

# June BEST SUCCESS STORY

Celebrating Green Industry Professionals' Hard Work & Know-How



June 2013

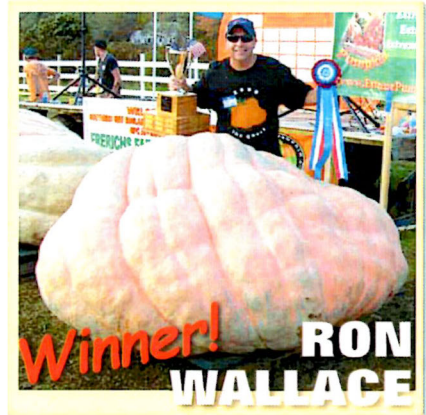
## Growth Products' June "Best Success" Winner Ron Wallace

This month's "Best Success Story" comes from **Ron Wallace**, giant pumpkin grower extraordinaire. Ron, a country club manager from Rhode Island, shattered the world record on September 28, 2012, with his pumpkin, "The Freak II," that weighed in at 2,009 pounds. Wallace had previously set a world record in 2006 with a pumpkin that weighed 1,502 pounds. We caught up with Ron by phone earlier this month, and he generously shared some of his secrets.

### All we can say is "wow!" How did you do this?

Living in New England I have to deal with sandy/loam soil which lets nutrients quickly leach right out of the root zone. A few years ago I turned to **Growth Products** for a solution to this problem. I found that **Growth Products** liquid fertilizers were just what my giant pumpkins needed.

I use an array of **Growth Products**' solutions, including **Triple Ten 10-10-10**, but the four that I rely on most are **Cal Mag Max**, **"TKO" Phosphite**, **Essential® Plus** and **Companion® Biological Fungicide**. During the vining stage of a pumpkin's growth, typically May through early July, I foliar apply **Cal Mag Max** every 7 days at 4-ounces per 1,000 square feet to keep tissue levels of calcium and magnesium high.



World Record  
Wallace  
2009 lb  
Giant Pumpkin



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During peak fruit growth stage starting in mid-July, a giant pumpkin can gain up to 50 pounds a day. The potassium demand skyrockets during this growth spurt, so I turn to **TKO Phosphite 0-29-26** at 5-ounces per 1,000 sq. ft. along with 3 ounces of **Growth Products' 0-0-25 Liquid Potassium** per 1,000 sq. ft. every 7 days. This combination helps me stay at "luxury" capacity for potassium.

**TKO Phosphite** is also my main foliar spray for disease control. I have not had any leaf problems since using **TKO**, and I have saved quite a bit of money using **TKO** instead of chemical fungicides.

### Even with Growth Products, growing giant pumpkins must take a lot of TLC.

I'm not a farmer, but just a back-yard gardener with a hobby. I start about ten giant pumpkins per year, and I spend 30 to 35 hours a week tending to them in the growing season.

### Did you know that "The Freak II" was going to set the world record when you took it to Topfield Fair this fall?

No one had ever grown a 1-ton pumpkin before, and a lot of people didn't think it was achievable. I wasn't even sure myself. But by its dimensions I knew that "The Freak II" was a big one, and when I put it on the trailer and started towing it to the weigh-off, I felt like it was something special.

### You are a former executive chef. Do you hone your knife skills on your pumpkins?

"The Freak II" wouldn't be edible, but its seeds go for a premium. In fact, I donate pumpkin seeds to local clubs that auction them off for about \$200 each. But the pumpkins from my vegetable garden? You bet I use my kitchen knife on them, for a whole lot more than just pumpkin pies. Pumpkin puree is a great thickener for stews, and paella with seafood and pumpkin is fabulous.



### About Growth Products' Best Success Stories

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*Many thanks to Ron Wallace for his help with this article, and congratulations for providing our Best Success Story of the month. To learn more about the Giant Pumpkin Growing Community & Ron's achievement visit [www.bigpumpkins.com](http://www.bigpumpkins.com)*

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PAUL and CHERYL FULK- 2013 OVGPG CHAMPIONS  
Interview by Alan Gibson- Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers

Paul and Cheryl Fulk are relatively new to the giant pumpkin growing community. They have made their mark the past two years.

They live in Halifax, Pennsylvania (25 miles north of Harrisburg). Their country home is surrounded by two acres. Paul is a design engineer for the Harmon Stove Company (pellet and wood stoves). Cheryl is a legal secretary.

Their hobby started in 2009 with Dill's Atlantic Giant pumpkin seeds from Lowe's. They grew a 450# (dmg) that year. The next two years, they grew a 1085# (dmg) and 1220# (dmg). Nice pumpkins but nothing for the weigh-offs. Those lost pumpkins were probably caused by fusarium and other soil diseases.

In 2012 Paul started using the OVGPG drench- spray program to combat the soil born diseases. They are unable to rotate the patch due to topography and trees so this was the only solution. They took 3<sup>rd</sup> place at the OVGPG weigh-off with a 1643#er.

In 2013 their patch of six plants produced four champion pumpkins: OVGPG (1744.5#), Altoona, Pa. (1683#), Doylestown, Pa. (1399#) and Woodstock, Ct. (1100.5#).

They also grew tomatoes this year. Their 4.78# and 4.62# beauties were the top two at the OVGPG weigh-off.

Their weather was cooler than normal this year with average rainfall until harvest. The 1744.5 was picked with six inches of rain in the forecast.

#### PATCH SIZE (LAYOUT)

The Fulk patch is 5100 square feet (850 square feet per plant). The plants are grown four feet apart- back to back. The pruning style is the Christmas tree (20' side vines) and "pitchfork pattern" after the midpoint. The main vine was allowed to grow 60' (20' out, 20' sideways and 20' back along the border).

The patch is protected with plastic fencing from the wind and the dog.

#### SOIL PREPARATION (COVER CROPS)- FERTILITY

Paul spreads one cubic yard of aged mushroom compost (2" deep) per planting site. Two rye cover crops are grown per year ( winter and spring). The spring cover crop includes mycorrhizae.

Soil testing is done once per year with no tissue tests. 50# of kelp and 25# of humic acid were added per planting site. A total of 70# mycorrhizae and 3# Rootshield were used on the patch (cover crop and vine burying) last year. A small amount of blood meal was used in the hut area. Water soluble sea weed was used in every spray and drench.

#### SOIL and FOLIAR DISEASES- INSECT CONTROL- IRRIGATION

Paul used the OVGPG spray- drench program the past two years. It can be found at our website: [www.ovgpg.com](http://www.ovgpg.com) under "Articles".

Paul uses a Stihl back pack sprayer. He also uses a 300 gallon water storage tank for irrigation and drenches. Irrigation is overhead using Wiz heads and Rainbird sprinklers. The water source is a well. All plants had foaming issues except the 1744.5.

## SOIL

The loam topsoil in this former cow pasture is 20" deep. Paul has added another 10" to create a crowned growing area for each plant.

## SEED STARTING

The seeds were started on April 15<sup>th</sup> in peat pots. One week later, they were transplanted to one gallon pots. The plants were put into the 6' x 9' plastic huts about May 8<sup>th</sup>. Ceramic heaters with thermostatic controls were used in the huts.

## WEED CONTROL

Normal tillage and weeding are employed. Roundup was tried at the end of the season.

## POLLINATION

The 1744.5 Fulk was grown from the 220.3 DeBacco seed. It was pollinated on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 12' out on the main vine (4 segments). It was pollinated with the 1789 Wallace. Final measurements totaled 429.5". Estimated weight was 1610#. It went 8.4% heavy to the chart.

## PROTECTION

White sheets are used on the pumpkins with blankets on cold nights. Each pumpkin sits on ½" plywood plus a nylon ground cover.

## 2014 PLANS

No major new strategies are planned for this year. Some of their seed choices for this growing season are: 1744.5 Fulk, 1683 Fulk, 220.3 DeBacco, 1385 Jutras, 1495 Stelts and 1676.5 Daletas.

Congratulations to Paul and Cheryl on their recent success. We are glad to have them as members of the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers.

For more OVGPG interviews ( Christy Harp, Dave Stelts, Quinn Werner, Jerry Rose, Tim Parks and Fred Calai): [www.ovgpg.com](http://www.ovgpg.com) "Articles".



# The Micro Nutrients: Manganese, Iron, Boron, Zinc, Copper, and Sulfates.

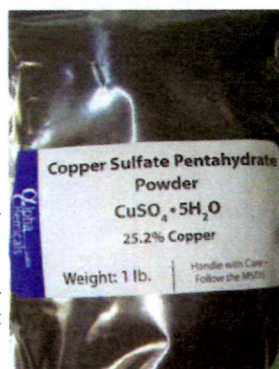
Extreme Gardeners and Giant Pumpkin Growers in particular are leaving less to chance every year. For most, gone are the years of just dumping a load of manure in the patch and praying for the best. We want to know what's in that amendment. A quick, and relatively inexpensive Soil Analysis will tell the grower where any deficiencies are. So during the late Fall and mid Winter months, the local Universities or Soil Analysis specialty companies are bombarded with these requests. Usually in 1-3 weeks the reply is in the mail or email. Now What!

A grower receives the report, which usually is designed to support the needs of a Cucurbit Crop. Most Growers do a great job of addressing the major needs and key into amending the Major Nutrient needs like Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P), Potassium (K) and Calcium (Ca). We check that our PH is near an ideal 6.7 range, take a look at the % Organic Matter, to get an idea if the soils will hold a lot of water this year, and then we move on. By now it is usually time to plant, and there is not a lot of time to spare, worrying about the details of the nutrient levels, because we just put "more-on", to compensate for any shortages, and start tending to our Spring duties out in the patch which in and of themselves can be very time consuming.

But here is the newest trend. Using Soil Consultants, (like Michael Astera at, [www.soilminerals.com](http://www.soilminerals.com)) who understand the ideal soils for various fruits or vegetables. They can decipher your soil analysis and guide you. It only makes sense, since you are about to invest 6 months of your time into your hobby and you only have one shot to get it right per year. But what about the often overlooked minor elements. Those Micro nutrients that no one ever talks about.

Soil Scientists, and many top growers understand these essential minor elements. But without input, from these key people... one simplistic solution is usually used. Add more organic matter to the soil. This is the school from which most growers come from. "More Organic Matter" is a step in the write direction if the soil is low in humus, but does little to address nutritional deficiencies, especially mineral deficiencies. Yet it is fiercely defended and proclaimed to be "the answer" for everyone everywhere. Is it? No. While essential, soil biology and organic matter are only a part of what makes a healthy soil and nutrient dense crops. Nature is not simple, and simplistic "one size fits all answers are not going to solve all the nutritional demands of our Cucurbita Maxima fruits. The various fans and promoters of Soil Biology, from earthworms to fungus, tell us that a bioactive soil will break down toxic residue, increase humus and the beneficial soil organisms will make minerals and nutrients available to the Pumpkin Plant. The question that is not asked is: "What if the needed minerals are not to be found in the soil". Most Giant Pumpkin Growers have no clue what minerals are in their soil. Is it not So? The Chemically based Giant Pumpkin growers are generally a little better informed as they are used to getting their soil tested in order to find out how many pounds of chemical fertilizer to add, but they have little understanding of the essential role of the nutrient mineral either.

So First of all, primarily, and before anything of these Minor elements are added, please get a professional Soil Test. Soil Testing is not expensive and most test labs pride themselves on getting your results back to you quickly, within a few days of receiving the soil sample. You Must have a soil test before you add any minerals and especially the "Minor Elements" If you insist on adding minerals without a soil test, don't say we didn't warn you! The Soil Test will most definitely tell you the amount of Calcium Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium and Hydrogen are in our soil. But at the bottom of the reports it should also tell you the amount of **Boron, Iron, Manganese, Copper and Zinc**. These are minerals whose function we understand a bit but it is essential that they be in your soil in sufficient quantities. Don't expect



immediate and fantastic results from adding some of these Minor Elements to your soil. It takes time for them to work into the living systems in your soil. As these Minor Elements settle into the soil ecology in your Pumpkin Patch, some will become available to the plants and soil microorganisms and others may get tied up for a while. Adding a little bit of a badly needed Minor Element (mineral nutrient) to the soil may greatly increase the microorganism and fungal activity and may catalyze the release of other previously bound-up minerals.

## EXAMPLE of a SOIL ANALYST'S FEED BACK

Minor Elements (Micro Nutrients)	Ideal Soil Range PPM	Example Grower PPM	Example of Soil Consultant Advise Per 1000 Sq Ft
Boron (B)	0.1-2.0	1.1	Add 12 oz. Borax (10% B)
Iron (Fe)	3-20	1.9	Add 9 lb of Iron Sulfate (20% Fe)
Manganese (Mn)	01.-70	5.5	Add 3 lbs of Manganese Sulfate (30% Mn)
Copper (Cu)	0.3-8.0	0.3	Add 3 lbs of Copper Sulfate (25% Cu)
Zinc (Zn)	1.0-40	2.4	Add 4 lbs of Zinc Sulfate (35% Zn)

There are other means of finding these minor elements. One source is Stollers brand products, like: Urea Mate 5-10-27 which contains all the elements shown above.

Below are some of the known benefits of these essential Minor Elements, or micronutrients.

**BORON:** Boron is one of the more rare elements on planet Earth. Boron is a close partner with Calcium. Calcium transports many nutrients into your Giant Pumpkin plant and within your Pumpkin, but it needs Boron to keep it mobile. The saying is that Calcium is the Truck. Boron is the Driver. Boron is easily be tied up in dry Topsoil. Soil moisture must be adequate for it to help.

**IRON:** Iron makes up about 5% of the earths crust so it is really absent from soils. Iron is absorbed through the root system into the plant and draws energy to the Pumpkin Leaf by absorbing heat from the sun. It makes the leaf darker, thus absorbing more energy. It will increase the waxy sheen of the Pumpkin Leaves, It increases the thickness of the leaf, which increases nutrient flow geometrically. Iron is needed by nitrogen fixing bacteria like in Azos. When Iron deficiency is serious the entire leaf will turn yellow leaving only the veins to stand out like road maps.

**MANGANESE:** This is an essential micro nutrient for the production of fertile seeds within your fruit. There is an atom of manganese at the center of the germ of every Giant Pumpkin Seed. Note that its not all about Manganese (Mn). Mn, Iron and Copper must be in the soil in their proper proportion for good healthy seeds. The Ideal soil chart calls for Mn to be 1/2 of Iron up to 50 ppm.

**COPPER:** Copper is the key to elasticity in your plant. Copper is an important nutrient for many microbes such as Aspergillus niger. It controls molds like downy mildew and fungus and often alleviates perceived zinc deficiencies. Copper is vitally important to Root metabolism, helps forms compounds and proteins, Amino acid and a host of organic compounds.

**ZINC:** Zinc helps make acetic acid in the roots to prevent rotting. It is used to control Blight. Zinc promotes plant growth and can prevent mottled leaves. But high levels of phosphorus in soils will intensify zinc deficiency in the patch.

Are you just not getting enough umph out of the same old Winter Rye, Sudan Grass or or Buckwheat cover crop in your Giant Pumpkin Patch. Want to get more than just a trace amount of Green Nitrogen and a little organic matter. How about "cleaning" the soil in your patch. Then you got to read this article and watch the You Tube video referenced below in red. . It contains garden tested information that is catching on all over the world. And yes our top growers have already tried it with great results. And it costs less than \$5.00/lb in 25 pound Bags, but you only need 1/2 lb per 1000.ft<sup>2</sup>. The very informative video about the benefits of this cover crop are on you tube: Go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Then when you are in, type the following [www.youtube.com/watch?V=cnMfDwe\\_A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?V=cnMfDwe_A)

Mustards are a good cover crop for Giant Pumpkin growers for a variety of reasons. One of the main reasons is that because many of us are forced to plant our Atlantic Giants in the same place every year. We sometimes find ourself stuck in the yearly loop of infestation of various diseases and soil borne pests which can ruin a growers chances to grow the Big one, year after year. Now we are finding that farmers world wide are talking of the bright prospects of Biofumigation due to the high levels of Glucosinolates in Mustard. BIOFUMIGATION is simply the suppression of various soil borne pests and diseases through naturally occurring compounds. All brassicas, such as Mustard plants naturally produce glucosinolates, which are the compounds that make the brassicas "HOT". Brassicas sold as cover crops (such as Kodiak, Pacific Gold and IdaGold have been identified or specifically developed to contain very high levels of these glucosinolates. The higher the level of glucosinolates present, the better the Biofumigant effect. The process works as so: When mustard plant cells are damaged, such as by Tilling, glucosinolates are released and come in contact with an enzyme (myrosinase). In the presence of water the reaction produces a natural gas (ITC). This natural "mustard gas" is responsible for the suppressive effects of the practice. In addition to the soil Biofumigation benefits, Mustard plant cover crops are ideal for adding organic matter to the soil and improving many soil health related characteristics due to the large quantity of "Green" or fresh biomass produced and tilled into your patch. **SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW NEXT... How about PLANTING INFORMATION !**

**Why are there three varieties of Mighty Mustard®?** They contain different glucosinolates. IdaGold glucosinolates suppress weeds. Kodiak and Pacific Gold glucosinolates are biologically active against nematodes and fungal pathogens.

**Can I blend IdaGold, Pacific Gold and Kodiak?** Yes. Based on experience, the IdaGold will bolt first, then be taken over by the Pacific Gold or Kodiak.

**Can I inter-seed Mighty Mustard® with other cover crops?** Yes, if you reduce the seeding rate to 4-10 pounds per acre. If you want Mighty Mustard® to play a dominant role in the cover crop "cocktail," aim for 8-10 pounds per acre. If you want Mighty Mustard® to play a less prominent role, plant 4-5 pounds per acre. This is a new area of study, so more precise recommended seeding rates are still being researched.

**How much seed should I plant in my patch?** For all three varieties you should plant .4 lbs per 1000 ft<sup>2</sup> .

**How much biomass will Mighty Mustard® produce?** Approximately 189 pounds per 1000 square feet.

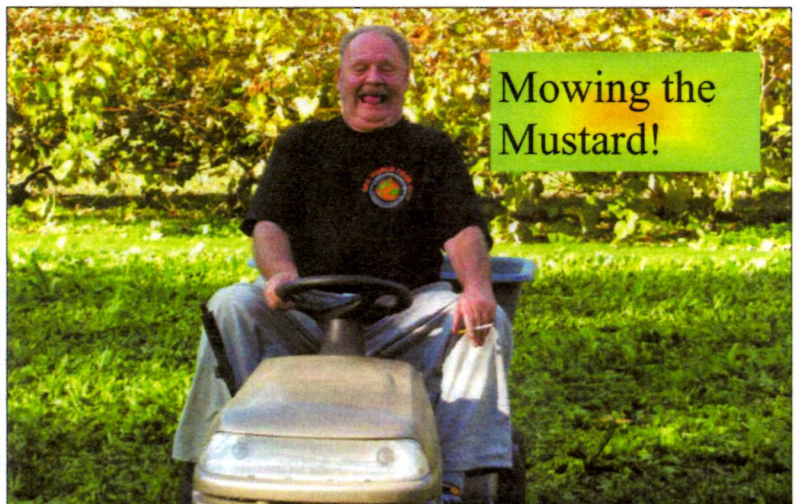
**How does Mighty Mustard® weather the cold?** It will withstand a light frost down to 26F but the mustard cover crop will succumb to killing frosts. If an unexpected killing frost occurs, you should quickly chop & till in the mustard for a good biofumigation of your patch soil or leave it on the ground over winter and till it in the spring.

**When should I chop my Mighty Mustard® for green manure?** To reap maximum benefits from your Mustard cover crop, mow it down and till it under with a good watering when the plants flower. If you allow the mustard to go to seed, you could wind up with unwanted plants , just as will happen with Winter Rye. Timing is important, as you must wait at least three weeks between incorporating (tilling) the Mustard cover crop and planting your crops. If you don't wait, the glucosinolate that suppress the weeds and soil-borne diseases may also suppress your Giant Pumpkin plants and vegetables.

**Can Mighty Mustard® replace chemical pesticides & herbicides?** Some growers have used Mustards to replace chemicals, while others mow it down and till it in, as part of their integrated Pest Management strategies. For general information about this read, [http://grantadams.wsu.edu/agriculture/covercrops/green\\_manures/index.htm](http://grantadams.wsu.edu/agriculture/covercrops/green_manures/index.htm)

**Where can I buy Mighty Mustard® Kodiak, Pacific Gold and IdaGold cover crop seed?** Call Davidson Commodities at (509) 487-0755 or visit [www.MightyMustard.com](http://www.MightyMustard.com) and click the "Where to Buy" tab.

Here is a crop of Mustard in a pumpkin patch that is ready to be mowed down and tilled under. But do not plant Mustard with mycorrhizae.





**CANFIELD FAIR PUMPKIN SHOW**  
"Something to Crow About"  
Alan Gibson- Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers

The Canfield Fair (Mahoning County, Ohio) is celebrating more than fifty years of pumpkin shows. It is the top rated county fair in Ohio and in the top five in the nation. The Canfield Fair is larger than many state fairs.

In the early 1960s, Homer Schaeffer (fair board director) and Ray Carr (pumpkin show superintendent) visited the Circleville Pumpkin Show and decided to bring a pumpkin show to the Canfield Fair.

In 1965, Alan Gibson (father Gordon and brother David) exhibited the Grand Champion (147.5#) and Reserve Champion (125#) Hungarian squash. Alan has shown five Grand Champions and four Reserve Champions over the years.

The late 1960s were dominated by Bob Fox. He would bring a display of 200# Hungarian squash and take the top prizes. Bob Fox grew a 300#er in 1970 and appeared on the "Tonight Show" with Johnny Carson. He also bred a squash variety named "Right Royal" (Hungarian squash x Hubbard squash) that Burpee carried for several years in their seed catalog.

During the mid -1970s to the mid- 1980s, the Ritz Brothers (John and Hugh) dominated the Canfield Fair Pumpkin Show. Some of their champions were: 1975 (275#), 1978 (322#), 1979 (286#), 1980 (334#), 1983 (301#) and 1984 (431#).

I interviewed John Ritz for this article. He will celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 4, 2014. He is still living at his home in Canton and we had a nice visit. The Ritz Brothers had the world's heaviest gourd (192#) at one time. In the mid - 1980s, they had a top 30 pumpkin and squash (all time) listed with Ray Waterman's World Pumpkin Confederation. The Ritz Brothers had a one acre garden featuring a dozen giant squash and pumpkins, large gourd trellis, flowers, sweet potatoes, peppers, etc.

The Ritz Brothers and Jerry Rose have had the most Grand Champion pumpkins with six each. The "King and Queen" pumpkins used to be displayed on the royal thrones until the pumpkins outgrew them.

Some of the other major exhibitors over the years were: Ohlin Brothers, Steve-Eli Razo and Jason-Albert Gfeller. Some of the other Grand Champion pumpkin growers were: Gail Hippely, Harold Blachly, Joe Cusma, Wayne Shippy and Elbert Agnew.

The Carr family members were major exhibitors and contributors for more than thirty years of the Pumpkin Show. Over the years, they had thousands of entries. Ray Carr was the Pumpkin Show superintendent with his wife Martha as assistant. Richard Carr and his father-in-law, Richard Bartholomew had the Grand Champion in 1982 (396#). The younger Carrs won the Ohio State Fair (Junior Division) pumpkin weigh-off four times.. They appeared on the "Late Show with David Letterman".

In the past 25 years, Jerry Rose has had the Grand Champion pumpkin six times. He had the fair's first 1000#er (1074.5#) in 2008.

Ron and Kathy Moffett were multiple winners in the early 1990s. In 1991, they set the Canfield Fair record with a 544# Hungarian squash. The squash was purchased at auction by Parks Garden Center for \$800. The Moffetts were featured on the "Today Show" with Willard Scott.

Tim Parks and family of the Parks Garden Center have been longtime supporters of the Canfield Fair Pumpkin Show. They have been sponsors and buyers of many of the largest pumpkins. Tim and Christa have shown one Grand Champion and several Reserve Champions.

Dale Lanterman has weighed three Grand Champions and three Reserve Champions. The Lanterman brothers (Dempsey, Jack and Billy) have also had numerous Reserve Champion pumpkins. The Lanterman family members have been major exhibitors and loyal supporters of the fair for many years. Second generation Lantermans involved with the fair are: Dale Jr., Rob, Jim, Neil and Charlie. Linda Lanterman now serves as Pumpkin Show superintendent with the family helping in many capacities.

Other champion growers since 1988 have been: Dick Baird, Brenda Myers, Craig Belchick, Jeff Reisner, Matt Allegretto, Bill Moss, Jerry Dawson and Frank Lanterman.

In 1994, the Pumpkin Show peaked with over 200 giant pumpkins and squash on display.

Glenn Orr (2008) had the world record Connecticut Field pumpkin (154.5#).

The Canfield Fair site record is held by Chuck Ellsworth (1277.5#) set in 2010.

In recent years, the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers have manned the information booth and sold seeds.

Craig Myers is Canfield Fair director in charge of the Pumpkin Show. Bev Fisher is the general manager of the fair. Diane Less (Spotted Horse Studio) paints the pumpkin weights and provides signage.

Many growers got their start at the Canfield Fair. The Ohio Valley Pumpkin Growers roots go back directly to the fair.

Thank you Canfield Fair Pumpkin Shows for more than fifty great years of shows and friendships.

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#### 2014 CANFIELD FAIR (August 27- September 1)

We have looked at the history of the Canfield Fair Pumpkin Show- now let's plan for the future. We need more entries (especially giant pumpkins) to make this one of the best fair pumpkin shows in the country.

The fair board raised the prize money for Grand Champion pumpkin or squash to \$1200. and Reserve Champion to \$700.

Here are a few tips on entering the Canfield Fair. The 2013 premium list can be found on line; [www.canfieldfair.com](http://www.canfieldfair.com) Go to pages 68-72 for the Pumpkin Show information. All classes are open to the world except Class 3 (open only to Mahoning, Columbiana and Trumbull counties in Ohio).

If you want to enter giant pumpkins/squash, they can be entered in Class 4- entry # 38 (Heaviest pumpkin/ squash). 1<sup>st</sup> place is \$200 plus the \$1000 bonus for the overall heaviest (bonuses are found in #15 of the rules).

The other place to enter giant pumpkins/ squash is Class 6- pumpkin / squash by weight. You are guaranteed prize money according to the weight. If you aren't sure what your final weight will be- enter in several categories. You might plant an extra plant or two and allow several fruits to develop for these classes.

The 2014 premium list will be posted at their website in May. You can enter on line also. If you need a printed premium list/ entry form (May), write to: Canfield Fair PO Box 250 Canfield, Ohio 44406. If you exhibited last year, you will receive the premium list this year.

**RULES (please read):**

- All entries must be pre-registered by August 20<sup>th</sup>.
- All entries must be brought to the pumpkin building on Monday, August 25<sup>th</sup> (1-8pm)- except giant pumpkins
- Giant pumpkin entries must be brought on Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> (8am- Noon).
- Refer to #12 for pick up times. The show closes at 10pm on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup> -Labor Day.





We also need more entries in the other categories of pumpkin, squash, gourds, dress-a-pumpkin, 3' x 5' table displays and scarecrows. Class 10 (junior division) is a good way to get the children/ grandchildren involved in gardening and exhibiting at the fair.

Please study the 2013 premium list to see what varieties to grow for exhibition this year. Another building that can use more entries is the Vegetable Exhibit (Dept. H- Farm Products). See pages 64-67 in the premium list.

A good source of pumpkin, squash and gourd varieties is: Rupp Seeds Inc., 17919 Co. Rd. B, Wauseon, Ohio 43567 [www.ruppseeds.com](http://www.ruppseeds.com). They have been a long time sponsor of the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers. Parks Garden Center carries their seeds.



Top (L-R): 2002 Exhibition only- Fred Calai (884# dmg) and Alan Gibson (990# dmg) 1965 Canfield Fair Pumpkin Show Entry List



**PUMPKIN SHOW**  
**CANFIELD FAIR'S**  
**— BIG —**  
**Pumpkin Show**  
 HOMER SCHAEFFER, Director in Charge

**CLASS 41**  
 To qualify for display, the exhibit must be a top quality specimen as to size, variety and conformation. By common definition, pumpkins have hard ribbed stems, squashes have soft succulent stems. However, classification of varieties will be determined by the Judge. No double entries are allowed. No entry fee will be charged.  
 Entries close AUGUST 15th and should be mailed to Director in charge or the Fair Secretary. Entries must be on hand for display by noon WED., SEPT. 1st, and remain until 10 P.M. SEPT. 5th.

**PUMPKINS**

1. Connecticut Field	\$1.00	\$75	\$50
2. Kentucky Field	1.00	75	50
3. New England Pie	1.00	75	50
4. King of Mammoth	1.00	75	50
5. Jack O' Lantern	1.00	75	50
6. Young's Beauty	1.00	75	50
7. Striped Cushaw	1.00	75	50
8. Any Other Variety	1.00	75	50
9. DISPLAY OF THREE VARIETIES	5.00	2.50	1.50
10. HEAVIEST BY WEIGHT	15.00	10.00	5.00

(Plus five additional premiums of \$1.00 each in No. 10)

**SQUASHES**

11. Blue Hubbard	\$1.00	\$75	\$50
12. Golden Hubbard	1.00	75	50
13. Acorn or Table Queen	1.00	75	50
14. Butternut	1.00	75	50
15. Butternut	1.00	75	50
16. Golden Crookneck	1.00	75	50
17. Any Other Variety	1.00	75	50
18. DISPLAY OF THREE VARIETIES	5.00	2.50	1.50
19. HEAVIEST BY WEIGHT	15.00	10.00	5.00

(Plus five additional premiums of \$1.00 each in No. 19)

**Best Lettered "Canfield Fair 1965"**  
 HUBBARD SQUASH — \$5.00 \$4.00 \$3.00 \$2.00 \$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00 \$1.00  
 (To be lettered with needle when squash is small).

**Pumpkins—Squashes—Gourds—or Combination**  
 3 x 5 FT. DISPLAY  
 Space for this exhibit is limited and reservations should be made early. No entries will be accepted after space is filled, or after AUGUST 15th.  
 OPEN TO: 4-H CLUBS ANY OTHER ORGANIZATION  
 BOY SCOUT TROOPS INDIVIDUALS (ADULTS)  
 A PREMIUM OF \$8.00 WILL BE PAID FOR EACH DISPLAY ACCEPTED.  
**GOURDS—Tray Exhibit**  
 NOT LESS THAN 10 VARIETIES.....\$5.00 \$4.00 \$3.00 \$2.00 \$1.00  
 Heaviest Water Melon.....\$8.00 \$4.00 \$2.00



Clockwise: Pumpkin Tower  
 Dale Lanterman (600#)- 1997  
 Homer Schaeffer- Founder of the Pumpkin Show  
 (L-R) Hugh and John Ritz (431#)- 1984  
 Kathy and Ron Moffett (544#)- 1991



Clockwise: Inside Displays  
 1994- 200 giant pumpkins and  
 squash  
 (L-R) Alan and David Gibson  
 (125#)- 1965  
 CJ and Chuck Ellsworth  
 (1277.5#)- 2010  
 Ray Carr- Longtime  
 Pumpkin Show Superintendent



Probably a Prize Winner For the Fair



**LARGEST SQUASH  
 PURCHASED BY:  
 PARKS GARDEN  
 CENTER  
 CANFIELD, OHIO**

# BIG 'MATER'S

World Record is  
7.75 lbs held by  
Gordon Graham  
since 1986.

To see all the Giant Tomato Statistics and Genetics go to: [www.tomato.giantstogrow.com](http://www.tomato.giantstogrow.com)

These Emerald Green fruits, which turn into Ruby Red fused orbs, are definitely a carefully bred sub species of our old faithful tomatoes. And there is an ever increasing following of extreme gardeners dabbling in this competitive sport. Giant Pumpkin growers have the means to bring the weights of these fruits to ever higher levels. Currently Dr Marv Meisner is arguably one of the leaders of this sport, although other growers like Phil Hunt have grown larger Giant Tomatoes. Marv's book is a must have, for anyone interested in giving this sport a try. The book is shown on the next page. **Marv's general guideline of important dates for you to be aware is as follows.**

**April 1st to 15th** Germinate seeds

**June 1st** Transplant the seedlings to the garden

**Prior to June 15th:** Remove all blossoms unless you see an exceptional one. Trim off all suckers. As June 15th nears, allow blossoms to begin to form.

**June 15-30** Permit all blossoms to grow but in each cluster remove the smallest of the blossoms. Keep the large ones closest to the stem. Keep an eye open for a Megabloom (MB).

**After July 1st:** Pinch off all new blossoms if you have some big ones going. Allow several suckers to grow above the tomatoes.

**August 1st:** Prune off the smallest Tomatoes, one at a time per cluster, until you are down to one tomato on the plant. Do not allow the plant to exceed 7-8 ft in height. Terminate all new growth.

**Sept 1st-30th:** Harvest Tomato and weigh it soon. Hint: Usually at the first tint of red, its time to pick the tomato for a weigh-off since they stop adding weight when the color changes.

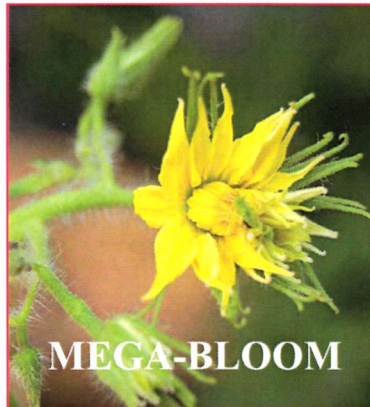
### Mid Season Growing Tips

There are many competitive Giant Tomato growers, who have shared the following information for this article. At this time of the season, your Giant Tomato plants should be about 7-8 ft tall and dead headed to stop all upward growth. The vines should be carefully strapped to a sturdy 8-10 foot tall rod for support at 1-2 ft intervals. You should be pruned down to 1 Tomato per plant. This is the Chosen one!. Hopefully it was from a Mega Bloom (MB). With a ribbon carefully tie up the stem feeding the this last Tomato on your plant to prevent it from cracking the Vine or breaking itself off the main. You should only have one or at most two large stems on your plant. One is the Main and the other is the Secondary stem.

All other side stems (or tertiary's) at each leaf should be culled when they were first seen. Keep trimming off these suckers, since if allowed to grow they will suck much Tomato energy out of the plant. Your largest tomato should be shielded from the sun. A Hay, Straw, Newspaper or Compost mulch should be around the base to prevent water from splashing up on the lowest leaves.. Fertilizer a little with fish and magnesium (Epsom Salts).

Trim off the Lowest (oldest) leaves on the plant You'll know its time to trim them as they show there age and dry out and die. They must be removed since these leaves can predispose the plants to the development of fungal infections. No leaves should be left on the vine that are touching the ground. Apply one last fungicide spray in late August. Cover the plant at the sign of any frost.

Buy a nice appropriately sized Wicker Basket to carry it and you are ready for your trip to the Fair.



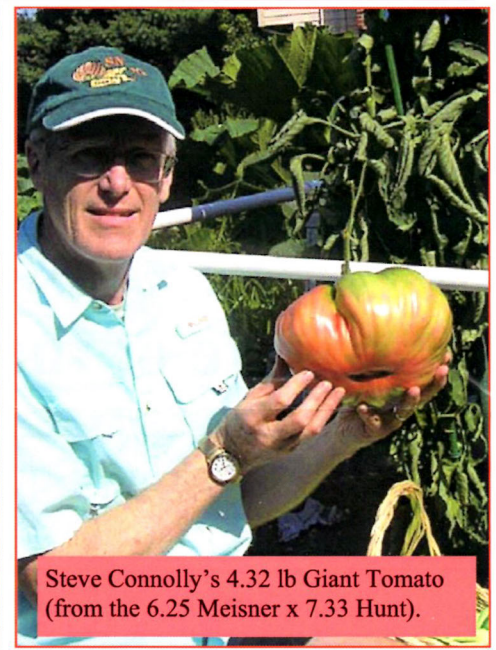
MEGA-BLOOM



Scott Marley's Tomato, from a fused triple Mega Bloom.



Dan Maccoy's Double Fused tomato. Grown from the 5.5 MEGA MARV



Steve Connolly's 4.32 lb Giant Tomato (from the 6.25 Meisner x 7.33 Hunt).

## Tomato Weight Estimation Chart

September 2013, by Marv Meisner with some additions by Russ Landry

CC"	Est Weight	CC"	Est. Weight	CC"	Est. Weight
15	1	23.5	4.73	26.25	6.19
16	1.5	23.75	4.85	26.50	6.37
17	1.75	24	5	26.75	6.56
18	2	24.25	5.12	27	6.75
19	2.5	24.5	5.25	27.25	6.94
20	3	24.75	5.37	27.5	7.17
21	3.5	25	5.5	27.75	7.31
21.5	3.75	25.25	5.63	28	7.5
22	4	25.5	5.75	28.25	7.69
22.5	4.25	25.75	5.87	28.5	7.88
23	4.5	26	6	28.75	8.06

Moving Pumpkins



# Helpful Hints for new Growers

Moving a pumpkin is crucial to relieving stress in the main vine. It must be done! But one thing we have learned is to try and avoid moving the pumpkin in the morning when the vine is as crisp as a piece of celery, Best to do this task in the afternoon. In the warmth of midday, or late afternoon the vine softens and has a much lower tendency to crack.

During rapid growth, **Vine Stress** of the stem can happen! Its very important to dry out the oozing wound, that sometime results. A good idea is to apply a powdery sulfur fungicide on the crack, to prevent mold growth, and use a simple hair dryer to dry it out. The focused airflow of a hair dryer is faster at drying out these areas, than a fan. An hour or so in bright sunlite will help dry out the crack too.

Applying fert's to your garden with a 2-3 gallon hand pump is a tedious and time consuming task. Its time to make the upgrade, and invest \$100 into a simple electric pump which you can attached to a large drum of diluted fertilizers, or compost teas. This will save you many, hours of time refilling, and back strain since you will no longer need to carry around the 2-3 gallon pump tanks.



Healing Vine wounds.



Spraying Fertilizers

# The Beni Meier 2328 dmg Interview

2009Wallace x 2009 Wallace

Hi Beni. Thank you for taking the time to let us call you in Switzerland, and interview you about the huge accomplishment you made. I still am so amazed at the weight of your pumpkin, grown from the 2009x2009 cross. I think I speak for many growers throughout the world when I say **Congratulations!** Thank you, I am so glad I was able to get this pumpkin to the scale. It meant a lot to me. I know we have lots of questions lined up, that many growers sent me, but maybe we could start by learning a little more about you. Well I am 30 years old, married and have two young boys. I work in our family business as a gardener and we grow potting plants and flowers and I tend to our family garden with my dad. So I grow plants all year long. I noticed you are an indoor grower and a lot of potting soil in your patch with vermiculite and perlite in the soil. Yes the soil in our pumpkin patch, is composed mostly of potting soil and a lot of compost. **Where does that compost come from. Does it include Cow, Horse or Chicken Manure.**

No, no manure, I only compost made from our gardening and vegetable by products and Peat moss. **Interesting. Solely using that type of matter is different than anyone I have talked too. I'm sure it reduces the amount of weeds, while provided a good structure to your soil. How long have you been growing.** I grow Giant Pumpkins surely for 10 years. **What is the heaviest for you, before the 2328.** My largest was 1694 pounds, which was the European Record last year. **OK so you have some experience with the very Big ones.** Yea, yes indeed. **And you are Swiss, and you speak German,** Yes in this northern part of Switzerland, the town of ..... most people speak German, and some can speak English as a second language. **Who is a mentor for you, who taught you how to grow.** I am a member of the European Giant Pumpkin Growers Association, where I can get much advise and help from many people, but really have no specific mentor. I have been growing and gardening for many, years and I learn many basic gardening skills in our business. Many people and well known Giant Pumpkin growers have given me advise and shared information which I remember. **So you are an indoor grower.** Yes, all year I grow plants in the

Green houses. I grow three plants in one of our green houses that is 8 meters wide x 30 meters long. And each plant is 10m long by 8m wide, so 80 sq. meters per plant. The growing season is too short here in Switzerland to grow outdoors and compete on a world class level. **Lets now walk through a season with you. You told us about your soil preparation and in April 14th 2013 you started your seeds. Do you plant them directly into the green house.** When I begin I start my seeds in pots with potting soil and some mycorrhizae and a heated 90F environment which is a good growing condition to help the seeds germinate. Then two weeks after they sprout, I move them out of my incubator, to my large heated green house, which provides my plants with protection from the cold and wind of April and early May. In the beginning of the season I water with overhead sprinklers and by hand with warm



water from the huge plastic containers that we store the water in. **I understand that solar effects can warm the plant, but how do you cool the greenhouse.** We can roll up the sides and put large fans on the ends to cool it and help with air circulation. **Now the plant is allowed to grow. Do you prefer any specific pattern.** Yes we like to use the standard Christmas tree pattern, with only a primary vine and secondary vines. We let these secondary vines grow out 3.5 meters then I cut them. No tertiary vines. We initially cover all the vines at each leaf node to encourage the top tap root to grow. Then about 3 weeks later I uncover all the vines using my water hose to blow the dirt off, so the vine does not rot underground. But I really do not know if covering the vines helps a lot. When the plant is about 10 meters long I lay out my drip irrigation system. **Do you have any issues with foamers at the main stem.** Yes I know of this problem. But I have not had any problem with foamers for 4 years. I really don't know what causes them, but we do not use any types of cow/horse or chicken manure. And we carefully manage our water applications. We water our plants with fertilizer and fungicides mixed into solution two times each day



for 15 minutes each time. So for 30 minutes every day the plants are watered. The plants are totally dependent on me for water, since they are in the greenhouse and protected against the rain. **What environmental conditions did you have control over and how did you control them.** The weather in this part of Europe changes really quick. It was unusually cold and cloudy through May and June. Then finally in July it started to get very hot. Inside the greenhouse the temperature was very constant. The solar energy kept it warm in the Spring. And when it gets really hot in July up to 35C (95F) outside. I roll up the sides and turn on fans to circulate the air and regulate the temperatures. I also turn on my overhead sprinklers to cool the plants when it gets too hot in July and early August. **Is your set up automatic?**



# Pumpkin Seeds.....a Precious Cargo

By: Matt Debacco, Ron Wallace and Steve Connolly

Every grower wants the most power seeds they can find. And “proven seeds” are the most sought after. There are many of these 1-5 year old seeds that have produced huge pumpkins, due in part to the genetic bundle inside them. They are programmed to grow, and given the right conditions, they will produce an amazing fruit. Of course we encourage you to try and get one of these seeds, maybe at an auction, maybe by making direct contact with a grower via a trade or a buy. It will improve your odds of growing the Big One.. But if you can’t.... Don’t worry. There are so many growers cross pollinating seeds with excellent genetics nowadays, that good seeds abound. And remember that sometimes the newer seeds, actually have more power in them than the older ones because of the efforts of growers like you. Each new generation of seeds contains an enhanced genetic cross or makeup of the prior generation, and as a result, could possibly produce a bigger Atlantic Dill Giant Pumpkin, as we inch toward ever higher weights.



Like everything else in this world, we all reach our prime for a while and Giant Pumpkin Seeds are no exception. Here on the East Coast, one of the newer seeds at the top of the heap is the **WR 2009 Wallace**. It was grown last year by Ron Wallace. To a seemingly unbeatable weight, for years to come. BUT...One year later its beaten by its own progeny (a pumpkin weighing 2328 lbs and another weighing 2032 lbs). Overall it produced the top 3 pumpkins in the world. The 3rd place finisher was Gary Miller, with a 1985 pounder. The 2009 Wallace was also cloned over the winter of 2012-2013 to produce the 220Debacco. Seeds from Matt’s pumpkin resulted in the 1744.5 by Paul Fulk and the 1734.5 grown by Scott Stiel. These two are #13 and 14 in the world this year. As a result a new “proven seed” officially called 2009Wallace13 emerged onto the scene. **Imagine how sought after this seed will be this winter!**



Genetics do Rule, but if you can’t get the real thing. Get the Genetic match. You can get those seeds for a bargain. Most Growers are drying out the next batch of new seeds till early or mid December. And if they had a good crop of 400-600 seeds, that can work to your advantage. So while they’re drying their seeds, do some research from now until January. Maybe use a site like Big Pumpkins.com, or your local Newsletter. Your seed selection decision can be based on lineages, and past performances of the pumpkin, Percent weight over chart, lack of Dill Rings, Rind thickness, Shape, Color, etc. Then make your move! Most growers want to get about 80% of their new seeds out there right away, and for you, the buyer, usually all it takes is an offer to cover all their expense with a pre paid postage bubble pack, and your in business. Of course the heavier the weight (lets say over 1600 pounds), the more the grower might want for his/her prize seeds. There really is no need to hoard too many seeds, either. Most of us go with the Heir and the Spare mentality when trying to cover our seed needs, If I plan to grow five plants, I make sure I have 10 chosen seeds growing in the pots. That way if you have any trouble in the Spring you have a backup ready to go.

1. Remove seeds from pumpkin. Preferably always handle seed with gloved hands
2. Put into a bucket or colander (a strainer)
3. Rinse well with cold water for 2 minutes and gently tumble the pile, while rinsing.
4. Place seeds on an old window screen, and spread out evenly over entire area (there should be no seeds on top of seeds)
5. Spray with a heavy mist of 10% bleach
6. Mix seeds up into a pile (wear disposable gloves) and spread out again over screen
7. Apply one last heavy mist of 10% bleach
8. Place screen full of seeds in a place with a consistent and slightly cool environment
9. Place a fan, on low, to blow on the seeds and leave fan on all the time for one week.
10. Allow seeds to dry for at least 2 + more weeks or until the clear coating is easily able to be removed. (Note: if seeds came from a rotting pumpkin they will not have this clear coat.)

Now lets talk about harvesting. Seed harvesting is always a tense moment. Its almost like breaking open a Giant Fortune Cookie, to see what’s in store for your future. Finding out if you got 10 or 600 seeds is something growers can’t wait to know. A lot of seeds means you have a good bounty for your clubs seed auction and/or most importantly, for yourself and other growers. Harvesting the seeds out of your pumpkin is one of the easiest, albeit messiest part of our sport. But drying them out properly is a must. And you’ve only got one shot, so you must do this right. Otherwise you could end up with a pile of black moldy seeds, that no one wants and quite possibly won’t grow next year. **Ron Wallace, Matt Debacco and I talked about this chore, and came up with the following.** If it was a sound undamaged pumpkin, then the seeds are most likely sterile when it was opened. Do what you can to keep them that way while the drying process takes place. Before you start, note that many growers put on disposable gloves, to prevent any bacteria from getting on the fresh seeds. . If you let them sit outdoors you run the risk of attack from Squirrels, chipmunks or mice etc. Every couple days move and gently shuffle the seeds. Do not let them touch each other. **Black spot mold** can develop on seeds touching each other. After this first week, the seeds may seem dry to the touch, but they’re not fully dry, and **definitely not ready to ship** in a closed container or bubble-pack. You need to let them sit in a well ventilated area for another three weeks. After this month of drying they will be ready for storage or shipment. Good luck with your seeds next year!

Gene Lariviere and Matt Debacco harvesting seeds.



## 6.88 LB GIANT TOMATO BY FABRICE BOUDYO IN FRANCE 2013 GPC AND WORLD CHAMPION.



Hi I'm Fabrice Boudyo. Here in Carsac De Gurson France, I had an awesome season with 3 Maters over the magic 6lb barrier! My best official ones weighed in at 6.83 lbs, 6.57 lbs and 6.01 lbs. I work very hard to prepare my soil. Last fall, I started to work on my patch, I brought in some cow manure, blood meal and horn meal. I also added some fresh PH 7 topsoil because our fields have a natural Ph over 8, which is very good for the vine but bad for the tomatoes. I germinated end of April with 24 plants ( 5,58 Timm, 5 Tim , Super Marvin, 5,07 Boudyo and 5,03 Boudyo).

At planting, I bury and lay down tomato plants to have more root, So the vine grows on the ground, like a main vine of a pumpkin plant. This is very important and I did it for 8 of my important plants. The tomatoes were set at about 4.5 to 5.5 feet out on the main vine. And they were set on a tissue, (no straw was used). At the end of the season each tomato stem is about 9 Feet.

The weather has been poor , cold temperatures, rain, hail, wind... 2 of August was an amazing day of ups and downs for me, for 2 reasons : my daughter was born on that day, but then a huge hail storm destroyed 90% of my vineyards and all my pumpkins. Fortunately, my Tomato Plants were okay under my greenhouse. I grow my Maters indoors all year. So I decided to concentrate my effort on the tomatoes.

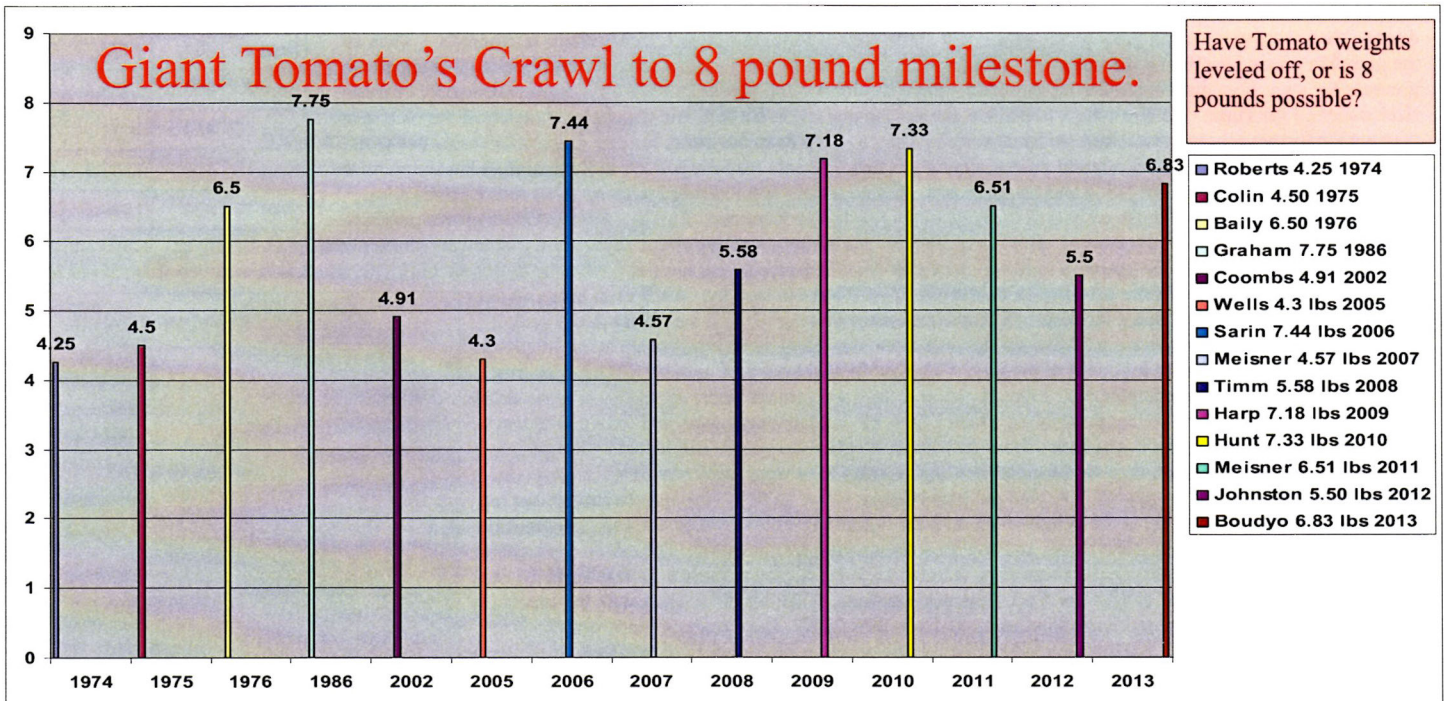
The remainder of my season was devoted to weeding and watering my 24 Mator plants. I fertilized all my plants with Seaweed from Holland's at [www.Hollandsgiants.com](http://www.Hollandsgiants.com), and Extreme Blend from Tom Privitera at [www.Extremepumpkinstore.com](http://www.Extremepumpkinstore.com). I do not use any pesticides only Bouillie Bordelaise fungicide.



The cold weather was probably the reason why my tomatoes kept on growing for a long time before maturing. No world record but I am still extremely proud and glad to produce the top 3 biggest tomatoes of the 2013 season in the world.

For 2014, I plan to grow about 70 plants, my target is to hit 7 lber.

I think a tomato 8 lbs will be produced very soon. We have some farmers who have a good experience, All they need is to simply have a good seed and good weather.





**1985 POUNDS! Grown by Gary Miller**  
**2009Wallace x 1725 Harp**



Gary, thanks for spending some time with us to talk Pumpkin. What's life been like after growing a 1985 pounder. Its been a wild ride. I've probably talked to more reporters this year than I've ever talked to in my entire life. I've really enjoyed my 15 minutes of fame. I hear you. We are in awe of your accomplishment and must say CONGRATULATIONS! And one pumpkin grower to another, I have to say you and your fellow growers like Leonardo, Pete and Cindi and Tim and others in Napa California had an amazing year. The growers on the East coast and probably around the world are really curious what you did differently. Maybe we could start by learning a little about you. I'm originally from Ohio, I'm a landscape designer, and I moved out here to the Napa Valley, with my family, for the temperate climate, in the mid 90's. My plan was not to grow grapes, but to grow Roses. Initially, I had 400 Rose plants growing on one acre of land. Then 15 years ago I was hired by the Mendoza Company, to grow some Atlantic Giants. I grew my first pumpkin that year at 500 lbs., and I was hooked. Then I used my landscaping experience to start building up my soil structures. I even traveled to Oregon and Washington State to listen to other professional agriculturist and Giant Pumpkin growers to enhance my growing skills. Over the years I've hired Semi's to hauled in about 10,000 yards of soil and compost, which has risen my 1 acre pumpkin patch, 18-24 inches higher than the neighbors land.

This year I grew 32 Atlantic Giant plants. Some years I've grown up to 42 plants and harvested up to 17,500 seeds. You are producing these on a very large scale, similar to the quantity that Tom Beachy used to grow. Are you usually growing for size or quantity. For size and weight. Usually I'll get 15 or so pumpkins per year over 1000 pounds each. Eventually I did start growing grapes on another acre of land. From which I've produced some pretty good Wine.

I know you've grown some excellent "proven seeds" like the 1409Miller, that Joe Juras and many other grower like, but lets key into what it took to produce your 1985 pounder. Well if we go back to last Fall, I did not add any compost to my patch. You have to realize that my soil has great tilth to it because I've built it up for so many years. I can take a 3 ft. bamboo stake and push it down all the way through loose loam. I really like the leaf and veggie compost. And I'll never purposely bring in any loads of manure. Haven't used it for 5 years. I used to be a dairy farmer so I worry about what's in it. This type of amendment throws my soil out of balance because there is no way of knowing exactly what's in it, like weed seeds, salt based products, which can mess up my pH. Bacteria and disease comes with it too, if you don't age it properly. Last Fall I did bring in about 100-150 yards of leaf compost and turned it a few times with my tractor to let it break down. Then I applied 5-10 yards to each planting location as a Spring amendment.

Sounds like you have biological control of a very loose soil, and do you plant in the same place every year? I constantly move the planting locations every year, to help the 32 plants find rested soil. The stumps of my plants rows, which this year were planted back to back, are all 10 ft. away from each other. I let the first row of secondary's produce tertiary's which I grow 5 ft. back. And I grow each of my plants using 30ft x 30 ft. area's equaling about 900 sq. ft. I grow a standard XMAS tree pattern. I let the main grow beyond the pumpkin with a few secondary's, and I'll even let tertiary's grow off those late season secondary's for new plant vigor that seems to help the plant stay viable and the pumpkin growing right up to the weigh-off. My 1985 was putting on 20lb/day when I picked it for the Half Moon Bay weigh-off. Those vines are still growing even now, in mid November. Our climate lets the plants keep growing, but of course I'll pull them out now, and till the soil.

What are you adding to the soil in the spring to get the patch ready. First I'll get my soil tests done by A&L Labs in Fresno. Don Young uses them too, we find them to be pretty consistent. And I add the amendments shown in the chart. I think growers should have a person to consults with. In addition the Napa Growers, mine is Neil Anderson He is a great guy. He helps me with many soil decisions, I also planted two cover crops, of a Vineyard mix made of rye and other seeds. One cover crop in November which I plowed down with my Breakback Plow and 38HP Tractor. And another Spring Cover Crop with Pumpkin Pro amended in, was tilled under after a few weeks, with my Furrow Mower. **I am essentially multiplying and quadrupling my own crop of mycorrhizae hyphae.**

How and when do you start planting. First on April 22nd, I soak my seeds in a bubbling water bath for 4 hours, which is diluted with a pinch of Kelp. Also I never file my seeds, with almost a 100% germination rate, Filing is dangerous. **Then I incubate and grow about 100 seeds** in small pots of soil at about 85F indoors. I am very conscious about keeping the seed/gene pool clean. So I never use seeds that came from a pumpkin with a Ribbon Vine. Growers need to throw those seeds out, just like we always throw out seeds from pumpkins with split stems. **Everyone should do their part to keep the Gene pool optimum!**

**Quite simply, you need to use seeds from superior parents. I agree. It's a shame that the AGGC isn't a live site anymore. That was an excellent way to determine history of the parents, before you selected a new seed.** Exactly I did the same when I selected the seeds to grow my 1409 Miller, which I pollinated with the 1658. There is some great lineage in that seed. And it was the pollinator for the 1789 and the 2009Wallace. Plus Pete Glasier grew his 1602 out of it. Now its own protégé the 2009 is probably more powerful that the 1409. That's perfect. Every generation should do better. **Lets try to get back on track here how soon do you transplant your seedlings.** I transfer my seeds to the ground as soon as possible. This planting area also has some Bio works RootShield mixed in for root protection. I used 40 pounds of RootShield this year for my 32 plants and I only apply it once, within 10 ft. of the stump. After the first true leave appears, usually within 2-3 days. **After 4-5 days the roots are swirling in the pots, those plants are thrown out.** Swirling tap roots are all bound up in a circle and can stunt my early plant growth. I train the plants to grow opposite the 1st true leaf, and I use thousands of bamboo sticks for my 32 plants to prop and train the vines. It's a pain to turn them once they are leaning the wrong way. **When did you pollinate the 1985.** It was pollinated on June 23rd about 10 ft out. **Why only 10 ft.** Well I always pollinate the 1st good flower even at 10 ft. And if it's a good one you keep it so why not keep it. Sometimes I used to pollinate a 2nd one, and after I culled the 1st one the 2nd one just dribbled along and never grew fast. It's kinda like the plant just got mixed signals and never gave the 2nd pumpkin that initial shot of energy and shut down. Hey it worked for the Harps 1725. Might not have been their initial intentions but they pollinated it at 9ft. **What type of watering do you use.** My pump puts out 32 gal/minute. I use plenty of water, 7 days a week, with a pretty elaborate 5 station automated sprinkling/misting/cooling system overhead. **The sprinklers dance around the patch all day long. Its pretty cool, no pun intended** On a day when its 100 F, it is about 80F under my sprinkling system. I can work on the plants without overheating them, or me. And in this heat with my daily sprinkling, my 1985 steadily grew in the mid 30s for a couple months. And it was growing about 10lbs/day when I picked it. **Any Bug problems out there.** Yes. I use only some Merit for my cucumber beetles and aphids and midget flies. I don't like using pesticides. We got some powdery mildew out here in Napa Valley for the first time in years. But I don't use any fungicides. My plant barely even reacted to the powdery the leaves stayed nice and green. Probably cause of the natural vigor of my plants with the Mykos for enhanced roots we got warmer weather. Any formal organization out in Napa. No but we have a tight group out here though. Leonardo Urena, Tim Mathison, Pete and Cindi Glasier, my self and other new growers, just share a lot of seeds and growing info and prize money to the weigh-off sites. We had a great time this year. I never smiled for photos so many times than I did at Half Moon Bay. Then we flew to the great GPC event with Tim Mathison and his wife to the NYBG and New York city. We had a great time Dave Stelts fed us well. An we enjoyed meeting Dawn and Bill Northrup. They're great people. **Thank you Gary for sharing so much information and best of luck next year.** Thanks, I really enjoyed the interview.

My amendments per plant
5 Yards of Leaf Compost
10 lbs of Humic Acid
3-4 lbs Fish
Liquid Kelp
10lbs RTI Pumpkin Pro
1.25 lbs RootShield
Feather Meal for Nitrogen

# Tim Mathison Grows a WR2032!

2009 Wallace x 1554 Mathison

Wow Tim we are in awe of you. You are number 1 in the world. It must be a heck of a feeling to win it all. How did you do it. Oh yea we are still on cloud nine. I look at the GPC Giant Pumpkin results every few days, on Bigpumpkins.com and I'm so amazed to see my name there. We had just perfect weather out here, and my soil was just right, plus my feeding schedule helped. I learned a lot from all the Napa growers, and from some reading on Ronnie and Paps methods. The Napa Growers are very helpful. Leonardo Urena, spent a lot of time to get me to where I am today. Of course having a 2009Wallace seed, was a huge factor. I have to thank Pap for sending 2 of the 2009 seeds last year. What a great new seed. It is going to change things. All these things plus a few others, contributed to the 3 big pumpkins in my patch. It was really fun for me, because I don't know if you realize it, but I'm kind of a new grower and I didn't know there was the New York trip for the overall winners. I was just hoping to win a coat this year, like the cool ones Gary Miller, Pete/Cindi Glasier, and Leonardo Urena have. So the New York trip must have been a nice addition to everything you were expecting. Oh yea that was pretty cool. My wife really enjoyed that, and of course I did too. I've never been back East. Thanks to Dave and the GPC for making it possible. Before we learn some of your growing techniques. Is it just you 4 or 5 growers out in NAPA, and could we learn a little more a out you. Sure. I'm a Farmer, married, have one daughter, and I've been growing for six years now. My previous largest was a 1554 in 2011. We are always trying to encourage new growers in the NAPA Valley. And I think we got a few more this year. That's great for us, because the friendly competition is a good thing. In the summer it gets kind of quiet. One of the new growers was wondering why no one was returning his calls in July. I said its just the norm in this business. In the beginning and near the end of the growing season everyone talks a lot and then again and at the weigh-offs. But midseason it gets pretty quiet. Growers are very busy dealing with a lot of ups and downs in their patch, and much of it just doesn't get advertised. But overall we do our best to help everyone out, kind of like the BP.com chat line. And if we get into my season; Last Falls preparation, started with a cover crop which consists of a Three Bean Mix and Rye Grass, that the vineyards use, which I covered with a local town compost made of leaf, brush and lawn trimmings. Then I let it grow all winter. Also, 2 years ago my entire patch was mixed with mycorrhizae, which the cover crop rooted into. Seems like a big change is going on. Growers seem to be shifting away from the manure amendments, which can contain pathogens, and weed seeds, etc.

If I put us into the Spring now, could you share how it goes. In the Spring (April) I turn under my cover crop with my Rotovator. I tilled the entire patch a couple times. I grow 4 plants back to back about 6 ft away from each other, and I dig a pretty big 3ft deep x 6 ft dia planting hole for each one, then back fill it with soil mixed with the RTI Mycorrhizae, Bioworks RootShield, oyster shell and compost. I build this area up 2 ft., to create a planting mound.

Whats the spring weather like. Its quite cold here in NAPA in mid April. So I set out two (10ft x 20ft) green houses for the 4 plants and put some Space heaters inside, which really kept them warm at night. I opened them up every morning though. My plants were started, as shown on the Growth Chart, and filled up the greenhouses in about 3 weeks. Then I removed the Greenhouses. The 1894 and 1874 were grown in a new patch., with the same amendments. The 2032 was in my 6 year old patch. What's your plant design like. I train the main and secondary's to run with bamboo sticks. I really let my secondary's run out though. My first few were 16-19 ft My 5th - 9th set of secondary's were about 30-40 ft. long and were swooped forward in a Spider Vine pattern. I went through a lot of mycorrhizae. About 1 table spoon under each leaf node. These plants were still putting on about 11 lb/day in mid October. I think those long secondary's were still pushing the fruit growing on the 2009 Wallace seed, along. I did struggle with one of my 4 plants, but quickly pulled it out. This probably saved me 1 hour per day of work in the long run. How about watering, fertilizing and pollination. I overhead water with Micro-Meter misters. And on hot days (when its 85-100F) they are programmed to turn on every ten minutes for 2 minute intervals 7 days per week, to prevent any burning. As you can see on the chart I, got a good pollination date. No amendments +/- 10 days of pollination time. More fertilizing is not better at this time of the season. I just watered during these weeks. I crossed it with my 1554 on the dates shown in the chart, and it was a 5 Lober. When the heats on at this time of the summer, those pumpkins really grew. I don't cover them with sheets I build a hoop and covered the hoop house with a Blue Tarp. The 2032 and my 1894 and 1874, all maxed out at 51-53 lbs per day in mid August. Then a couple weeks after pollination the feeding restarted and I watered and fed them as shown on the chart for 15-30 minutes every morning and evening 7 days per week. I spent 1-2 hours every morning and evening in the patch. Because we don't use manure the weed count was quite low. How about pesticides. We are very careful of pesticide use here in California for the Bee's. A little 3 in 1) but primarily I use home made Garlic juice Sprays as a natural way of dealing with the Green Spotting Beetles and Mites. But there are no SVB's here. Its not a contact spray, so I need to keep applying it. Amazingly the stump on the 2009 rotted out mid season, even though I kept it dry with a little tent shaped cover., It wasn't a foamer, It just rotted out. So all the feeding was done by the long secondary's and what was left of the main.

The 2032 had a bit of a dip in it. Did that worry you. Oh yea, Each morning I expected it to split. It developed early and it kept getting worse. Not a Dill Ring, it went the otherway, but it never blew up. I did a nice job minimizing stem stress because repositioned the fruit several day's. So no stress. It was set on a Mill Fabric which helped slide as it grew too.. These pumpkins never stopped growing with my program, right up to the Weigh-offs. They were so big. I kept worrying right up till they hit the scales. Would they go heavy or light. My 1894 cracking in transit to Half Moon Bay, where I came in 2nd but it didn't go through so it was not disqualified And winning at Oseaga was an amazing thrill. But we need a break, so after we go to Florida, I'll take next year off, and recharge, and answer all my mail this winter. Sounds like a well deserved break. Thank you for this interview. You're welcome and good luck next year.

The 2032 Growth Chart

Date	Total Inches	Weight lbs	Lb/day
8/4	303"	620	
8/11	338"	850	32.85
8/18	382"	1211	51.57
8/25	403"	1413	28.85
9/1	416.5"	1554	20.14
9/8	430.5"	1710	22.28
9/15	442"	1845	19.28
9/22	455"	2007	23.14
9/29	462.5"	2103	13.71
10/6	469.5"	2200	13.86
10/11	475"	2277	11.00
April 17th: started seeds indoors			
April 27th: transplanted outside			
Pollination Date June 28th			
Set on Main Vine 14 ft out			

Amendments/Biologicals per plant
10 lbs Granular Kelp (weekly spray)
Bountiful Harvest Calcium
Powdered Calcarb sprayed every 2 weeks
Neptunes Harvest Fish weekly spray
Pumpkin Pro Mycorrhizae (each leaf node)
BioWorks RootShield (each leaf node)
Concentrated Seaweed spray
Crushed Garlic pesticide (weekly spray)
Companion: every two weeks
Bayer: 3 in 1 Insect and Mite Control

