



The Pumpkin Vine

September 2012

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2012 Pumpkin Patch Tour

We had another great pumpkin patch tour this year and we would like to thank everyone who participated. It was great to see all of you. We started up in Brigham City at the home of Ross Bowman. Ross and his wife Kaye fed us a wonderful breakfast of French toast and peaches with cream.

I think the theme of our tour this year should be the "500 Pound Club", because we had so many pumpkins that were around the 500 pound range. That is really good for this time of year and it will be exciting to see how far they can go.

Ross's patch was looking fantastic as always. He has several pumpkins growing in the tent and a few other growing without any shade. We were all amazed at the time and care Ross puts into his patch as well as his entire garden.

We then drove to West Valley where we first stopped at Richard Leavitt's patch. Richard had a nice pumpkin that had just gone over the 500 pound mark. Richard does not shade his pumpkins but his plants looked very good just the same. There is a lot of growth potential left in his plants to be sure.

Right around the corner from

Richard is Brent Evans's patch. Brent has two plants with pumpkins that are both in the 500 pound range. Brent is using 40% shade cloth for the first time to shade his plants and protect them from hail. The shade cloth is working extremely well because it hasn't hailed all summer.



Chef Ross Bowman with one of his prized pumpkins

Travis Evans's patch was next on our tour. Travis lives just a few minutes away from his father Brent. Travis has only one plant growing and he also shades it with 40% shade cloth. He has also built an over head sprinkling system to keep his plant watered. Travis is the Engineer in the family and he keeps detailed records of the growth curve of his pumpkin. Travis's pumpkin is also in the 500 pound range.

Next we drove to the patch of Dave Bradley. The thing we all love about Dave's place is that

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we get to see his wife, Cathy, and they always treat us to some great homemade ice cream. Dave has a really nice pumpkin growing in his back yard. It is from the 1421 Stelts and it is a beautiful orange pumpkin with a nice round shape and, you guessed it, it is in the 500 pound range. Dave also has some nice pumpkins growing at his 2nd patch although they are not as big as the one in his back yard. One thing I learned about Dave is that when he finds an unwanted pumpkin growing on his plant he yells at it, calls it a "Hippie" and rips it off the vine. I wouldn't want to grow after that kind of treatment either.

We then drove to Lindon to visit the patch of Richard Glassford. Richard has a beautiful back yard with a high retaining wall that gives him enough room to grow his pumpkins even though his back yard is on a slope. Richard has a very nice squash growing that is in the 500 pound range and could potentially break the state record for squash. Richard also has some nice hanging gourds growing that will be very impressive by the end of the year I am sure.

Finally we ended up at Kyle and Carrie's patch in Pleasant Grove. Both Kyle and Carrie have pumpkins in the upper 500 pound range and Kyle's pumpkin had just passed Carrie's in the weight department. We had a great time touring both of their patches and we then enjoyed a lunch of barbeque pork sandwiches with donuts. It was really nice to sit around and enjoy the good food and good company. We were also very entertained as Ross Bowman entertained us with his stories.



Enjoying the lunch at Kyle and Carrie Fox's patch.

The Big Pumpkin Fall Schedule

October 6th – Vernal Weigh Off. Check in is 10:00 weigh off is 12:00.

October 20th - The 2nd annual UGPG Regatta at Sugar House Park Lake.



October 27th - The GIANT PUMPKIN DROP at Hee Haw Farms – Bring a giant pumpkin to drop for a family all day access pass. heehawfarms.com. See the video of last year's pumpkin drop. Search on YouTube for 2011 - Great Pumpkin Drop - Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers.



Thanksgiving Morning, November 22nd - Hogle Zoo Feast with the Beast - bring a giant pumpkin to donate and to feed the elephants. You will receive an all day Family Pass for your donation. hoglezoo.org

Like us on **facebook**

- Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers (see posts from many growers throughout the season)
- Utah Giant Pumpkin Drop
- Utah Great Pumpkin Regatta

2012 UGPG Weigh Off

The UGPG would like to officially announce the weigh off for 2012. Our weigh off this year will be held at Thanksgiving Point on Saturday, September 29th right in front of the water tower where we held it last year. Registration will go from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Judging will be from 11:00 am to Noon and then the weigh off will start at noon. Please enter Thanksgiving Point from the south entrance on the main road and drive north through the upper parking lot. (see map on page 10)

We hope that you all have monster pumpkins growing in your patch, but whatever the size, we would like to see you on September 29th. As long as your pumpkin is over 100 pounds, we hope you will bring it to the weigh off. Please print off an official entry form and bring it with your entry to the weigh off.



Matt McConkie took 1st Place in 2011, and set a new state record of 1,600 lbs.!

**Please RSVP to utahgiantpumpkingrowers@gmail.com if you plan on bringing a pumpkin.

Long Gourds & Veggies

In addition to the giant pumpkins, the weigh-off will also include a contest for long gourds and weigh-offs for giant tomatoes and watermelons. Check in for long gourds and other giant vegetables will be from 8:00 am - 10:30 am. Measuring and weighing of the vegetables will be from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm.

New! Junior Grower Division - 16 Years & Younger

We will also be introducing a Junior Grower Division for all growers 16 years and younger. There will be no entrance fee for this division and no minimum weight requirement. The junior division will also start at 11:00 am. Also, Thanksgiving Point will be providing the prizes so be sure to encourage all of our younger pumpkin growers to bring their pumpkins.

We will need several volunteers to help out at the weigh off. We will need a lifting crew, people to help us set up and take down tents and tables and other misc. items, a photographer, and a few people to direct traffic and crowd control. If you are available to help out, please call Kyle at 801-319-9926. We would appreciate your help very much.



2012 Weigh Off Schedule

8:00 – 10:30	Check and registration for tomatoes, watermelon and long gourds, etc.
8:00 – 11:00	Unload, check in and registration for pumpkins
10:00 – Noon	Judging of pumpkins
11:00 – Noon	Measuring of long gourds and weighoff for watermelons and tomatoes
11:00 – Noon	Weigh off for junior division pumpkins (ages 15 and younger)
11:00 – Noon	Weigh in for extra pumpkins (growers allowed only 1 official pumpkin to count for prizes.)
Noon – 3:00	8th Annual Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers Weigh Off

This is the best time of the year. All of our hard work is on display in one place, so show up early and take it all in!

Voting For Our Next UGPG President

We want to remind everyone that we will be selecting a new president for the Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers Association. You will be given a ballot at the registration desk and there will be a box provided to deposit the ballots once you have voted.

The two nominees are David Bradley and Kyle Fox. I will be announcing our new president with the next newsletter. I want to thank everyone for their support and friendship during these past three years. This has been a great experience for me and I have had a great time getting to know all of you.

--Andrew Israelsen

Hats and Shirts

We will no longer be taking email orders for the UGPG hats and shirts. Items can only be purchased at the events. We will have hats and shirts available at the Weigh Off. Get your shirts and hats before they vanish like they did last year.

Cornbelly's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Fest Invitation

After the weigh off, why not show your pumpkin off for thousands more to see? Cornbelly's Corn Maze & Pumpkin Fest at Thanksgiving Point, one of this year's weigh-off sponsors, is offering to display your giant pumpkins to their crowds throughout the month of November. For anyone interested, here's the scoop...

1. After the weigh-off, you can deliver your pumpkin to Cornbelly's (just a few hundred yards from the weigh-off site - next to the Farm Country petting farm) or they'll pick it up and save you the trouble!
2. In exchange for allowing your pumpkin to be displayed, they are willing to provide you with 30 of their Screamin' Pass tickets (including all activities - see www.cornbellys.com), valued at \$478.50.
3. After their season ends on November 3, you can return to pick up your pumpkin and harvest the seeds. Or, if it's easier, you can just harvest the seeds right onsite and leave all the leftovers behind.

UGPG Regatta

It's a bird, it's a plane . . . actually it's neither . . . it's a **ginormous pumpkin** floating in the pond at Sugarhouse Park. The second annual Utah Ginormous Pumpkin Regatta will be held again this year on Saturday, October 20th from noon until 2:00pm. Captains of these 900 to 1500 lb. pumpkins will row their way into the record books in the most competitive, eco-friendly water race this side of the Mississippi - all for bragging rights and the experience of a lifetime! Prizes for participants and spectators alike will be awarded from Mountain Valley Seed Co., Park City Mountain Ski Resort, and Pro Bar. Come participate in a historic and fun filled event in a pumpkin . . . a **GINORMOUS** pumpkin!

To see the YouTube video announcing the upcoming Regatta, go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eob5zUGwM8A&feature=youtu.be>.

REG PUMPKINS START WITH THIS SIZE (BY THE SIZE)

Mountain Valley Seed Co. Presents the

SECOND ANNUAL UTAH **GINORMOUS** PUMPKIN REGATTA

PRO BAR simply real.

MUSCLE MILK

WHOLE FOODS MARKET

Saturday October 20th
Event time 12 to 2

Sugarhouse Park

2012 Patch Tour



You have to love those leaves!



Breakfast at Ross Bowman's home



Richard Leavitt's baby



Checking out Travis Evan's pumpkin



Mohamed Sadiq & Dave Bradley



Dave Bradley's pumpkin



Homemade ice cream at the Bradley's



Glassford has the biggest squash we saw



Glassford is proud of his perfect patch



Carrie Fox loves her baby



Kyle Fox hopes his pumpkin keeps growing



A yummy barbecue at the home of the Fox's



2012 UGPG Weigh-Off Entry Form

Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers 8th Annual Weigh-Off
at
Thanksgiving Point, Lehi, Utah

Growers Name (please print) _____

Current Member: YES or NO If No, fill out middle section.

Pumpkin ____ Squash ____ Sound ____ Damaged ____

Junior Class (16 years or younger) ____

seed (f) _____ pollinator (m) _____ poll. date _____

start date _____ sq ft _____ feet out _____ lobes ____ main vine Y N

Circ. ____ f-b ____ s-s ____ OTT _____ Est.wt. _____

Signature _____ Date _____

By signing this form the applicant agrees to the rules & regulations.

Membership Application _____ A membership is \$20.00 from Jan-Dec 2012

Mailing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Home Phone _____ Other Phone _____

The Rules & Regulations

- 1.) This contest is open to UGPG members only. UGPG Membership is \$20.00 per calendar year. You may register to become a member of the UGPG at the weigh off.
- 2.) The entry must be a Cucurbita sp. specimen that was grown by the exhibitor (person signing this document).
- 3.) The entry must be exhibited by the grower or team. In the case of an emergency where the grower or team cannot be present to exhibit the entry, the UGPG will make a determination regarding the validity of a grower or team's absence.
 - a. "Grower" is defined as a person who has grown and cared for the entry from planting to harvest.
 - b. "Team" is defined as any two or more "Growers" who exhibit together.
- 4.) All specimens that will be submitted to the UGPG for prize money and recognition must be weighed on a certified scale with only the fruit on the scale. Any fruit weighed with a tarp, pallet, or any other lifting device will be classified unofficial weight or "EXH".
- 5.) No foreign material (i.e.: fungicides, caulking, skin additives et cetera) will be permitted in the weighing of any fruit. Vines must be trimmed to within one inch of the stem of the fruit. The judges have the right to inspect any and all fruit before weights and measurements become official. Refusal of any inspection to an entry will cause the entry to be classified exhibition only.
- 6.) The specimen must be sound, healthy, and undamaged. Entries must be free of rot, holes or cracks through to the cavity, and serious soft spots.
 - a. The Judges reserve the right to probe cracks, holes, and to dig out soft spots to judge a fruit official or not. Before the Judges can execute any of the previous they must have the grower present.
 - b. A serious soft spot is one that is greater than 3 inches in diameter, and greater than 3 inches deep. The dimensions of the soft spot will be measured after all soft material has been removed with a spoon.

- c. If there are more than two soft spots that require material to be removed and measured, the pumpkin will be disqualified even if each is smaller than the definition of 'a serious soft spot'.
 - d. Judging is to be completed before a fruit is officially weighed.
- 7.) The UGPG will only recognize one specimen per grower.
 - a. Entries other than the grower's one official entry will be entered as "EXH - exhibition" for legal fruit and "DMG - damaged" for illegal fruit. EXH and DMG fruit are ineligible for prizes.
 - b. A grower or team may bring up to 2 pumpkins. If a grower or team wishes to bring 3 or more pumpkins they must contact a club representative(s) prior to weigh-off day to ensure the UGPG can accommodate their multiple fruit.
 - 8.) No specimen will be allowed into competition if that specimen has been previously entered at another GPC (Great Pumpkin Commonwealth) weigh off competition.
 - 9.) Minimum weight for an entry is 100 lbs.
 - 10.) Heaviest sound entry wins.
 - 11.) Squash will be classified as follows -100% of the following colors or color combinations green, blue, and gray. The surface area of the fruit as grown in the garden, not including the portion that was in contact with, or close proximity to the ground will be considered. This area will include the area between the ribs, around the stem, and the blossom end. This will not include any netting (cantaloping), any discoloration caused by the close proximity to the ground, or minimal amounts of white striping or mottling associated with some squash.
 - 12.) Pumpkins will be all fruit not classified as squash.
 - 13.) In the event of a tie of two or more places all entries that are tied will have the prize money for the places that are tied added together then split equally amongst the places that are involved.
 - 14.) The three Judges are will be three club/grower representatives selected by the UGPG.
 - 15.) Any attempt to coerce or influence a judge is grounds for disqualification at the discretion of the UGPG executive board.
 - 16.) If a judge has a fruit entered and should the entry require a judge's ruling, the entered judge will be replaced by another judge/club representative until after the final decision is made.
 - 17.) Registration begins at 8:00 AM. All entries must be on the ground staged for inspection by 11:00 AM. All entries must arrive on a pallet.
 - 18.) Neither Thanksgiving Point nor the UGPG will be responsible for any damages caused to any person(s) or specimen(s) at this event.

UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS 2012 WEIGH OFF
 SATURDAY SEPT. 29th
 at
 THANKSGIVING POINT
 LEHI, UTAH 84043
www.thanksgivingpoint.com

Registration is from 8 am till 11 am. Bring each pumpkin on a pallet.

Judging is from 11 am till noon.

Weigh off starts at Noon.

We would like to encourage everyone to bring a pallet for their pumpkin that has a 4 inch rise from the ground and a solid surface for the pumpkin to sit on. The surface could be plywood, carpet, cardboard, foam, etc. This will help the lifting crew move the pumpkin without damaging it.

Up to two pumpkins per grower are allowed but only one will count toward prizes. If desired, extra pumpkins may be weighed. Extra pumpkins will be weighed in beginning at 11 am. Contact Kyle, Andrew or Matt in advance.



To unload your Pumpkin please follow the path shown below. You will enter the lot from the South Entrance and proceed to the parking lot above (East) of the "Pumpkin Area" and exit to the North. You may then proceed to park you Pumpkin towing vehicle. There will be no vehicle Access to the "Pumpkin Area" as the area will be set up for weighing and displaying of the Pumpkins.

Pumpkin area "NO" vehicle access

Detailed view provided in a separate image. It highlights the unloading area in detail.