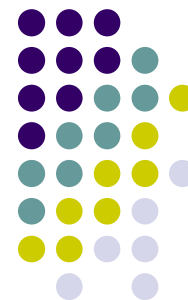




HOW I GREW THE 1502!

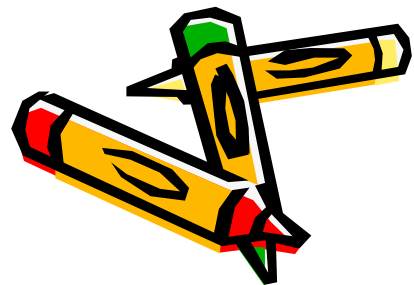
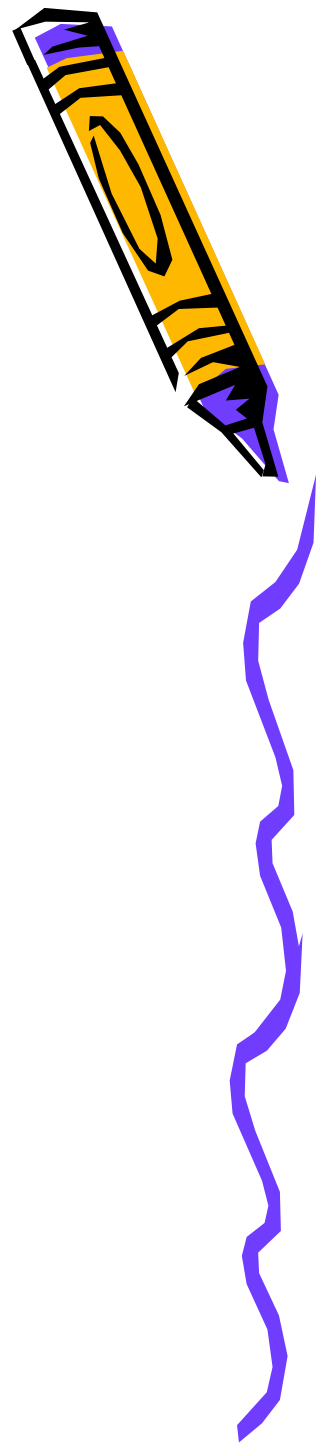
By Ron Wallace

GPC



• What a difference a year makes!

- First lets go back to 2005!
- Our battle with "Phyto", Wilt, and Fusarium, was enough to make us contemplate throwing in the towel !



One last look back, then we close the curtain on 2005.



**919Wallace was a fusarium victim.
Amputated main vine (No Stump).**



**2005 Wallace bacterial stump
victim, looked like an alien!**

**In 2005...
some of our
Pumpkins
never made
it out of the
Patch.**

**This 1068 was
401 inches,
(same size as
the 1450)**

Pink fusarium



From this magical cross.... Something Great
was about to happen in 2006!



(F)1068 Wallace03



(M)1354 Checkon04

**Larry Checkon, and his 441 inch 1469 in
2005. The largest measurement ever!**



Fall 2005... and time to dig the New Patch.

- 6 acres of land was purchased from an adjacent lot.
- 1 acre of this old field, was cleared with the help of our good friends, Sperry, Jutras, Macari Rondeau, Palmer and Blaise.
- We plowed and disc harrowed 7250 sq ft. which was roughly enough for 10 plants, 18" deep, with a single shank Sub-Soiler.



Fall 2005 soil test on the new Patch before Amendments.

pH = 5.5

Organic Matter = 5.7%

Cation Exchange Capacity = 11.9

Base Saturations

k = 0.5%

Mg = 1.5%

Ca = 6.6%

**After test results we added
The following:**

- **800 lbs Dolomitic Lime.**
- **20 Yds Dairy compost**
- **5 Yds Chicken compost**
- **50lbs of Humic Acid**
- **50 lbs 0-0-50 Potassium Sulfate**

**Typical results for
Southern New England**

March 2006 soil test results.

pH = 6.
Organic Matter = 7%
CEC = 12.6

Base Saturations

k=2.6%

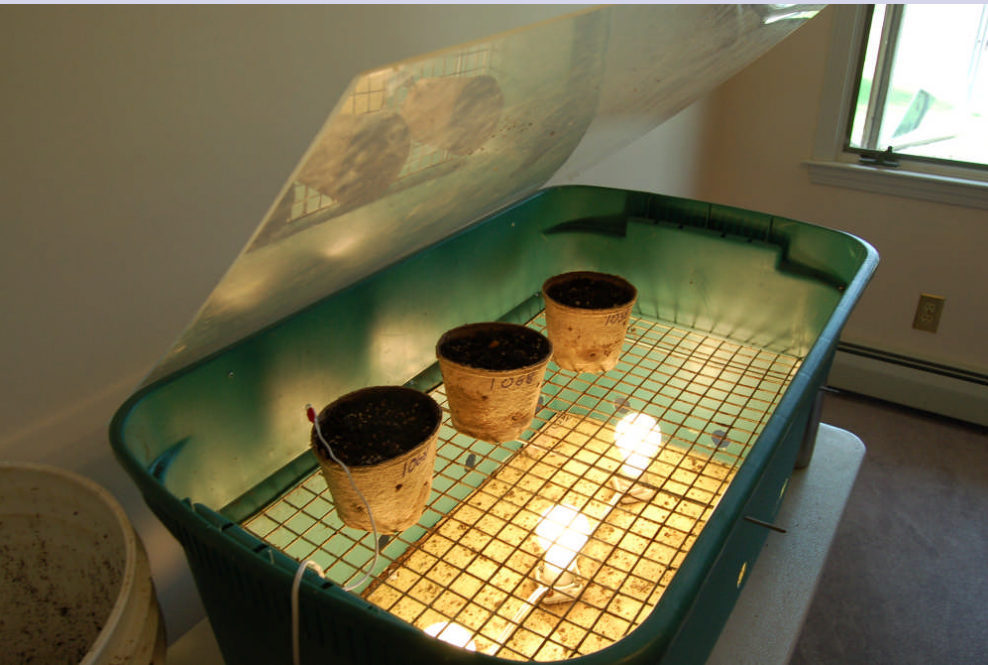
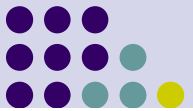
Mg=11.0%

Ca=40.7%

March 2006 Amendments after soil test results.

- 300 lbs of Calcitic Lime
- 200 lbs of Kelp meal
- 20 yards of Dairy Compost
- 400 lbs of Gypsum
- 50lbs of 0-0-50 Potassium Sulfate
- 100 pounds of Humic Acid

April 24th 2006...Time to Plant !



May 4th and....Seedlings ready to go!



...But which ones do we plant?



Some of our old faithfuls made the cut.



Choices are made, and seedlings go
in lofted mounds in greenhouses.



Lots of ventilated Green houses offered
wind and cold protection.

Mycorrhizal Fungi being added.





Dr. Linderman & Mycorrhizal Fungi!

- Mycorrhizal fungi, purchased from www.reforest.com was used from seed starting till the last vines were buried.
- When our largest pumpkin split, feeder roots were sent to Dr. Robert Linderman at University of Oregon.
- His test concluded that our root system exhibited mycorrhizal fungi colonization, which meant enhanced root nutrient absorption in the rhizosphere (a zone immediately around the roots).

Mycorrhizal REPORT!

Did you know that....

- ❑ Root exudates, are in the form of carbohydrates (including sugars) and proteins. Amazingly, their presence wakes up, attracts and grows specific beneficial bacteria and fungi living in the soil. Which in turn are eaten by bigger microbes (called Nematodes and protozoa), to fuel their metabolic functions. What they excrete as waste, the Pumpkin roots absorb as nutrients. How convenient! This happens right around the “rhizosphere” feeder roots.

Seedlings grew in ventilated Green Houses for 3 weeks.

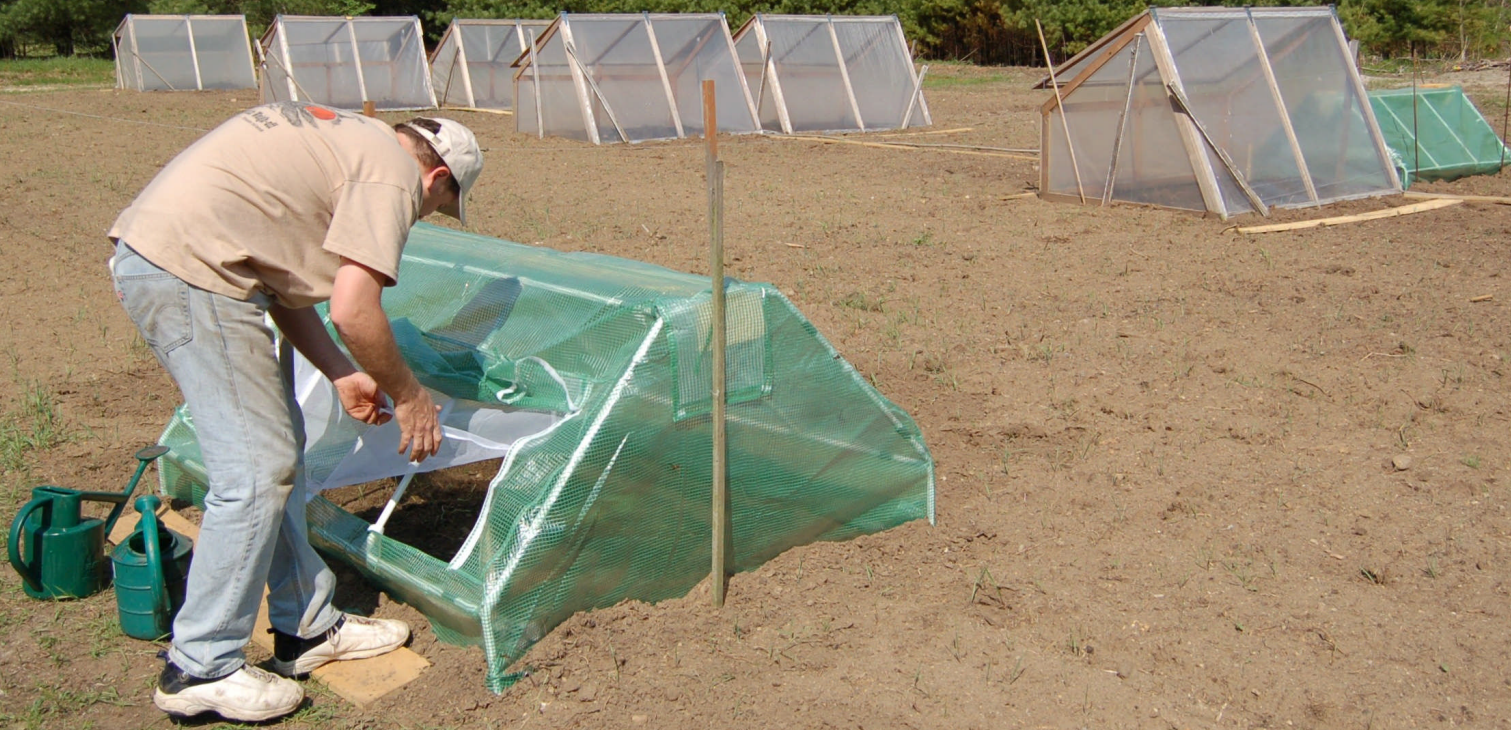


We planted Back to Back, North to South, with plant hills 4 feet apart.



With plants safely in their greenhouses, we foliar sprayed the entire patch with Round-Up weed killer.

Male Pollinator plant.



July 4th



**We kept every side vine, from the base, to the pumpkin.
Average was 12-14 side vines before the pumpkin.**



All plants were grown Christmas tree style with 12 ft side vines

Note the simple Deer Fence. It was very effective.



But attracted this Hummingbird.

Rain or shine, I kept the main vine trained all season. Here, in early July, I used bamboo sticks to help keep the vine anchored to the ground



Organic feeding the plants throughout the season:

- Soil Soup Compost Tea drench 2 gallons every 10 days. Foliar application. Timed applications with rain several times.

www.soilsoup.com

- We added to the finished tea 1 cup of sea crop kelp & fish, to each 3 gallons of compost tea.

Check out www.noamkelp.com.

Other Excellent web sites or phone numbers for Giant Pumpkin amendments and fertilizers.

- www.greensmiths.com Humic Acid
- Merrifield Garden Center 1-877-560-6222 for 0-0-50 Potash

Root Growth was Phenomenal !



Leaf Tissue tests, indicated excellent nutrient root absorption. July; and multiple Fruits set at 12-14 ft out. Lots of Side vines dead ended and many perfect pollinations.



**Bouncing Baby 1450...1068 sib...pollinated July 4th !
Congrats !**



WR 1502... 1068x1354... pollinated July 4th



The 1347 (1068Wallace x 1370 Rose) was pollinated on July 5th, and raring to go. Note trained vines leaving an open space for the pumpkin to grow.



Rapid Growth caused lots of stem stress. Location adjustments were a daily task for pap and I!



And every day another Cull..



Lots of hard work.... All the plants were foliar fertilized and watered by hand (125 Gallons twice per week).



Pap seemed to enjoy the hard work, though...

Score: 8.5

He's So nimble and light footed.

Score: 0

Score: 10

Note the athletic build, and style.

12 ft side vines after the pumpkin !

“It’s critical not to be growing a salad when you should be growing fruit”.

A large field of pumpkin plants with large green leaves. A yellow pumpkin is visible in the foreground. In the background, there is a playground with a red structure and a blue slide, and a wooden building. A green hose is visible in the bottom right corner.

1450

**After chosen pumpkin we pruned out
Every other side vine.**

Garden picture, taken on July 15th. Note all vines buried, and all pumpkins were pollinated at about, about 13 feet out.

cull

1140

1502

1450

977



The 1502 entered Rapid Growth phase in late July... 38 lbs per day.



7-4
1068
1354
5
Lob
1068
1354

The 1502 in rapid growth phase (July 19th). An open space has been prepared for it to grow into.



Every day, they were covered with sheets...To protect from the sun.



Late July and the 1110, was shaping up to be a true Orange Pumpkin. Note the sand and Mill Fabric underneath, to help it slide as it grew. This is a great way to avoid splits as the pumpkin grows.

The 1110 was a 1370Rose x 1068 Wallace cross



When the plants filled up their allotted 720 square foot location, they each received about 125 gallons of water, twice per week.

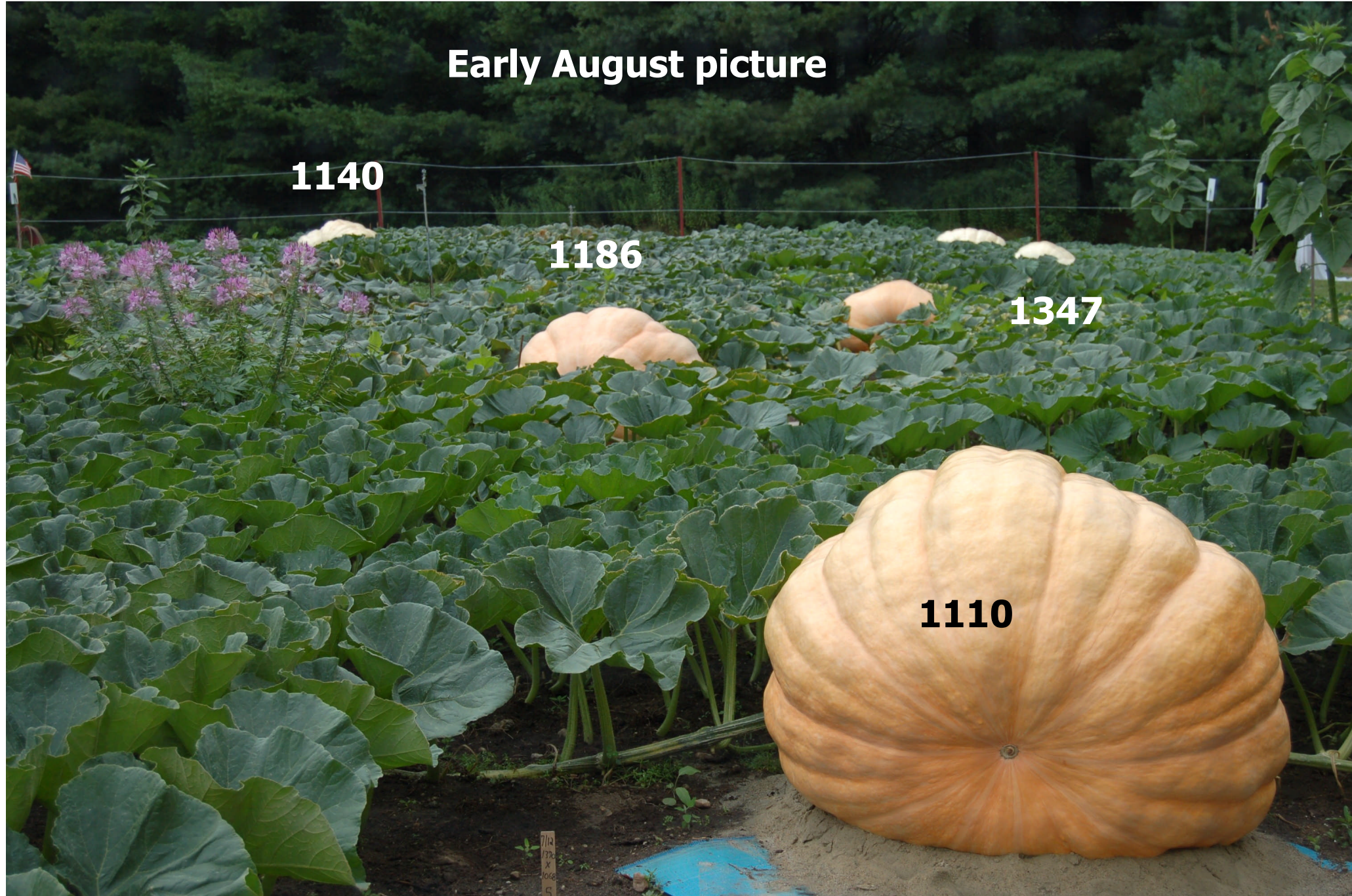
Early August picture

1140

1186

1347

1110



One central plywood pathway was used all season, to minimize soil compaction, while tending to the plants.



30 days after pollination. August 4th...Lots of rain. The 1347, 1450, 1502 were 600 lbs and growing! We lost a bigger one grown from the 500 Wallace'04 when it was 1186 lbs, on Aug 14th! Too much rain.



August 12th, and the 1347 was charging hard to the finish. Here she is at 950 pounds.



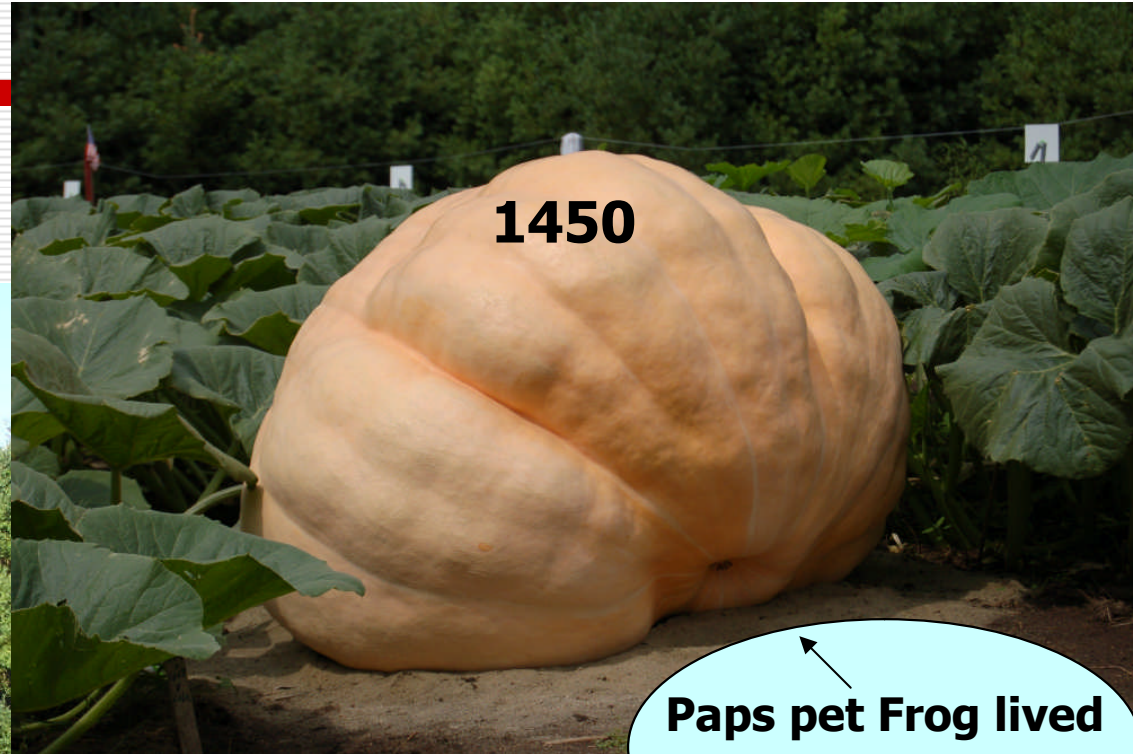
Pap with the farms latest addition !



Stats and stuff. Pap adding Sunday measurements.



Late August and the 1450 stump Foams Up. Main Stump and 3 side vines are removed. She drops from 32 to 20 pounds per day, but keep on chugging at 20, for 2 more weeks.



Paps pet Frog lived
beneath the 1450.

She would of made a
run at 1600 if no
Foam Up occurred.



1502 in mid August, at 900 lb, grown on mill fabric, to help it slide as it grew. Sand was mounded on the sides to support this Pumpkins giant shoulders.



Vine hold down

**1502 kept growing...During the last week of the season, she was still
Packing on 3 pounds per day.**

A large, ribbed, light-orange pumpkin (1502) is the central focus, growing in a field of green leaves. Another smaller pumpkin is visible in the background.

1502

935 Snout

Murderer's Row

August 18th

1140

1174

1347

1502

1450

1186

977

1110 (not shown)



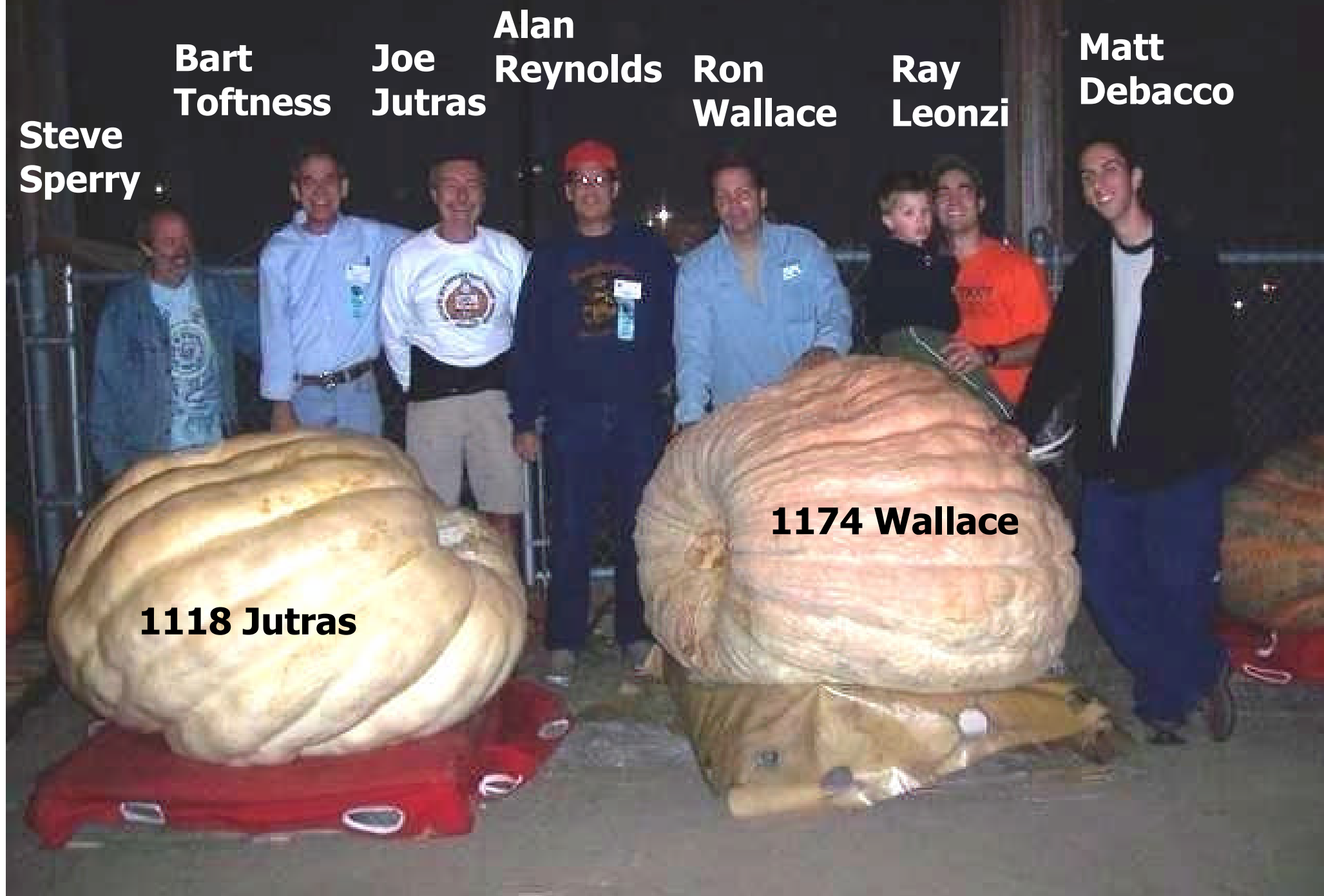
Some Pumpkins looked bigger than they weighed. The 1140 looked huge from this angle!



**Getting these
Monsters off
the ground
with tractor
was no
problem!**



Off to the 2006 Fairs.....1174 Wallace Wins 1st at Durham, CT.



The 1347 win's Topsfield, with all time record!



1347 Media Crush at Topsfield Fair!



Got Snout?

Pap's 1110 "was a "show" at Topsfield Fair with (3rd place), and wins prettiest pumpkin award.



BP.Com guru Ken Desrosiers logs it all in at Topsfield



(3) Atlantic Dill Giant Pumpkins, were delivered the night before the Frerichs Farm Weigh-off... Would the good weather hold for tomorrow?



Picture perfect day!

**Are you ready for the GPC weigh-
Off at Frerichs Farm !**



The competition was big.



I tried to relax...by posing for pic's. But until the pumpkin hits the scales, I'm on pins and needles.

**The sun was shining
Frerichs Farm !**

**Lots of entries...
Who would win ?**



**Joe Jutras came in 3rd
with an 1180.**



Paps 1450 was 2nd at Frerichs. #3 in the world.



The 1500 milestone, was broken with the WR 1502Wallace '06 at the sngpg Frerichs Farm weigh-off !



A few moments to remember Reflections.....



Seed Harvesting



Steve Davies brought this beauty to Frerichs

on Langevin gets wet, while interviewing the champ at Frerichs Farm.



10/07/2006

John Castellucci, Pap and Mom, with the 1450 at Frerichs farm.



Ron and Joe Jutras having fun with Charo and Martha on the Martha Stewart Show, with their world records.





The other World Record at Frerichs Farm.... The 126.5 Jutras Long Gourd!

AMAZING !

Fall Soil Results were as follows:



- **pH 6.3**
- **Organic Matter 8.1%**
- **Cation Exchange Capacity 14.8**
- **Base Saturations were k=1.4%, Mg = 16.6% and Ca = 61.9%**
- **Surprisingly the pH had not moved much from the spring..could this have been because of the Humic Acid**
- **Added 200lbs of Calcitic lime, 50 lbs of Humic acid (www.greensmiths.com), and 50lbs of 0-0-50 potassium sulfate.**
- **BEST OF LUCK IN 2007 EVERYONE!**

WELCOME
SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS
GPC AFFILIATES

FRERICHS FARM WEIGH OFF

SPONSORED BY
DAVE & BARBARA FRERICHS **CAPITOL CITY FINANCIAL**
FRIENDS OF THE PROGRAM **BORI GRAPHICS**





FRERICHS FARM

2006 SNGPG WEIGH-OFF

1502 RON WALLACE							
1502 RON WALLACE	1450 DICK WALLACE	1180 JOE TURRAS	1108 ED GARRISTO	1065 JIM FORD	1056 ALBINO FLORES	1046 PETER BROWN	1031 STEVE CONNELLY
914 DON LINDSEY	925 MARK BRENNER	927 FRED MACARI	947 MIKE CHUCK	962 WES SWALEY	965 KURT WOOTEN	968 DAN HAYDAS	984 TON FLORES
905 NORA GAWSEAT	887 ARMAND MICHARD	864 GEORGE FLORES	799 JEFF BLAIRS	779 ANA COLLIER	773 ED PAPAS	771 BRUCE WALKER	748 STEVE DAVIS
504 GEORGE BOUTER	562 BILLY SULLIVAN	602 SKIP SIMPSON	623 JACK POST	642 DENNY RICHARDSON	686 BILL RODONIS	694 DAVE HARTMAN	712 BOB DUFFY
485 JACK DAVIS	446 DENISE DUNNIN	388 GEOFFREY SEITZEL	279 PAUL GARDNER	230 TERRY BULL	192 CINDY RICHARDS	164 JOE TESSERA	162 PHIL JILLI SON



A BOLD PREDICTION !

A Giant Pumpkin grower, named Ron Wallace, from the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth, broke the 1500 pound barrier. Now on to 2000 pounds! Is 2016 the year?

