Brunswick, Edmundston

PUMPKIN

1	1,447.00	Tingley, Daryl
2	888.00	Tingley, Maureen
3	481.50	Oulette, Monique
4	397.50	Plourde, Richard
5	290.50	Plourde, Don

New Brunswick, Neguac

PUMPKIN

1	1,220.00	Tingley, Maureen
2	1,088.00	Ebbett, Charles
3	1,009.00	Ebbett, Gail
4	417.00	McLaughlin, Caroline
5	409.00	Albert, Auriele
6	386.00	Losier, Giselle
7	333.00	McLaughlin, xavier Caissie
8	195.00	Albert, Francine
9	164.00	Comeau, Pierre
10	142.00	Comeau, Patrice

Pumpkin line-up in Neguac

Maureen Tingley won the pumpkin contest at Neguac. Daryl Tingley won at Edmun-ston.

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	116.00	Ebbett, Gail
2	73.00	Ebbett, Charles
3	55.00	Bourque, Eloise Albert

116 Ebbett being brought to the scales.

Nova Scotia, Millville

PUMPKIN

1	1,134.00	Head, Ray
2	890.00	Head, Zach
3	760.00	LeBlanc, Grayson
4	720.00	King, Joe
5	714.00	Naqvi, Rae
6	645.00	Rendell, Jody
7	546.00	MacNeil, Lois
8	396.00	Eyking, Peter
9	186.00	MacKinnon, Breagh
10	68.00	Maloney, Ashlyn

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	188.00	MacKinnon, John
2	158.60	MacKinnon, Betty
EXH	99.01	MacKinnon, John
3	68.00	Maloney, Ashlynn
4	58.80	MacKinnon, Breagh
5	0.80	Howell, Rebecca
6	0.40	Howell, Jacobe

John MacKinnon finished second in the world this year, just one pound behind Alberta resident Don Crews. Betty's field pumpkin ended up 4th, only 1/10th of a pound behind Dutch grower, Iwan Horde.

Nova Scotia, Waterville

PUMPKIN

1	1,368.00	Ansems, Catharina
2	1,293.00	Ansems, Gerard
3	1,202.00	Ansems, Andrew
4	1,122.00	Reid, Jeff
5	1,053.00	Ansems, Frank
6	1,007.00	Kenneally, Brian
7	840.00	Ansems , Danny
8	815.00	Ansems, Chris
9	794.00	Zwicker , Jeremy
10	780.00	Ferguson, Paul
11	716.00	Muis, Ron
12	690.00	Zwicker , Max
13	670.00	Ansems, Fred
14	539.00	MacDonald , Daina
15	514.00	MacQuarrie, Kim
16	403.00	Ansems , Shirley
17	388.00	Cameron, Paul

1368 Ansems

SQUASH

1	771.00	Kenneally, Brian
2	688.00	Ansems , Frank
3	673.00	Ansems, Fred
4	591.00	Ferguson, Paul
5	490.00	Ansems, Shirley
6	363.00	Cameron , Paul
7	241.00	Ansems , Gerard
8	211.00	MacQuarrie, Kim

LONG GOURD

1	132.63	Ansems, Gerard
2	125.63	Ansems, Fred
3	124.00	Ansems, Frank
4	121.50	Muis , Ron
5	118.75	Ferguson, Paul
6	117.12	MacQuarrie, Kim
7	116.25	Ansems, Shirley
8	112.63	Muis, Amanda
9	109.12	Ward , Ed
10	79.38	Kenneally , Brian

TOMATO

1	3.74	Ansems, Gerard
2	3.17	Ferguson, Paul
3	3.01	MacQuarrie, Kim
4	2.55	Ansems, Frank
5	2.51	Ansems , Chris
6	2.40	Cameron, Paul
7	1.89	Reid , Jeff
7	1.89	Kenneally , Brian
9	1.47	Ansems, Fred
10	1.32	Ansems, Shirley

WATERMELON

1	80.00	Ansems, Shirley
2	71.00	Ansems , Gerard
3	62.00	Ansems, Fred
4	53.00	Cameron, Paul
5	50.00	Reid, Jeff
6	46.00	Ansems, Catharina
6	46.00	Ferguson, Paul
8	44.00	MacQuarrie, Kim
9	36.00	Ansems, Frank

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	111.00	Ansems, Fred
2	106.00	Ansems, Andrew
3	101.00	Ansems, Gerard
4	100.00	Ansems, Shirley
5	99.00	Kenneally , Brian
5	99.00	Ansems, Catharina
7	94.00	Ansems, Frank
8	86.00	Coolen , Russell
8	86.00	Foster, Gordon
10	85.00	Cameron, Paul
11	80.00	Ferguson, Paul
12	76.00	MacQuarrie, Kim
13	71.00	MacDonald, Diana
13	71.00	Foster, Marion
15	58.00	Ansems , Chris

Nova Scotia, Windsor

PUMPKIN

1	1,350.00	Ansems, Gerard
2	1,312.00	Ansems, Catharina
3	1,160.00	Ansems, Frank
4	1,034.00	Reid, Jeff
5	1,030.00	Ansems, Fred
6	944.00	Tingley, Daryl
7	943.00	Ferguson, Paul
8	941.00	Dudka, Tom
9	912.00	Taylor, Seth & Laura
10	841.00	Aten, Al
11	817.00	Ansems, Shirley
12	806.00	Smeltzer, Austin
13	801.00	Smeltzer, Bill
14	744.00	Kenneally, Brian
15	728.00	Rand, Jackie
16	699.00	Swim, Craig
17	656.00	Dill-MacDonald, Diana
18	594.00	Dill, Danny
19	490.00	MacQuarrie, Kim

SQUASH

1	1,168.00	Reid, Jeff
2	865.00	Aten, Al
3	793.00	Ansems, Fred
4	717.00	Smith, Morton
5	647.00	Turner, Sean
6	603.00	Turner, Kodi
7	582.00	Dudka, Tom
8	543.00	Dill, Danny
9	509.00	Dill-MacDonald, Diana
10	398.00	Ansems, Gerard

LONG GOURD

1	141.50	Ansems, Gerard
2	129.00	Ansems, Fred
3	123.50	Reid, Jeff
4	120.00	Ferguson, Paul
5	116.25	Muis, Ron
6	91.25	MacQuarrie, Kim

TOMATO

1	3.11	Ansems, Fred
2	3.10	Ferguson, Paul
3	2.84	MacQuarrie, Kim
4	2.74	Ansems, Gerard
5	2.66	Aten, Al
6	2.59	Ansems, Catharina
7	1.80	Ansems, Shirley
8	0.24	D'entremont, Quinn

WATERMELON

1	98.00	Ansems, Gerard
2	76.00	Ansems, Fred
3	74.00	Ansems, Shirley
4	73.00	Ansems, Catharina
5	66.00	Dill, Nathan
6	50.00	Reid, Jeff
7	36.00	Ansems, Danny
8	24.00	Ferguson, Paul
9	21.00	MacQuarrie, Kim

FIELD PUMPKIN

1	128.00	Aten, Al
2	111.00	Coolen, Russell
3	110.00	Ansems, Gerard
4	101.00	Ansems, Catharina
5	99.00	Ansems, Danny
6	91.00	Ansems, Fred
7	87.00	Ansems, Frank
8	81.00	Dill, Danny
9	77.00	Treminio, Santos
10	76.00	Ferguson, Paul
11	71.00	Ansems, Shirley
12	66.00	MacQuarrie, Kim
12	66.00	MacDonald, Diana
14	27.00	D'entremont, Quinn

The most common family name in giant vegetable growing is Ansems. We counted eight different ones in Nova Scotia.

Québec, Becancour

1	1,611.00	Tessier, David
2	1,152.00	Quatrouillettes, Les
3	885.00	Morin, Mario
4	869.00	Tessier, Gaston
5	865.00	Gagnon, Famille
6	861.00	Riopel, Gerard
7	584.00	Bouffard-Guillemette, Cindy
8	483.00	Carignan Jano, Becotte Kathy
9	470.00	Marin, Courant
10	272.00	Bedard, Annie
11	251.00	Liam, Aurelie
12	67.00	Charlie-Auger, Chada

Old Fashioned Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Pie

INGREDIENTS

- 1 middle sized Atlantic Giant pumpkin
- 85 dozen eggs
- 1 barrel packed brown sugar
- ½ barrel white sugar
- ½ bag of salt
- 20 cups cinnamon
- 10 cups ground ginger
- 3 cups ground nutmeg
- 3 cups ground cloves
- 2 cups ground cardamom
- 5 cups lemon zest
- 2 pails heavy cream or 30 lbs carnation milk
- 1 good sized crust

Throw the ingredients into a clean oil drum. Use an auger to mix. Tip the filling into an uncooked pie shell. Bake in an incinerator at 425°F for half an hour, then lower the temperature to 350°F for an additional hour or so or until a chain saw inserted into the centre comes out clean.

Serves eight or so.

World's largest pumpkin pie

My doctor said I had to eat more fruit and vegetables. So I have increased my intake of **carrot** cake, **banana** bread, **strawberry** milkshakes and **pumpkin** pie.

Scientific Report

What's in your trench?

by Joe Ailts

What's in your trench?
A deep dig into vine burying technique

By virtue of their stems growing horizontally formation at their leaf nodes. Formally called "adventitious roots", this system facilitates water nutrient transport as well as anchoring this and incorporated techniques to encourage adventitious root growth for decades. The practice of vine burying is commonly recognized as an essential tactic for competitive success. At its core, vine burying hypothetically contributes to pumpkins. Beyond this big picture idea, however, growers are fine tuning vine burying tactics to maximize root development, enhance anchoring, some of the ideas used to supercharge the adventitious root system.

Within this practice of vine burial exists the opportunity for creativity and fine-tuning. In our effort to maximize every patch variable, with the intent to maximize every potential pound on the scale, growers have employed tactics that go well beyond the simple act of piling dirt over the vine.

Two strategies emerge as means to enhance the local environment for adventitious roots. The first pertains to the media used to cover the vines, the second to the application of additives directly to the leaf node/root zone.

In regards to the media used to cover the vines, numerous combinations exist. The most basic option is to simply use garden soil in close proximity to the plant. The soil removed when creating the trench can be reapplied over the top of the growing vine. Additional vine burying considerations include aged manures, compost, worm castings, and even enriched potting mixes. Some or all of these can be mixed in pre-formed piles or in wheelbarrows and then applied to the vines. The underlying premise is that these media types contain nutrients and/or other elements that confer a benefit to the plant greater than what the native soil can.

Water percolating through these enriched mediums may deliver a more fertile nutrient mix to the developing adventitious root system. Soil additives (discussed in more detail later) can be incorporated into media mixes and applied in the vine burying process. For illustration purposes, the following recipe may be considered: in a wheelbarrow, mix 2 parts garden soil, 1 part enriched potting mix, 1 part worm castings. Mix well and apply with a shovel, coffee can, etc. Again, there's no right or wrong combination here. Any benefit realized is ultimately a function of your soil fertility and a host of other considerations.

The second strategy used to fine tune vine burying is the application of a “trench mix”. This entails applying a dry powder mixture directly to the leaf node before it is buried. The premise is based on localized delivery of nutrients and other agents to enhance adventitious root growth and plant health. Perhaps the most common example of trench mix application is the use of a granular mycorrhizal fungi (GMF) product. Top competitive growers have, for a decade or more, added ~1 tbsp of GMF to each leaf node prior to burying. While the evidence is not yet conclusive, the conventional belief is that this practice increases the colonization of the beneficial fungi to the adventitious root beyond what soil provides. While GMF is likely the most common trench mix additive, below is a list of other agents that can be added to trench mixes:

- Powdered/granular Biologicals (beneficial microorganisms)
    - o Trichoderma (e.g. Rootshield biological fungicide)
    - o Streptomyces (e.g. Actinovate biological fungicide)
    - o Azosporillum (e.g. Azos nitrogen fixing bacteria)
- Powdered/granular soil conditioners
    - o Humic acid
    - o Gypsum
- Powdered/granular plant nutrients & growth factors
    - o N-P-K fertilizer combinations
    - o Timed release plant nutrient products (e.g. Osmocote)
    - o Fish/seaweed powder

Trench mixes can be pre-mixed and stored with some caveats. Biological products should not be premixed, as humidity, moisture, and combining with other biologicals may decrease their activity. Ideally, biologicals should be stored in refrigerator/freezer until used. Soil conditioners and plant nutrients can be pre-mixed and stored for ease of use.

It is again important to emphasize that there’s no ideal combination of trench mix for all patches. And further, there’s no conclusive evidence that any of these agents will provide direct benefit when applied to leaf nodes. Soil fertility, disease conditions, and many other factors dictate the infinitely complex soil environment. However, if you have a known disease presence or nutrient deficiency, designing a trench mix to address those issues is something to consider. How much to apply is also a major variable. A teaspoon, a tablespoon, a shovel full? No one knows. The point is to illuminate options at your disposal and then use the suggestions to determine what is right for your patch.

In summary, vine burying is a foundational patch tactic for enhancing patch success. Because giant pumpkin plants form adventitious roots at each leaf node, growers can capitalize on this opportunity to locally deliver a wide spectrum of beneficial microorganisms, soil conditioners, and plant nutrients to the developing root system.
Good Luck!

This document was posted on bigpumpkins.com in June 2014.

Statistics

The best proven seeds for 2017

Which seeds were the most successful in 2016? To figure that out we did some relatively basic math and came up with the following list.

The first thing we did was take a look at which seed produced at least three pumpkins heavier than 1500 lbs in 2016. This meant taking a look at 150 pumpkins. 14 seeds met this criteria.

We then took a look at how many pumpkins per seed made it into the 1500+ range and what the average weight of these pumpkins were. This produced two different lists. Then, taking into account the standings in each list and the highest progeny weight, we made a definite top 10 list. The % heavy is added to help you decide.

That all being said, we didn't look at seed availability and realize that there are many other great seeds out there that will do the trick and that some of these top seeds will not produce.

Number of progeny 1500 lbs+ in 2016.

	#	Average	High	Seed	%
1	**15**	1827	2624	2145 McMullen	10.9
2	**10**	1755	1944	2230 Wallace	9.2
3	**7**	1724	2261	2009 Wallace	5.3
4	**6**	1694	2157	2096 Meier	6.7
5	**6**	1672	1823	2008 Neptune	12.7
6	**5**	1636	1718	1317 Clements	3.4
7	**4**	1815	2058	1585 Werner	5.3
8	**4**	1709	1810	1756 Howell	12.8
9	**4**	1702	1805	2020 Werner	8.8
10	**4**	1581	1652	1965 Brandt	7.7

Average weight of all progeny heavier than 1500 lbs in 2016.

	#	Average	High	Seed	%
1	15	**1827**	2624	2145 McMullen	10.9
2	4	**1815**	2058	1585 Werner	5.3
3	3	**1757**	1969	1985 Miller	10.7
4	10	**1755**	1944	2230 Wallace	9.2
5	7	**1724**	2261	2009 Wallace	5.3
6	3	**1720**	1864	1790 Wallace	9.3
7	4	**1709**	1810	1756 Howell	12.8
8	4	**1702**	1805	2020 Werner	8.8
9	6	**1694**	2157	2096 Meier	6.7
10	3	**1673**	1800	1625 Gantner	16.0

Top 10 list.

	Seed
1	2145 McMullen
2	2230 Wallace
3	2009 Wallace
4	1585 Werner
5	2096 Meier
6	1985 Miller
7	1756 Howell
8	2008 Neptune
9	2020 Werner
10	1790 Wallace

We even did something similar, but more complicated for field pumpkins. This is our list.

	Seed	#	Ave	High
1	81 Wolf	8	123.5	188.0
2	117 Horde	5	115.0	158.7
3	211 MacKinnon	7	114.5	158.6
4	158 Crews	2	144.0	189.0
5	123.5 Paul	3	135.5	137.5
6	140 Crews	3	114.5	142.5
7	125 Treece	2	130.5	150.0
8	103 Wagler	3	108.5	130.1
9	162 MacKinnon	4	108.5	122.5
10	184 MacKinnon	2	114.5	130.5

Featured Grower

Ryan Hoelke

1. Can you introduce yourself? How long have you been growing AGs?

My Name is Ryan Hoelke. I live in Eganville, Ontario which is about 120km west of Ottawa and 30 minutes from the Quebec border. I grew AG's in the late 90's when I was in high school. I did not grow again until 2012 which was in a new, one plant plot. The following year I expanded the growing space to 2500 square feet which I grow three plants in.

2. Can you describe your garden? How much space do you have per plant?

My garden soil was all trucked in. The property I had was treed and full of limestone nuggets, the soil was poor or non-existent. It was a big job just to get a 2 foot-deep plot dug out with heavy equipment. Then I had commercial grade topsoil trucked in, which isn't anything spectacular. It had about a 3% Organic Matter (OM) reading. I have composted heavily in the last 3 years as well as tilled under quite a lot of cover crops to add to the soil. Organic matter is now at a little over 10%. We'll find out soon what's too high in terms of OM%.

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

I started earlier than ever this past season. On April 14th, I started five of my 1463's. The best two would go to the garden in a couple weeks. Two days later, I started my more rare seeds, the 1725 Harp and the 1625 Gantner, along with their back-ups. I use heating cables in my garden, so I wanted to push my start times to bump up my pollination dates. 2016 was the coldest spring I've grown in and on April 29th I planted all six plants in the patch, which was also the earliest ever.

4. What are the temperatures like in your area and can you control that in any way?

I'm probably one of the more Northern growers in Ontario. The group of GVGO growers more north of me are on another level all together and I commend them for battling the weather up there around Thunder Bay. Where I am, the spring nights and fall nights are my biggest problem. I've started using eaves trough cables buried under my planting sites. These are not on a timer, so I have to watch them closely. Within 24 hours of turning them on, I can go from a soil temperature of +2oC all the way to room temperature. Once warm, I only have to run them at night.

In the fall, I wrap the fruit in blankets once the nights get cool, and if frost is a reality and I have a good plant still growing, I'll cover the entire plant with Agribon row coverings.

5. Can you tell us something about your fertilizer program? Do you use BigStem, anthesis or mycorrhizal fungi? How about insect control?

I've never used BigStem or Anthesis. I do use mycorrhizal fungi. I'll broadcast some around my planting areas in the spring, and also mix some into my vine-burying mix which I mix in wheel barrows all season. The debate is how well does mycorrhizae over-winter in Canada? I honestly don't know, but once I rip my plants out after the growing season I always do a full till and throw down some winter rye in order to give some fresh roots to the mycorrhizae. Does that make a difference and help the spores survive until the next season? I don't know, but I do really like cover cropping and feeding the soil. That late fall cover crop will get trimmed in the spring and tilled under mid-May just before

my plants start to break out of their cold frames.

For fertilizers, I do a lot of light sprays with a backpack sprayer, maybe too many, I'm not sure. The usual suspects are used: liquid kelp at least three times a week, and then some liquid micro and macro nutrients when I need it. I spray very weak solutions since I do spray often; you need to be careful if you're going to spray 4 or 5 times a week like I will do once the plants are almost full size.

I'll use a couple packs of Actinovate which mixes nicely with most of my natural sprays. I find the Actinovate and kelp spray throughout the season really slows down powdery mildew.

For dry fertilizers, I really only use a couple of natural products by Green Gro. It's an American product and it comes in heavy pails, so it's costly getting it shipped across the continent and across a border. I haven't found anything comparable in Canada. The Green Gro Veg promotes vine growth and is used early in the season. The Green Gro Bloom is used once the fruit growth phase kicks in. I mix it into my Pro-Mix-based vine-burying mix throughout the year. The products are all natural and cover a wide range of nutrients. Todd Kline, who's pretty much pioneered organic growing for us growers, showed me the way on that front. Well, his garden did the talking for him. What he produces consistently with very few if any chemical feeds is staggering. He built his soil up throughout the years and now he keeps it healthy and happy by feeding the billions of micro-organisms. At first it seemed like a stretch for me, but it makes more sense now. Feed the soil and the soil will feed the plant.

In Ontario it's difficult to get some good quality pesticides. I spray as little as possible but when I see a cucumber beetle I get the Sevin out. I also have a good quality fungicide like Eagle 20 for later in the season if the powdery mildew starts to fight back against the kelp/Actinovate sprays.

6. How often do you give water and how?

This past year, I invested in a drip tubing system to cover all three planting areas. Each plant has its own shutoff. I spaced each row of tubing 16" apart and punched emitters 16" apart down each row to hopefully have even coverage. I also have a fertilizer injector which feeds all three plants from the main water line. I pump a lot of compost teas through the watering system, that I make from bubbling a rotation of: worm castings, humic acid, Green Gro veg and Bloom, calcium, maple syrup, seaweed, Bloom, and RTI's liquid Mykos in a five gallon pail.

The question of how much water to use is the biggest question in growing giant pumpkins. I think three out of four growers under-water their plants. I asked a lot of people and could never get a consistent answer. Everyone's soil is different so no one can answer the magic question of how many gallons per day. I got myself a good digital hand held moisture reader

with an 11" probe. To find out my "magic" number, I simply dug down and felt the soil with my hands. Water your garden and feel the soil 8 inches down. If you can squeeze the soil and it crumbles when released, it's probably too dry; if you can squeeze water out of the soil, it's too wet. For me, I targeted 22% moisture content on my meter because that's the number that felt best to my touch, but I have a fairly heavy soil with a lot of organic matter so that number isn't as important as the squeeze test for anyone reading along. I teeter on too wet all season, but I think that pushing it plays a part in the heavy % of fruit. I do see some minor vine rot and fusarium each season, but that shows me that I'm right on the line of over watering, which is where I want to be.

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

I always pollinate later than I want to for some reason, don't we all? That seems to be the way it goes. Last season I started earlier than ever, but the cool spring slowed me down. I like to have a lot of plant behind the fruit. I always used the 15 foot rule, but after last year, I'm going to tweak that.

For my 1803 last year, I pollinated 16 feet out on July 5th. However, with the cold spring, I believe the main vine did not stretch as far between secondaries. I focused on the 15 feet, but later realized I had 26 secondaries between the stump and the pollination (13 on each side). I could have probably pollinated sooner. To me, now it's not so much 15 feet out, but rather I'd like to see 20 secondaries before the fruit. Those secondaries are where the power comes from and I don't want to be under 20, yet I would like a third week of June pollination…so for me it all comes back to starting sooner, but we all know that can be a huge disaster. I love the stress of this hobby.

My 1800.5 was pollinated on July 6th at 17 feet, 28 secondaries.

8. What did you do differently last year than other years?

I've been composting excessively for the past three seasons. I believe that has made a difference, but I also believe I may be getting close to the tipping point. I guess we'll find out.
Each fall, I gather about 500 garbage bags of leaves. Preferably maple leaves. After a few years, I now have people actually bringing them to my compost pile, which is much easier. I will also pick up yard waste bags on the town's annual curb side pick-up day.

There's five times more nutrients in a pound of finished leaf compost than a pound of manure. Tree roots drive deep into the ground and pick up a wide variety of nutrients and micro-nutrients and store it in the leaves. Of course, in order to have a good compost pile, you need the proper composition. I used coffee grounds to get my nitrogen factor, but grass clippings and green plant material will work as well. You need the pile to have about a 25 to 1 carbon to nitrogen ratio. I would spread a foot of leaves and then cover that with an inch or so of coffee grounds. Within a week, the pile would be steaming hot. After a year, I would spread that mixture into the garden and till under however, the more you can flip the pile, the quicker it will break down. The leaves collected from this past

fall will be spread into the garden next fall as finished compost. I've done that now for three seasons.

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

I test my soil every spring as soon as I can get into the garden and get a fairly dry sample. I don't soil test again during the season.

I take my soil test results and make up a list of needed amendments. I don't add my amendments until late May. Just before my plants have outgrown the cold frames, I chop the winter rye cover crop one last time and then spread my amendments and till as deep as possible.

One thing I always battle is a higher pH. I've never had a pH under 7.4. It is getting closer, though.

Just before pollination, I will send a tissue sample into A&L Labs. When I get my results I will add whatever I'm low on to my foliar sprays in order to make the adjustment for the plant. This past season, since I had two good plants going, I tissue-tested three times, two weeks apart.

I will attach my soil test results as well as my tissue test results.

10. What are your plans for this year? Are there things you want to change?

Well, we have our first child coming in June, so I'll have to see how often I can sneak away to the garden.

I don't actually live at the house that I grow at anymore, so I have to work smarter with the time that I have. This season, I plan on installing a control for my irrigation pump that I can turn on and off from my mobile phone. This will help on the hot days when I'd like to lightly mist the plants with overhead sprinklers but am 20 kilometres away from my garden.

I plan to grow three plants again next year. It's all I have room for and I think it's the perfect number given the time needed to really care for a plant, and three plants offer nice cross-pollination options. I got lucky last year going three for three for a combined 4750 pounds on sound fruit.

I will grow one of my own 2016 seeds next year. I'm not sure if I'll grow the 1803 or the 1800.5. The other two plants I plan on growing are the 2066 Geddes and the 1810 Werner. All three unproven seeds, it will be an interesting year.

Ryan uses a drone to film and monitor his patch.

We would like to thank Ryan for his time and for sharing the information he has given us and hope he has another successful year in 2017.

On the next page you will find a summary of both his plant and soil reports taken in 2016.

A & L Canada Laboratories Inc.

For: RYAN HOELKE

PLANT ANALYSIS REPORT

	Nitro-gen %	Sulfur %	Phosph -orus %	Potas-sium %	Magn-esium %	Cal-cium %	Sodium %	Boron ppm	Zinc ppm	Mang-anese ppm	Iron ppm	Copper ppm
	5.47	0.48	0.68	4.37	0.53	2.64	0.02	25	48	43	176	12
Normal Range	4.00 6.00		0.60 0.70	3.00 5.00	0.30 2.50	1.20 2.50		25 75	20 200	50 250	50 200	7 25

- These plants are low in MANGANESE. Low soil manganese availability could be caused by high soil pH, high soil organic matter, poor drainage or high soil iron. A&L recommends a foliar application at this time follow manufacturer recommendations.
- A&L recommends a foliar application when Mg, B, P, Zn or Mn are low or deficient at this plant stage. Follow the recommended product label rates.
- A&L Recommends a follow-up tissue sample 14 days after foliar treatment to monitor progress.

SOIL TEST REPORT

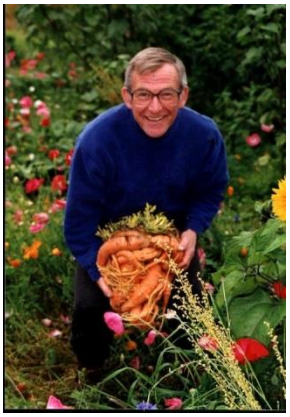
#	OM	P Bi-carb	P Bray	K	Mg	Ca	Na	pH	CEC	%K	%Mg	%Ca	%Na
Old	9.5	70 H	205 H	521 VH	390 H	2680 M	24 L	7.4	18.0	7.4	18.0	74.2	0.6
New	9.2	74 H	248 H	553 VH	485 H	2660 M	25 L	7.4	18.8	7.5	21.5	70.7	0.6

#	Sulphur	Zinc	Mn	Iron	Copper	Boron	%P	Al	%Al	K/Mg	ENR
Old	13 VL	19.0 VH	25 M	93 VH	2.8 H	1.8 H	28 H	930	0.1 G	0.41	108
New	12 VL	15.0 VH	25 M	105 VH	2.3 H	1.8 H	34 H	927	0.1 G	0.35	105

Giant Vegetable of the Year

HEAVY CARROT

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



SEEDS AND SOIL

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

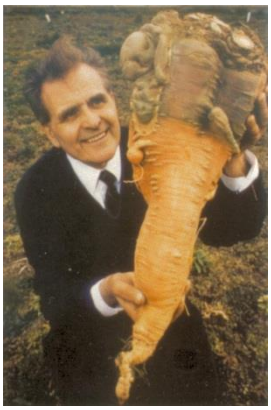
There are basically two ways to grow giant carrots: the single root way and the multiple root way. Either way, sowing starts in late winter. This can be done out in the garden

with enough protection or inside at room temperature with sufficient lighting. The clue is to start a whole bunch of seeds and pick out the strongest ones. Start them out in a six-inch tall pot or raised bed. The ideal growing mixture is 1/3 sand, 1/3 soil and 1/3 peat. The soil must be deeply cultivated and contain a high content of humus or organic material, with a pH of around 6.5-7.0. The benefit of a raised bed is that the soil does not compact as easily and there is less chance of rotting, which giant carrots do quite easily.

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

Peter Glazebrook

THE SINGLE ROOT WAY



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

THE MULTIPLE ROOT WAY

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

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

FEEDING

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

HARVESTING

Be careful when taking these things out of the ground. You don't want to break any of the side roots. It is best to take away the soil near

the carrot with your fingers. You can carefully hose the carrot off with lukewarm water while holding it by the foliage. Submerging it into water can cause it to split.

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

DISEASES

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

Carrots affected by carrot fly

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

This article was printed in the previous edition of OTT and has been included again as the heavy carrot has been chosen vegetable-of-the-year for 2017.

Products for sale

Erin Giant Pumpkin Growers

HOW TO ORDER

If you would like to add any of these products to your 2017 schedule, just send me an email: pumpkin1088@outlook.com
or use the I NEED HELP! link on the website: http://eringiantpumpkingrowers.weebly.com/i-need-help.html
and let me know what you would like. The products will be available for pick-up at the **GVGO spring seminar or my place in Georgetown after March 30th.** Payment can be made at time of pick-up. Shipping in Canada is $20 for up to 4 one Litre bottles. SORRY, BUT NO SHIPPING OUTSIDE CANADA. **I will not have extras at the GVGO seminar so please order ahead of time.**

Thanks,
John Nieuwenhoff

*For most products a 1 Litre bottle is lots for 2 to 3 plants for an entire season.

Most of the application rates can be increased depending on conditions and most foliar products can be soil applied as well at 3-4 times the foliar rate. For the Growth Products brand fertilizers please go to www.GrowthProducts.com for full instructions, precautions, mixing instructions and ingredient lists.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS ..... JUST ASK!

FOLIAR APPLIED PRODUCTS

SiTKO— 0-7-17— A Silicate, Phosphite, and Salicylic Acid combination product. Improves resistance to damage from disease and insects, strengthens cell walls, slows down water transpiration rate from leaves, and promotes ISR (induced systemic resistance). This is a TKO and Silguard combo product. PLEASE NOTE - I do not have TKO available on its own anymore. This product gives you the benefits of TKO, Silicate, and SA.

Directions—apply 1 oz per gallon foliar spray every 10-14 days. Use up to 2 gallons of spray mixture for each 1000 sq ft of plant area.
Cost—$17 for 1 Litre bottle.

Recover Rx—3-18-18—Contains Phosphite and Salicylic Acid (Trigger SA). A great all season foliar product to help keep your plants healthy. Helps plants recover from stress and damage. Helps prevent diseases like powdery mildew. If I were to use one foliar product this would be the one. Directions—apply 1 oz per gallon foliar spray every 10-14

days. Use up to 2 gallons of spray mixture for each 1000 sq ft of plant area.
Cost—$13 for 1 Litre bottle.

Micrel Total 5-0-0 Micronutient Package - The total micronutrient package contains Magnesium (Mg) .5%, Sulfur (S) 4%, Boron (B) .02%, Copper (Cu) .5%, Iron (Fe) 6%, Manganese (Mn) .5%, Molybdenum (Mo) .0005%, Zinc (Zn) .5%. Micrel Total is a true solution with a unique citrate/nitrogen chelate bond. All the micronutrients are available either by foliar or root feeding. Directions - apply .5 to 1 ounce per gallon foliar spray every month.
Cost - $13 for 1 Litre bottle

SOIL APPLIED PRODUCTS

Essential Plus - 1-0-1 - Natural organic soil amendment and root stimulator with 21 L-Amino Acids. Contains humic acid, kelp, gibberellic acid, fish hydrolylsate, plant extracts, sugars, wetting agent and lots more.
Directions - water in to the soil or add to irrigation water 3-4 oz per 1000 sqft every couple weeks to feed soil microbes and improve soil structure.
Cost - $25 for 1 Litre bottle.

Potassium Carbonate 0-0-25 - Foliar and Root uptake. A high quality, low salt, and no chloride form of potassium that is immediately available to the plant.
Directions - Label rates call for 1.5 to 6 ounces per 1000 sq ft applied 4 weeks apart. I would tend to go with the higher rate if soil drenching with it or go with the 1.5 ounce rate weekly if adding it to your foliar treatments every 7-10 days.
Cost - $17 for 1 Litre bottle.

Soil Restore Plus—3-0-2—All kinds of great stuff for your soil. Contains 10% Humic Acid, L-Amino Ac-ids, and food for soil microbes. Rejuvenates soil structure, helps reduce compaction, and solubilizes min-erals in the soil and releases bound-up nutrients. If I were to use one soil applied product, this would it.
Directions—use 3 oz for every 1000 sq ft once per month. Use as a soil drench by adding to your irrigation water or spray on the leaves with enough water to apply evenly, then water overhead to get it into the soil or apply before rain.
Cost—$20 for 1 Litre bottle

MYKE PRO TURF-G -Granular Glomus intraradices mycorrhizae with a spore count of 6810 spores per pound. Although it's a relatively low spore count, the most important factor is that it's fresh and always stored properly. Our Mykes is never frozen, always fresh and stored in a cool dry facility. Directions—use a liberal amount when seeding, planting, and vine burying to ensure it comes in contact with new roots to increase the uptake of water and nutrients into the plant.
Cost—$20 for 5 pound bag (lots for a couple plants)

MYKE PRO WP (wettable powder) - This high concentration mycorrhizae powder (800 spores/gram) can be watered in to the soil wherever roots are to inoculate them and promote more nutrient and water uptake in the plant.
Directions - add to your water tanks or add to enough water to spray evenly on the garden and water in immediately. A 100 gram pack will treat up to 5000 sq ft but treating a smaller area will result in a high concentration of mycorrhizae and possibly better results.
Cost - $15 for 100 gram bag

Granulated Compost - This easy to spread granulated compost is made from a mixture of shrimp compost, humic acid, and kelp meal. A great addition to your soil or mix a little with your vine burying mixture. An 18 kg bag can be applied to 2000 sqft in spring or fall. You can also side-dress nitrogen loving crops every month.
Cost - $25 for an 18KG bag

The **GVGO** will be offering **Neptune's Harvest Seaweed** at $4 per Litre. This is a huge discount compared to buying in a store. Contact Dave McCallum to place an order at pumpkins@wightman.ca

Product will be available for pick-up at the GVGO Seminar on April 8th.

We will be taking orders for **AGTIV** mycorrhizae and rhizobium as well as **Pagonis** worm castings.

Order by email at ablefarmsgiants@gmail.com
Thank You!
Nathan and Jennifer Veitch

Black Earth Humic Products
Mini granule dry carbon
50 lb bag $20.00
Organo liquid hume humic & fulvic acid *$5.00/L*
Liquid fulvic *$5.00/L*
Organic Gem liquid fish
$4.00/L
Agrigro products bio-stimulants
Ignites2 soil and starter supplement *$14.00/L*
Foliar Blend foliar treatment *$14.00/L*
Monty's liquid plant food
8-16-8 growth formula *$14.00/L*
2-15-15 root and bloom *$14.00/L*
Liquid calcium nitrate & corn sugar 8-0-0-10ca
$3.00/L
Email order to be delivered to Spring Seminar.
pcdettweiler@hotmail.com
Thank you!
Paul Dettweiler