# Atlantic Giants 2013—The Continuing Saga

Almost every year there is a new world record AG with the grower showered in prizes and great publicity, rightly so. At the same time there are numerous top growers behind the latest record and in the gene pool and it is interesting to look a little deeper and give some of these people recognition. One way I like to do this is to look at the pedigrees of the official top 50 AGs on the GPC list and try to determine where the latest crop came from.

On the mother's pedigree of the top 50, it is easy to count up how many times certain AGs appear and of course the more they appear the more important they are. The first number shows the number of repeated appearances.

**2012**

4-2009 Wallace
4-1730 Werner
3-1756 Lancaster
2-1676 Daletas
2-1770 Leiber
2-220 DeBacco '13
**12 singles**

**2011**

5-1789 Wallace
4-1494 Bordson
2-1554 Mathison
2-1647 Wallace
**13 singles**

**2010**

12-1409 Miller
12-1495 Stelts
9-1596 Werner
6-1810 Stevens
4-1468 Stevens
4-1554 Rose
4-1662 Liggett 3-1674 Marsh 3-1381 Checkon 2-1605 Sweet 2-1274 Stelts 6
**4 singles**

**2009**

24-1725 Harp
21-1421 Stelts
15-1622 Young
13-1658 Young
9-1462 Starr
8-1303 Sweet
5-1488 Marsh 4-1544 Revier 2-1662 Stelts 2-1678 Hunt
**singles**

**2008**

14-1288 Wallace
10-1528 Starr
9-1026 Young
6-1413 Werner
**2 singles**

**2007**

77-1385 Jutras
46-1161 Rodonis
19-1207 Young
4-1306 Jutras
**3 singles**

**2006**

34-1450 Wallace
29-904 Stelts
17-985 Werner
2-227 Leland
**2 singles**

**2005**

33-1231 Pukos
26-998 Pukos
4-991 Urena
4-1407 Wolf
**0 singles**

**2004**

13-1446 Eaton
13-1420 LaRue
**0 singles**

**2003**

60-1068 Wallace
23-1370 Rose
4-664 Liggett 4-1180 Daletas
**2 singles**

**2002**

2-842 Eaton
**0 singles**

**2001**

15-898 Rnauss
6-1260 Weir
**0 singles**

Thus in this view of the AG gene pool, there are 56 "repeat" and 44 "single" **ancestors within 4 generations and over a 12 year span.** These are the AGs that have successfully passed down their genes in a very tough competitive situation. Just think of the 1000s of AGs that have fallen by the wayside over the years. Those genes did not survive!

I expect that these above **individual growers** will be pleased to see the relative importance of some of their **past creations.**

A1 Eaton— Nov, 2013

# The AG class of 2013

The results of the 2013 competitions have been with us for a few weeks now, thanks to the GPC listings on **bigpumpkins.com.** Anyone can see the individual results there, but it is interesting to take a look at the bigger picture as the Darwinian evolution of the AG gene pool adds another successful year.

Near the top of the list this year some amazing facts appear:

-a new **WR of 2032 pounds by Tim Mathison** of Napa CA grown from the WR "2009 Wallace 12",which was grown from the WR "1725 Harp 09".

-the world's # 2, the **"1985 Miller 13"** was also grown on the WR "2009 Wallace 12".

-the top **4** in the world were grown in **Napa, CA** and 3 of them by Tim Mathison.

-the **"1409.5 Miller 10"** is a grandparent on the mother's side of each pedigree of those top four. In other words, 50% of the genes that grew the top four in the world came from Gary Miller's garden in Napa,CA.

-of the top 50 official AGs on the GPC list, 30% of them were grown in CA.

These amazing facts speak for themselves and CA's new all-time top ten average of 1796 pounds and first place ranking on the **ipga.us** list is well deserved.

After CA, let's jump across North America and look at the #5 AG. It was grown by Bill and Dawn Northrup near Sussex, New Brunswick and weighed 1813 pounds at Windsor, Nova Scotia. I just happened to be in Windsor on Oct 5 and can vouch that it was a beautiful specimen with a good shape, modest rib structure and a tinge of pale yellow in colour. This AG is # 2 in Canada all time, after the WR "1818.5 Bryson 11".

The top 50 AGs on the GPC list include most of the top AGs in the world and for my purposes certainly identify the top surviving players in the AG gene pool.

**Where were the top 50 grown?** Canada 3, Germany 3, UK 1, CA 15, WI 5, PA 5, OH 3, WA 3, MN 3, NY 3, MA 2, CT 1, MI 1, IL 1, VT 1 Total=50

**Which years were the mothers grown?** 2013-2, 2012-27, 2011-8, 2010-12, 2009-1 The "220.3 DeBaccol3" was grown over the winter of 2012-13 and became the mother of the "1744.5 Fulk 13" and the "1734.5 Steil 13". A ground breaking event. Also note that 58% of the top fifty were grown with "unproven" seed from the previous year.

These are just a few of the summarized facts from the 2013 GPC crop. Information on the survivors in the gene pool behind the 2013 crop to follow. A1 Eaton Nov/2013