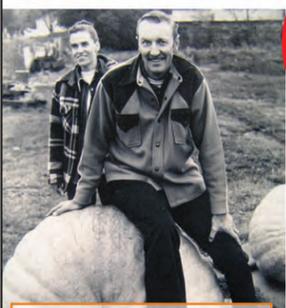


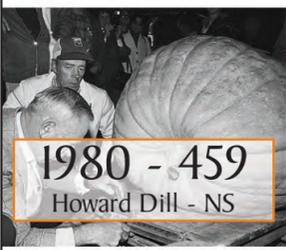
Giant Pumpkins



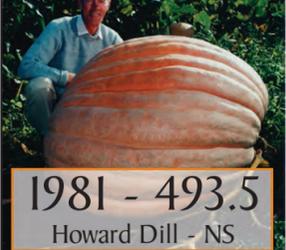
1904 - 403
William Warnock - ON



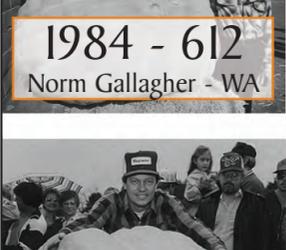
1976 - 451
Bob Ford - PA



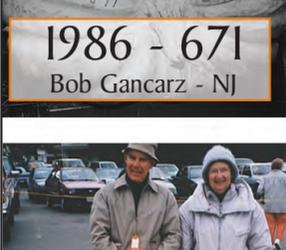
1980 - 459
Howard Dill - NS



1981 - 493.5
Howard Dill - NS



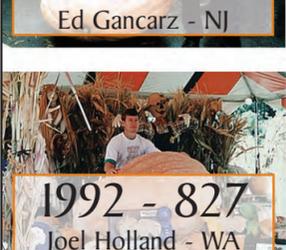
1984 - 612
Norm Gallagher - WA



1986 - 671
Bob Gancarz - NJ



1989 - 755
Gordon Thomson QC



1990 - 816
Ed Gancarz - NJ



1992 - 827
Joel Holland - WA

1993 - 884
Donald Black - NY

WILL THE WORLD RECORD BE BROKEN AGAIN?

Giant pumpkins have been fascinating people for centuries, but the first 400 pound pumpkin was not grown until 1900. William Warnock from Goderich, Ontario, Canada traveled to the World's Fair in Paris to have his pumpkin officially weighed at 400 pounds. He followed this up in 1904 at the St. Louis World's Fair, beating his previous best with a 403. That would be the end of record setting for more than 70 years, when the modern history of giant pumpkin growing was kick-started in 1976 by Pennsylvanian, Bob Ford's world record 451.

Howard Dill of Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada was able to break Ford's mark with a 459 in 1980, and then repeated in 1981 with a new world record 493.5. Howard's seed variety, the Atlantic Giant, would become the seed of choice for all giant pumpkin competitors from that day forward.

Howard's fame brought many new gardeners into the sport, and an offshoot of this popularity was the organization of several North American associations of giant pump-

kin growers. The first was the WPC, the World Pumpkin Confederation, cofounded in 1983 by Howard and a chicken farmer, restaurateur, and marketing magician from Collins, NY, Ray Waterman. So confident were Dill and Waterman in Dill's 493.5 being unbeatable, they offered a \$10,000 prize and a trip to Hawaii for anyone who could. They didn't have to wait long. In 1984, Norm Gallagher of Sequim, WA stunned the WPC with a record breaking 612. Five years later, 700 pounds fell with Quebec gardener, Gordon Thomson's 755.

800 pound records started in 1991 with Ed Gancarz's 816.5. Joel Holland of Puyallup, WA raised the bar with an 827 in 1992, and Donald Black of Winthrop, NY broke that record the following year with an 884. Competitors considered this the limit of the Atlantic Giant's potential, but that all changed in 1994 when 4 growers across North America grew 900 pound pumpkins, with Herman Bax of Ontario, Canada missing 1000 by just 10 pounds at 990.

Two years later, 1000 pounds would be accomplished for the first time by Paula and Nathan Zehr at the WPC weighoff in Clarence, NY. For several

years, the WPC had offered a \$50,000 prize for the first pumpkin grown over 1000. The site's first prize was \$3000, so the Zehrs walked away with a check for \$53,000 for their 1061 pound pumpkin. 1061 stood for two years, then in 1998, Gary Burke of Quebec elevated the record to 1092. Competitive growers everywhere were convinced that weights could go no further.

Then, in one of the most amazing horticultural phenomena in history, the world record for giant pumpkins was broken 10 consecutive years from 1998 to 2007. The first 1100 pound pumpkin came with Gerry Checkon's Altoona, PA entry in 1999 at 1131. The first 1200 pound pumpkin was emphatically recorded with Geneva Emmon's Pacific Northwest entry at 1262 in 2001. The first 1300 pound pumpkin came a year later from a New Hampshire grower, Charlie Houghton, with 1337.6 in 2002. The first 1400 pound pumpkin came in 2004 by way of Al Eaton of Ontario, Canada who grew a 1446 just 400 miles from Goderich, Ontario where William Warnock had grown the 1904, world record 403.

The first 1500 pound pumpkin (a seemingly impossible feat) came in 2006 with Ron Wallace's RI entry of 1502 pounds, and then, just 10 miles from Ron's pumpkin patch, Joe Jutras annihilated the world record in 2007 with a 1689. Christy Harp of Ohio furthered the record again in 2009 with her 1725.

The first 1800 pound pumpkin came in 2010 with Chris Stevens's 1810.5 grown in Wisconsin, and Jim & Kelsey Bryson of Washington furthered the mark to 1818.5 in 2011.

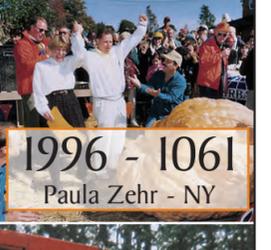
In 2012, three pumpkins beat the previous world record, and Ron Wallace weighed the first pumpkin over 2000 pounds with his one-ton, 2009 pound world record.

Now, average backyard gardeners are consistently growing pumpkins of 800 to 1000 pounds or more. With ten consecutive years of records behind us...Will the world record be broken again in 2013?

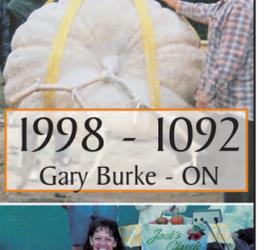
Don Langevin is the author of four books and numerous articles on giant pumpkin growing. For more information go to: www.GiantPumpkin.com by Don Langevin www.GiantPumpkin.com



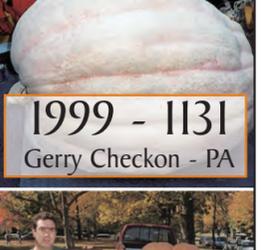
1994 - 990
Herman Bax - ON



1996 - 1061
Paula Zehr - NY



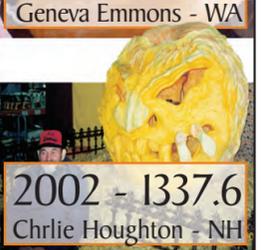
1998 - 1092
Gary Burke - ON



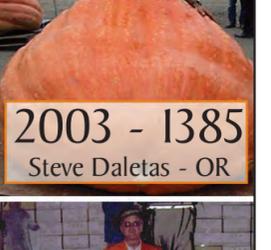
1999 - 1131
Gerry Checkon - PA



2000 - 1140
Dave Stelts - OH



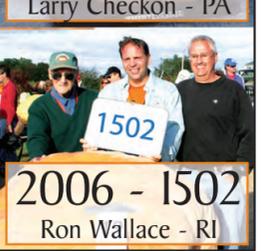
2001 - 1262
Geneva Emmons - WA



2002 - 1337.6
Charlie Houghton - NH



2003 - 1385
Steve Daletas - OR



2004 - 1446
Al Eaton - ON

2005 - 1469
Larry Checkon - PA

2006 - 1502
Ron Wallace - RI

Facts

About Giant Pumpkins They can:

- Grow from the size of your baby finger nail to 400 pounds in 30 days.
- Gain 45 pounds or more per day during peak growth.
- Gain more than 1000 pounds in 60 to 90 days.
- Have vine growth of 3' or more in a single day.
- A single plant can cover more than 3000 square feet (although, competitive growers prune to 1000 square feet or less).
- A giant pumpkin's measured circumference can exceed 200" - that's about 17' around.
- "Hot seeds" (proven producers) can fetch hundreds of dollars per seed in online auctions. A single 1068 Wallace seed sold for \$750 in 2007. (cont.)



2012 - 2009
Ron Wallace - RI



2011 - 1818.5
K & J Bryson - WA



2010 - 1810.5
Chris Stevens - MN

THE ONE TO BEAT

2,009 POUNDS

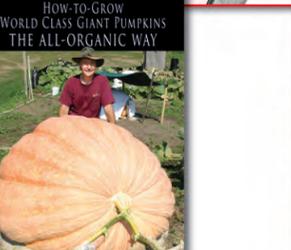


- In 1996, a grower won \$53,000 for the first pumpkin ever grown over 1000 pounds - that's not a typo!
- Giant pumpkin growers never feed pumpkins milk.
- The only seed used by competitors is the variety, *Atlantic Giant*, although each grower carefully selects seed stocks with genetic backgrounds that

- have proven success.
- All world records have been set in either the US or Canada, and since 1904 the score stands at: US 16 - Canada 6
- An award winning giant pumpkin grower is just an average backyard gardener with great passion!

Records

1904	William Warnock	403.0
1976	Bob Ford	451.0
1980	Howard Dill	459.0
1981	Howard Dill	493.5
1984	Norm Gallagher	612.0
1986	Bob Gancarz	671.0
1989	Gordon Thomson	755.0
1990	Ed Gancarz	816.0
1992	Joel Holland	827.0
1993	Donald Black	884.0
1994	Herman Bax	990.0
1996	Paula Zehr	1061.0
1998	Gary Burke	1092.0
1999	Gerry Checkon	1131.0
2000	Dave Stelts	1140.0
2001	Geneva Emmons	1262.0
2002	Charlie Houghton	1337.6
2003	Steve Daletas	1385.0
2004	Al Eaton	1446.0
2005	Larry Checkon	1469.0
2006	Ron Wallace	1502.0
2007	Joe Jutras	1689.0
2009	Christy Harp	1725.0
2010	Chris Stevens	1810.5
2011	Jim & K. Bryson	1818.5
2012	Ron Wallace	2009.0



More information can be found in Don Langevin's books, *How-to-Grow World Class Giant Pumpkins* www.GiantPumpkin.com © 2013 Annedawn Publishing



2007 - 1689
Joe Jutras - RI

