



15. 1512.0 Daletas 12 (1303.0 Sweet 10 x 1495.0 Stelts 10)  
pollinator grew the 1799.5 Daletas 12 ave=1655.75
16. 1778.5 Daletas 12 (1596.0 Werner 10 x 991.0 Urena 05)  
pollinator grew the 1531.5 Daletas 12 ave=1655.0
17. 1810.5 Stevens 10 (1161.0 Rodonis 07 x 1421.5 Stelts 09)  
pollinator grew the 1468.5 Stevens 10 ave=1639.5  
(note: very very low seed count)
18. 1468.5 Stevens 10 (1421.5 Stelts 09 x 1161.0 Rodonis 07)  
pollinator grew the 1810.5 Stevens 10 ave=1639.5
19. 1560.0 Urena 11 (1303.0 Sweet 09 x 991.0 Urena 05)  
pollinator grew the 1704.0 Urena 11 ave=1632.0
20. 1596.0 Werner 10 (1462.5 Starr 09 x 1421.5 Stelts 09)  
pollinator grew the 1634.0 Werner 10 ave=1615.0
21. 1613.0 Adams 11 (1725.0 Sweet 10 x self)  
Self pollination (1613.5)
22. 1531.5 Daletas 12 (991.0 Urena 05 x 1381.0 Checkon 10)  
pollinator grew the 1676.5 Daletas 12 ave=1604.0
23. 1610.0 Starr 11 (1725.0 Harp 09 x 1596.0 Werner 10)  
pollinator grew the 1580.5 Starr 11 ave=1595.25
24. 1580.5 Starr 11 (1596.0 Werner 10 x 1725.0 Harp 09)  
pollinator grew the 1610.0 Starr 11 ave=1595.25
25. 1693.0 Bordsen 11 (1303.0 Sweet 09 x 1622.0 Liggett 10)  
pollinator grew the 1494.0 Bordsen 11 ave=1593.5
26. 1494.0 Bordsen 11 (1622.0 Liggett 10 x 1303.0 Sweet 09)  
pollinator grew the 1693.0 Bordsen 11 ave=1593.5
27. 1872.0 Wallace 12 (1789.0 Wallace est.dmg 11 x 1807.0 Stelts 11)  
pollinator grew the 1300 est. Wallace 12 ave=1586.0
28. 1807.5 Stelts 11 (1495.0 Stelts 10 x 1274.0 Stelts 10)  
pollinator grew the 1351.0 Stelts 11 ave=1579.25
29. 1497.5 Ford 12 (1381.0 Checkon 10 x 1789.0 Wallace 11 est dmg)  
pollinator grew the 1655.0 Ford/Given 12 ave=1576.25
30. 1661.0 Jutras 11 (1725.0 Sweet 10 x 1520.0 Sperry 10)  
pollinator grew the 1466.0 Jutras 11 ave=1563.5

31. 1466.0 Jutras 11 (1520.0 Sperry 10 x 1725.0 Sweet 10)  
pollinator grew the 1661.0 Jutras 11 ave=1563.5
32. 1544.5 Revier 09 (1385.5 Jutras 07 x 1161.0 Rodonis 07)  
pollinator grew the 1579.0 Revier 09 ave=1561.75
33. 1557.0 Hilstolsky 09 (1272.5 Hilstolsky 07 x self)  
Self pollination (1557.0)
34. 2009.0 Wallace 12 (1725.0 Harp 09 x 1409.5 Miller 10)  
pollinator grew the 1104.0 est Wallace 12 ave=1556.5
35. 1402.0 Urena 11 (1725.0 Harp 09 x 991.0 Urena 05)  
pollinator grew the 1704.0 Urean 11 ave=1553.0
36. 1634.0 Werner 10 (1421.5 Stelts 09 x 1236.0 Harp 09)  
pollinator grew the 1461.0 Werner 10 ave=1547.5
37. 1421.0 Stelts 09 (1385.5 Jutras 07 x 904.0 Stelts 06)  
pollinator grew the 1662.5 Stelts 09 ave=1541.75
38. 1630.0 Revier 11 (1605.0 Sweet 10 x 1810.5 Stevens 10)  
pollinator grew the 1451.5 Revier 11 ave=1540.75
39. 1385.5 Jutras 07 (1068.0 Wallace 03 x 998.6 Pukos 05)  
pollinator grew the 1689.0 Jutras 07 ave=1537.0
40. 1487.0 Starr 11 (1385.5 Jutras 07 x 1596.0 Werner 10)  
pollinator grew the 1580.5 Starr 11 ave=1533.75
41. 1381.0 Delaney 12 (1404.4 Bryson 10 x 1495.0 Stelts 10)  
Pollinator grew the 1684.5 Delaney 12 ave=1532.5
42. 1461.0 Werner 10 (1236.0 Harp 09 x 1462.5 Starr 09)  
pollinator grew the 1596.0 Werner 10 ave=1528.5
43. 1593.0 Whitter 11 (1520.0 Sperry 10 x 1421.4 Checkon 10)  
pollinator grew the 1457.0 Whitter 11 ave=1525.0
44. 1457.0 Whitter 11 (1421.4 Checkon 10 x 1520.0 Sperry 10)  
pollinator grew the 1593.0 Whitter 11 ave=1525.0
45. 1674.5 Connolly 10 (1725.0 Harp 09 x 1596.0 Wallace 09)  
pollinator grew the 1370.0 Connolly 10 ave=1522.25
46. 1370.0 Connolly 10 (1596.0 Wallace 09 x 1725.0 Harp 09)  
pollinator grew the 1674.5 Connolly 10 ave=1522.25
47. 1316.0 Harp 09 (985.0 Werner 06 x 1385.5 Jutras 07)  
pollinator grew the 1725.0 Harp 09 ave=1520.5

48. 1475.0 Revier 09 dmg (1207.0 Young 07 x 1385.5 Jutras 07)  
pollinator grew the 1544.5 Revier 09 ave=1509.75
49. 1460.0 Rose 10 (1207.0 Young 07 x 1161.0 Rodonis 07)  
pollinator grew the 1554.0 Rose 10 ave=1507.0
50. 1592.0 Platte 10 (1566.0 Rodonis 07 x 1303.0 Sweet 09)  
pollinator grew the 1420.0 Platte ave=1506.0
51. 1799.5 Daletas 12 dmg (1495.0 Stelts 10 x 1409.5 Miller 10)  
pollinator grew the 1221.0 Daletas 12 dmg ave=1505.25
52. 1425.0 Revier 09 (985.0 Werner 06 x 1161.0 Rodonis 07)  
pollinator grew the 1579.0 Revier 09 ave=1502.0

(note: should anyone know of a seed that should be on this list or if there is a needed correction please email it to [Bazkitball@aol.com](mailto:Bazkitball@aol.com) . Please put "MotherFatherData" in the subject line, so if corrections or additions are needed they can be made. Thank you.)



# How DAVE STELTZ GREW THE 1807.5

Dave Stelz has been at the helm of the GPC for 7 years now. And I know during this interview, that even with his many World Wide responsibilities for the Pumpkin Commonwealth, he is if first and foremost a very approachable grower. He has an incredible inner drive that has already resulted in one world record, (1140 Stelz00), the 1662Stelz, the 1421Stelz and almost another WR this year.

**Well Dave, you and Carol certainly had quite a good year. You came in #2 this year with an 1807.5.** Yes, and there is some great competition here in PA which makes we want to do better. Like Gerry and Larry Checkon, Quinn Werner, the Hilstosky's and many others, that have pushed up the PA top 10 average to 1619.5 lbs. That's #1 in the world. Did you know that Quinn Werner lost his #1, 2, and 3 pumpkin this year, and his # 4, 5, and 6 pumpkins were all over 1520 lbs. A very consistent grower.. He's going to Knock one out of the Park some day. Could you tell us about your Fall Prep. I always bring in several loads of aged (semi broken down) Manure from a local Cattle Farmer, and till it in during the Fall. I don't grow winter cover crops though. Looks like you are growing on a beautiful Hill overlooking a valley. Absolutely, very nice overlooking the Lake. I've been growing in this same patch for 8 years. I actually had a bigger one than my 1807 It was growing off a 1556 Werner seed. It was 420 inches on Aug 1st and was very close to Ronny's huge 1725x1810 cross, that he lost.

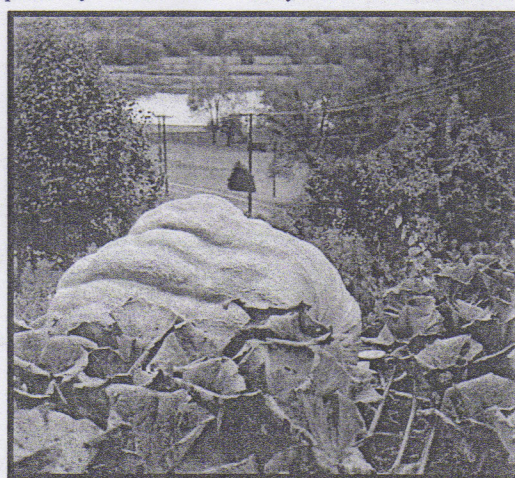
**How many do you Grow and what are your usual Spring amendments?** I grow 7, and I like to amend the soil in the spring, with ferts like Kelp, Greensmiths Humic Acid and Gypsum and sometimes I grow some Alfalfa Sprout, then till it in. I use primarily Natural stuff. The synthetic fert's can cause me to build up salts in the soil which will torch or burn the roots. I learned that lesson 8 years ago, while growing on my Dads land. Also in the Spring I subsoil till to about 2 ft before I fill and amend the soil I do this in a Criss Cross pattern. I am a tiller. Always will be You gotta till in my book to aerate the soil and help kill anaerobic pathogens.

**What seeds did you use this year?** I grew my 1421, 1495, 1662 and 1274, plus the 1605Sweet and 1468Stevens. I really like the 1807 cross. (1605x1274). The 1274 pollinator (which was a 1678Hunt x 1662Stelz cross) also grew the 1351Stelz which was 20% heavy. The 1807 taped 443 inches and technically weighed to chart.

Disease/Fungicide/Biologics programs. Companion and Rapsody are my preferred Biologics. My fungicides include Ensign, Granular Cleary's, wettable Actinovate and sometimes I drench with Aliette or Heritage. I also use Zeritol for disease, wounds and Leakers.

**Any special goals?** Yes I really want to hold my top 3 and maybe get the Grower of the Year award. That's my Holy Grail!

**What are your Watering Methods?** I use Drin irrigation. Really like it



because I can keep the leaves dry and disease free. We do overhead watering rarely, if drench feeding my compost tea and Agrifos, or misting fungicides like Aliette or Quadris. I drip twice per day in the summer, with my 6 zone automated timers.

**Anyone helping you out there?** Carol is a great help all year.

Whether its spreading compost, burying vines or spraying for bugs...she's there every step of the way. She's been reading labels to help with mixing fertilizers and fungicides. She's another set of eyes and picks up things I miss. She can detect flaws in the fruits early so we know which ones to cull. And she checks stumps for foamers and will treat them with Zeritol after draining them.

**What type of Vine Pattern do you prefer?** I fill out each 25 by 30 ft area

with the vines using a X-Mas Tree pattern on the first few vines and a Spider pattern up to the Pumpkins, kind of swooping the side vines forward. I let the main vine grow but there are no secondary vines after the pumpkin. I set the 1807 (17) feet out on the Main Vine.

**How much time in the Patch in June -August maintaining 7 Pumpkin plants?** I spend approximately 40 hours per week out there. I'm in the patch for 3-4 hours every day, plus a lot more on the weekends. And I work it to the end. A lot of growers back off after the patch is full, but I believe the real work starts after the vines are

terminated. We need to keep the weeds down August-October and keep the spray programs going, and apply fungicide to prevent disease.

What is your % Organic content in the soil? Ours is 8% per Western Labs and 14% per A&L Labs.

**Did you get any Foamers?** We only had one leaker, and two losses to Fusarium, that is chewing me up. I need to get this out of my soil. Carol caught the Leaker before it became a foamer and started festering. I filleted it open, with a 3 inch long slit from the base of the Crown, just below ground level to 3 " up, and drained it of water. Then I sprayed in some Zeritol, 1 or 2 times per day, for 3 days and let the sun or a fan dry it out. Then I covered the crown to keep it dry. A few days later it was all healed up.

**Any special Fruit Protection.** I used to build shade structures, but they seemed to cause more powdery mildew on the leaves and it gets real hard to work around the pumpkin with these tents. Now I always put a large white bath towel over them and a sheet over the towel But I never cover the stem or blossom area. I do this to keep the skin on the pumpkins as young as possible.

And yes the towels may get wet but they dry out the next day. In mid September I take the towels off. They're just not needed any more.

**Million Dollar question ...Any 2012 preferred seed selection or Predictions.? Do you dare go there.** Yeah I think my 1421 and 1495 are still very genetically strong in the 2012 seed pool. On my short list I like the 1787Est. Wallace. It's a 1725Harp x 1810Stevens cross. I think there are a lot of strong seed stocks out there you just need to know where to find them. Also look at the 1818.5 Bryson. Its from his 1404 Bryson, which came from a 1288Wallace x 1421Stelz.. Nicely mixed genetics.

**Dave: Thanks for this interview and CONGRATS for what you accomplished this year!** Its great to have the 1807 in the books and I'm really happy to have grown it. And thanks for everything you do for the Sport of Giant Pumpkin Growing





**Western Laboratories, Inc.**

211 Highway 95 • P.O. Box 1020 • Parma, ID 83660  
800-658-3858

Lab Number
<b>19050</b>

Date: 9/30/2011

Client: Free

Gardner: Dave Steits

Garden ID:

**ATLANTIC GIANT PUMPKIN  
SOIL REPORT**

**PARTS PER MILLION-PPM**

pH WATER EXTRACT	pH SMP BUFFER	pH CaCl	SOLUBLE SALTS (EC)	LIME	% OM	NITRATE	AMMONIUM	PHOSPHORUS	
						NO3-N (PPM)	NH4-N (PPM)	P(PPM)	P BRAY
7.1		6.7	0.31	0.0	2.9	44	15	112	

<b>EVALUATION</b>										
Neutral			Normal	Good	Medium	High		Very High		

<b>POUNDS PER ACRE</b>										
						132	45	336		

**PARTS PER MILLION-PPM**

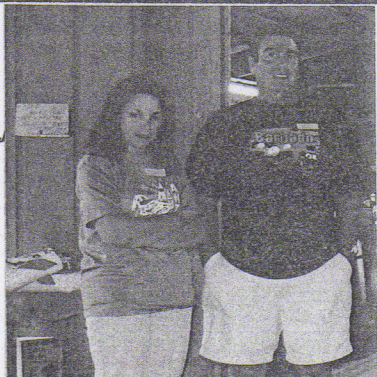
POTASSIUM K	SULFATE S	CALCIUM Ca	MAGNESIUM Mg	SODIUM Na	ZINC Zn	COPPER CU	MANGANESE Mn	IRON Fe	BORON B
399	16	2413	322	29	12.4	12.6	25	90	1.3

<b>EVALUATION</b>									
Adequate	Low	High	Adequate	OK	Very High	High	Adequate	Adequate	High

<b>POUNDS PER ACRE</b>									
1197	48	7239	966	87	37.2	37.8	75	270	3.9

<b>Meq/100 GRAMS SOIL</b>					<b>CEC by sum of cations</b>				
1.0		12.1	2.7	0.1				15.9	

Texture	Loam			Balance	Ideal	Yours	Evaluation	Watch
Cation Exchange Capacity-CEC	14			N:S	10:1	3.7:1	Low	watch N
Percent Base Saturation	114			Ca:Mg	6-20:1	7:1	ok	
<b>BASES</b>	<b>IDEAL</b>	<b>YOURS</b>	Ca:K pH >7		15:1	6:1	Low	watch Ca
Calcium-% of CEC	65-80	83	Ca:K pH <7		10:1	:1		
Magnesium-% of CEC	10-20	19	Ca:P pH >7		100:1	22:1	Low	watch Ca
Potassium-% of CEC	2-6	7	Ca:P pH <7		40:1	:1		
Sodium-% of CEC	< 5	1	P:Zn		15:1	9:1	Low	watch P
Hydrogen-% of CEC	< 15		P:Mn		4:1	4.5:1	High	
			P:Cu		25:1	9:1	Low	watch P
			Zn:Cu		3:1	1.0:1	Low	watch Zn
			Mn:Zn		3:1	2:1	Low	watch Mn
			Mn:Cu		7:1	2:1	Low	watch Mn
			K:B		200:1	307:1	High	watch B
			Mg:K		2:1	0.8:1	Low	watch Mg

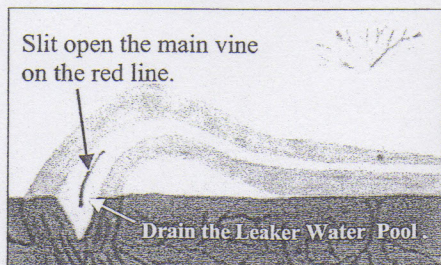
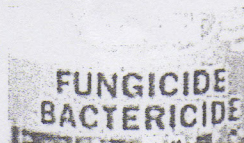




A lot has been written about this subject. Our own Ron Wallace, has published the most information, in his Mr. Foamy articles, which you can find on our [www.SNGPG.com](http://www.SNGPG.com) web site. These articles resulted in a lot of expertise that the growers have been able to use in their effort to eradicate this issue. Apparently it is not localized to Giant Pumpkins. Any cucurbit can suffer a demise from this plant/vine break down. **Leakers** probably are relatively unnoticed and undiagnosed in the majority of crop plants, because most farmers just plant so many seeds, that the issue isn't even noticed. They will still get fruit on their plant, and as we Extreme Gardeners know, you can still get a very large Giant Pumpkin or other type of Cucurbita Maxima species, even with the Crown (stump) Foamed Out, especially if you set your pumpkin way out on the main vine. But of course the full potential was never realized. And if you are in this game to play with the big boys, you want the Full Potential of your plant to be realized, in the weight of your Giant Pumpkin come Weigh-off time. Many growers believe that you will be more prone to this vascular break down of your stump and main vine, if you have a high (15% or more Organic Content in your soil, or you were accidentally provided with some fresh manure, or any variety of composts that are minimally broken down, when applied as soil amendments. This fresh stuff, is quite likely still full of pathogens, salts, ammonia and numerous other harmful ingredients, that are totally useless to your plant. It must be aged prior to being used as a soil amendment. Luckily for us, this organic material provides a smorgasbord, and feast for the countless microbes, beneficial bacteria, nematodes and worms in your compost patch. They need one season to do their job. And don't apply the fresh stuff in the Fall, thinking it will break down over the winter. That's not enough time and its too cold to allow the "break down" to occur. Experienced Growers know when the compost is ready. It smells right (earthy) and has a loose non clumpy texture.

But lets get back to the topic at hand. Its late July. Its hot and humid and your Pumpkin has just started to enter the "Rapid Growth" phase, and you are starting to feel lucky because you just got through another rain storm or foliar drench and feed of the leaves, and your Giant Pumpkin didn't crack or break open. Its time to celebrate right..Nope, you're Wrong! A couple more hot dry days go by...everything seems OK. But then you notice a wet spot around the stump. If you happen to catch it on the first day it happens, many newer growers get lulled into a sense of complacency, when they see this. The plant will still function at a high rate of efficiency for a 3-5 more days. You will continue to Tape the Pumpkin and possibly not even see your Weight Gains drop off. If you let this condition ride for a few days, you may not even see any difference in the appearance of the Crown and Main Vine. They will still have their healthy yellow and green colors. But inside the Crown., an un-reversible bad problem is literally brewing and festering, because of the Stumps vascular break down. That wet spot you noticed on the surrounding dirt was the result of a pool of nutrient rich water piling up inside the Crown. And the bacterial growth in that stagnant pool is emitting gasses that will emulsify or foam the water. When the pressure inside gets too great it will cause the Crown to blow open small vent holes. These are FOAMERS. When the problem gets this far along you are already 4 days too late! The bacterial slime in the Crown will usually flood over the curve of the stump and is running down the main vine by the time you see a FOAMER. It will do its damage and move progressively down the Main Vine. In its wake, you will see leaves collapsing and the main vine turning into mush. It is hard to stop it because the infestation is usually in Leaf nodes that look healthy for a few days and by the time you cut the vine off, the festering goo, is one or two steps ahead of you, further down the vine. You can, loose this battle, and still get a fruit though. It won't be nearly as large as it could be on a healthy plant. Left unattended, Mr. FOAMY usually will Foam Out the Crown (stump) and destroy the first 5 to 8 feet of your main. You will know you are in trouble too because the Fungus Gnats and Flies will show up. These bugs are a sure sign that bacteria is festering. This process takes about 2 weeks. One thing we are learning now is that

iligence and a careful daily inspection of your plant is critical to the success you will have each season. Inspection of the crown must be a daily chore especially in July and early August when Leakers and Foamers are most prevalent. As we stated, FOAMER's do not just happen. They are preceded by LEAKERS. So, what are the growers doing...on day one of a Leaker detection, the Crown should be slit open, with a sharp clean knife for about 4 inches. Starting from about 1/2 inch below ground level to 4 inches up. The water will immediately drain. Then you need to wedge open the slit with a 1/2 dowel pin and periodically spray inside the stump with a Bactericide/ Fungicide, like Zerotel, for a few days. (To order Zerotel go to [www.Biconet.com](http://www.Biconet.com)). Then apply a small fan to the wound and dry it out. If everything goes as it should the LEAKER will be healed about 3-4 days. Note that the Crown needs to be kept dry now that it has been slit open. So a small over structure needs to be set in place. It's a great alternative to Copper and Sulfur based products. Costs are about \$24 per 32 ounces, but that could last you about 3-4 years.



NUTRIENT SUGGESTIONS FOR ATLANTIC GIANT PUMPKIN			
POUNDS PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET		OUNCES PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET	
Nitrogen	2.7	Zinc	
Phosphorus	1.1	Plant Food Iron	
Potassium	1.2	Manganese	
Sulfate Sulfur	1	Copper	
Elemental Sulfur	2	Boron	.3
Gypsum			
Lime			
Magnesium	.7		

## WESTERN LABORATORIES Disease Test Report

Lab: 27694

Dealer: 0-00

Grower: dave stelts

Field ID: pumpkin disease

Crop: Atlantic Giant Pumpkin

Date Rec'd 10/3/2011

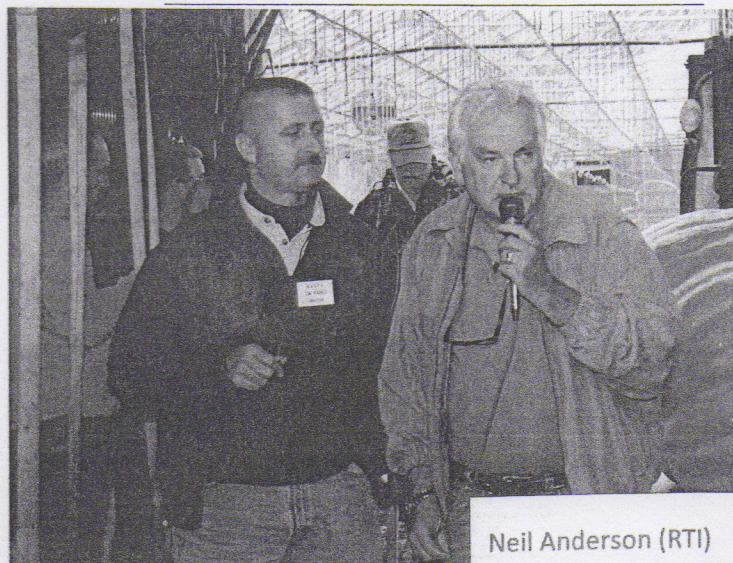
Date Rep'd 10/18/2011

Soil	Unit	Evaluation	Plant	Evaluation	
Pythium	1	cfu	low	34 dt	low
Phytophthora	33	ct	low	34 ct	low
Fusarium	1	cfy	low	18 ct	very high
Rhizoctonia	0		ok	0	ok
verticillium	18	cfu	high	26 ct	moderate

### OHIO VALLEY GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS 800-1800# CLUBS (2011)

1800# CLUB	Dave and Carol Stelts	1807.5#
1400# CLUB	Jim Bok	1463#
	Chuck Ellsworth	1443.5#
	Allen Brady	1427.5#
	Jerry Dawson	1419.5#
	Joe Vunak	1416.5#
1300# CLUB	Chip Brunst	1358#
	David Palkovich	1335#
1200# CLUB	Glenna Rea	1244.5#
	Lee Zappa	1217.5#
1000# CLUB	Gus Crissman	1021.5#
	Bill Hedwall	1018.5#
	Martin Grenchik	1018#
	Erik Gunstrom	1010.5#
900# CLUB	Lewis Morris	944#
	Herman and Sandy Hevener	940.5#
	Jim Kilbert	924#
	Paul Dunn	918#

- Based on officially weighed (solid fruit) at the OVGPG weigh-off on 10-1-2011. These growers are new to the clubs or have moved to a higher weight club. Congratulation to these fine growers!



Neil Anderson (RTI)



## The best mother AGs of 2012

As we likely all saw in the video from Topsfield, Ron Wallace is the man of the year, and then some; even growing #2 in the world, which also broke the world record. Ron's accomplishment of 2009 lbs is something that we will never forget. Now most everybody will want to get their hands on a "1725 Harp 09" seed but that will not be possible. What then are some other possibilities for good seed to use in 2013?

Well, I think we can make good use of the GPC list on [bigpumpkins.com](http://bigpumpkins.com). Using the top 50 official pumpkins and making 4 generation pedigrees tells me that these 50 cover the top levels of the AG gene pool quite well. Of these, 39 were grown in the USA, 6 in Canada and 1 each in Switzerland, Germany, New Zealand, Finland and Belgium.

The following shows how I picked the top 15 seeds behind these 50 top AGs of 2012:

1. I found that 8 seeds were "repeat mothers", with up to 5 offspring and I gave them 1 point for each, ie. 1725 Harp 09 -5 AGs=5 points and 1303 Sweet 09-2 AGs=2-points.
2. To these 8 seeds I added the "single mothers" of the next 7 heaviest AGs. This provided 15 seeds that produced 32 of the top 50.
3. Next I used the average weight of each seed's offspring to assign points, ie. over 1800 lbs -4 pts, 1700-3 pts, 1600-2 pts and 1500 -1 pt.. Then adding the points from the two ratings I got a total for each of the 15 seeds, as follows:

Seed	Points	Grown	Seed	Points	Grown
1789 Wallace 11(dmg)	6	RI	1495 Stelts 10	6	PA
1140 Finders 11	5	SC	1596 Werner 10	5	PA
1807 Stelts 11	4	PA	1381 Checkon 10	5	PA
1494 Bordson 11	4	CA	1634 Werner 10	5	PA
1647 Wallace 11(dmg)	3	RI	1554 Rose 10	3	OH
1382 Bryson 11(dmg)	3	QC			
935 Schieder 11	3	Austria	1725 Harp 09	8	OH
			1622 Young 09	4	IA
			1303 Sweet 09	3	MI

This evaluation doesn't consider such things as colour, shape and wall thickness. It uses only the GPC official weight and that is what the competitions are about.

Generally **we don't know** how many seeds were in each mother, how generous the grower was with distribution, germination rates, failure rates in the garden etc. For these and many more reasons top seed choices involve luck and often, big surprises.

What **we do know** is shown above. In the years 2009-2011 there were nearly 1200 GPC AGs over 1000 pounds and of these, 15 have proved to be outstanding. Just think about that!

Al Eaton Nov, 2012 AG-1