

UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS

The Pumpkin Vine

JAN 2009

VOL IV ISSUE I

Welcome to the Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers, UGPG 2009 season. As of February the UGPG is officially four years old. We had a great year in 2008! It turned out even better than we expected. We had lots of new members sign up and grow. At our October weigh off we had over 50 entries. We gave away over \$4000 in cash, prizes and give a ways.

2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES

UGPG membership is the calendar year from Jan 1st to Dec 31st. So it's time to renew if you haven't done so already. Membership is \$20. This gets you in on the annual seed give away and into most UGPG activities during the year, including free entry into the weigh off. Your membership needs to be postmarked by March 1st for you to be eligible for our seed distribution this year. If you signed up last fall and did not bring a pumpkin to the weigh off then you are OK for 2009. If you are not sure if you are signed up or not give Ray or Gordon a Call.

SEEDS DISTRIBUTION

The UGPG seed distribution will include seeds from the area's top growers and some others. You must be a current member to receive the seed. If you haven't renewed for 2009 please do so. If you come to one of our seminars you can pick up your seed packet there. After the seminars we will be sending out the seed packets to those who haven't already gotten them. Please share your seeds from last year's pumpkins with the group we are looking for about 80-100 packaged of seeds. We have about 75-80 members and we'll pass the rest out at the seminars and/or the weigh off. Send your seeds to Gordon Tanner at 1393 S 750 Kaysville, UT 84037. Remember to include the seed cross. Thanks to all who share their seeds.

UGPG SEED AUCTION

We had another success seed auction on BigPumpkins.com in December where we raised over \$2000 for the club. This money will go into the prize money fund for our weigh off on Oct 10th 2009 at Rockin E County store.

SEMINARS

Come join with other pumpkin obsessed people, rub shoulders with Utah's best pumpkin growers and learn their methods and techniques. We have two "How to Grow" seminars planned for this spring, one at the Rockin'E Store on and the other at Thanksgiving Point. The Rockin'E seminar will be broken up into two classes. The beginning/intermediate class will start at 1 pm and will go for approximately 2 hours. Cost is free. At Thanksgiving Point we will only have the beginning/intermediate class that will start at 1 pm. The class instructors will stay after to answer any questions. Cost is for this class is \$5. We hope to have several bags of fertilizer to give away to help offset this cost. See the enclosed flyer for more information.

4th ANNUAL PATCH TOUR

Our annual patch tour will be sometime in July or August. If you would like to have your patch included on the tour let us know.

WEIGH OFF'S

This year's main weigh off will be at Rockin E Country store in Woods Cross on Saturday Oct 10th2007. Registration will be from 8 am till 11 am and the weigh off will start at noon. We are hoping to have Larry Sagers be the MC again this year. The J&L Garden Center Weigh off will be October 20-24th. More details to come as the dates get closer.

THE UGPG BOARD

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Name	phone	email address
Gordon Tanner, Pres.	451-5002	s1tanner@yahoo.com
Ray Tolman, VP	295-7019	jetrbt@msn.com
Kevin Card, VP	756-5711	highlandpumpkins@yahoo.com



Phil McSwain with a pretty 323 pumpkin that he grew in 2007. Phil was seriously injured in an oil refinery explosion/fire.

In January there was an explosion and fire at an oil refinery in Woods Cross. Four men who worked at the refinery were hurt in the explosion and resulting fire. They all survived but suffered major burns and were taken to the University of Utah Hospital burn unit in serious or critical condition. One of those injured was a fellow grower giant pumpkin grower Phil McSwain. Phil and the other men face a long, difficult, and painful recovery. Any who would like to send Phil and his family a get well card, or a letter or card of encouragement; we think that would be a great idea and a kind gesture of support. Send them to:
Phil McSwain
1260 South 400 East
Bountiful UT 84010
We wish Phil all the best for a speed and full recovery. We all hope you get well soon!

GIANT PUMPKINS IN UTAH

By Ray B Tolman

“There is a fine line between “Hobby” and “Mental Illness”

I started growing giant pumpkins in 1990. Myself, Russ Thompson, Ken Giles, and Larry Thompson, from work decided to see how big we could grow a pumpkin. I’m not sure what seed we used at that time. My first pumpkin was 132 lbs, and the other guys were a bit smaller.

The next year 1991 we found out Wasatch Shadow Nursery had become a world pumpkin weigh-off site for the WPC (World Pumpkin Confederation). The same guys at our plumbing shop grew again, and we took our pumpkins to Wasatch Shadows Nursery. My pumpkin weighed in at 280 lbs. I don’t remember what the others were. Besides the 4 of us there were about 6 others. Mine was the biggest one in 1991. Brent Foutz from West Jordon and his son Eric had 2 pumpkins each that weighed 150 lbs to over 200 lbs. Brent grew pumpkins on an acre of ground. During the growing season of the next year I visited his pumpkin patch in West Jordon, and he had quite an operation. He had about 20 pumpkin plants he was growing. Most pumpkins at that time were well over 100 lbs. He had horses, and he said all he put on his pumpkin patch was horse manure, and he row Irrigated. Some of us adopted his procedure. There were a few other growers that had pumpkins, and we each shared what we were doing in our pumpkin patches, and everyone was friendly, and each of us were determined to grow bigger ones the next year.

In 1992 I found out about Dills Atlantic Giant Seeds and send for some from the P & P Seed Company. That year I grew one that weighed 320 lbs. I’m sure someone was growing bigger pumpkins before us, but that is how Giant Pumpkin growing got started in Utah.

A lot has happened in the hobby of Giant Pumpkin growing in the last 100 years. In fact 2003 marked the centennial year of Warnock’s Historical display of a 403 lb pumpkin at the 1903 St Louis Worlds Fair. He was immediately crowned the undisputed Pumpkin King of the World, a title he would not relinquish even unto his death.

In 1979, the bell sounded for the beginning of a new era of giant pumpkin growing when Howard Dill of Windsor, Nova Scotia, Canada broke the 1903 record with a 438.5 pumpkin. The significance of this was not so much in the weight of the pumpkin, but rather in the fruit of his arduous 30 years of experiment with giant pumpkin varieties. Out of his experiment came the Atlantic Giant Pumpkin variety, and to the present day this variety, by selective planting and pollinating, has increased the world record more than three fold, and elevated an average weight by an ordinary backyard gardener to well over 500 lbs.

WASATCH SHADOW NURSERY hosted the State Weigh-Off from 1991 to 1998. Wasatch also had games for the kids, such as painting pumpkins, carving pumpkins, dunking for apples. Prizes and ribbons were given to the kids for different categories. They gave prizes to the first 3 largest pumpkins. This included Ribbons, Certificates from business, dinner at restaurants, and a stay at

one of the hotels. The owners of Wasatch Loren and Debbie Neilson were great hosts, and made it fun for everyone.

The following year 1992 there were about 10 to 15 giant pumpkins weighed in. Tracy Giles, Chris Empey, Brent Foutz, Eric Foutz, Matt Isom, and the original group, and several others. (I can't remember them all)

The news media started coming to take photos and interview the growers, and ask our secrets. The owner Loren Neilson was the MC, and Debbie Neilson judged the entries and events. There were about 100 people that showed up to participate and be in the activities.

At this time about all we did was to plant Dill's Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Seeds. We put mulch on our patches and fertilized though out the growing season. We also watered a lot. We were growing 2 to 3 pumpkins per plant. So as we started to learn more and more about giant pumpkins we only grew one per plant. We did not hand pollinate until 1994 or 95. We started pruning and training our plants more at that time. The vines were not buried or a shade structure put over them. In 1995 we started burying the vines and putting shade structures over the plants and pumpkins. We started to get soil samples, and started amending our soul to what the report recommended. We started to prepare our ground in the fall. The pumpkins started getting bigger and bigger each year.

Kenny Blair (I think) started to grow giant pumpkins in 1994, and I introduced Bruce Orchard a good friend of many years to growing giant pumpkins in 1994. All the growers started becoming very competitive in these early years. Everyone started getting serious about growing, but also having fun. We started tracking pumpkin growers all over the US and Canada that were crossing different seeds. The rest is History. It got to the point that Wasatch Nursery Weigh-Off Site became to small to hold the event at their location. They made a decision not to have it in 1999.

Top Ten Giant Pumpkins from 1991 to 1998 Wasatch Shadows Nursery

1. 1997	620.5 lbs	Bruce Orchard	Bountiful
2. 1997	554 lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
3. 1998	549 lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
4. 1994	520 lbs	Ken Giles	West Valley
5. 1997	518 lbs	Bruce Orchard	Bountiful
6. 1995	489 lbs	Brent Foutz	West Jordan
7. 1993	452 lbs	Larry Thompson	Salt Lake City
8. 1993	428 lbs	Ray Tolman	Bountiful
9. 1998	428 lbs	Matt Isom	Salt Lake City
10. 1996	422 lbs	Ray Tolman	Bountiful

THANKSGIVING POINT:

In 1999 I contacted Thanksgiving Point along with Bruce Orchard to see if they would host the yearly State Weigh-Off, which they agreed to. They hosted it from 1999 to 2003. In 2001 I contacted Larry Sagers (The Horticulturist for the State of

Utah). I asked him if he would MC our Weigh-Off. He said he would. He made it a lot of fun and had a lot of interesting facts.

About then many Giant Pumpkin growers came on the scene, and started growing giant pumpkins that the State had never seen before. Some of them were Gordon Tanner. He grew giant pumpkins in the State of Washington before he moved to Utah. Andrew Israelsen, Brent Wolfey, Ross Fulmer, Kevin Card, David Latour, Ross Bowman, Russ Haslam, Mitch Eiting, and others. Bruce Orchard set a New State Record in 2001 with his 775.5 lb Giant Pumpkin which he held until 2004.

**Top Ten Giant Pumpkins from 1999 to 2003
Thanksgiving Point**

1.	2001	775.5 lbs	Bruce Orchard	Bountiful
2.	2000	633 lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
3.	2002	591 lbs	Bruce Orchard	Bountiful
4.	2003	590.5 lbs	Eric Blair	Bountiful
5.	1999	588 lbs	Bruce Orchard	Bountiful
6.	1999	581 lbs	Ray Tolman	Bountiful
7.	1999	752 lbs	Matt Isom	Salt Lake City
8.	2000	568 lbs	Kevin Card	Highland
9.	2002	540 lbs	David Latour	Lindon
10.	2001	525 lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful

J & L GARDEN CENTER hosted the State Weight Off in 2004. We appreciated Gary Smith for hosting it that year as we were trying to find a new Weigh-Off Site. The Nursery Area was too small for the size of our State Weight-Off, but they were a gracious host, and gave good prizes to each entry. Gordon Tanner broke Bruce Orchard's State Record of 775.5 lbs with his 906 lbs. (New Record)

**Top Ten Giant Pumpkins for 2004
J & L Garden Center**

1.	2004	906 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
2.	2004	891 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
3.	2004	835 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
4.	2004	752 lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
5.	2004	671 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
6.	2004	647 lbs	Andrew Israelsen	Taylorsville
7.	2004	612 lbs	Brent Wolfley	Layton
8.	2004	525 lbs	George Peterson	Bountiful
9.	2004	503 lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
10.	2004	472 lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful

It was at this time that the UGPG was organized. Gordon Tanner, Myself, and about eight others decided we need to have more control over the Weigh-Off's and pumpkin growing in the State of Utah. We elected Gordon Tanner as President, Kevin Card as Vice President, and Ray B. Tolman as Vice President. Our organization is made up of a group of ordinary people who enjoy growing Giant Pumpkins. One of our goals is to promote the hobby of growing Giant

Pumpkins and Squash in the Utah area. We adopted standards, guidelines and rules so as to make growing and weighing Giant Pumpkins fair for everyone. We started with around 10 members and it has grown to approximately 70 members as of 2008. Yearly dues are \$20.00 which entitles you to enter your pumpkin at the State Weigh-Off. You also receive 2 or 3 news letters a year. If you pay your dues by the end of February you are eligible for the UGPG yearly seed distribution in March. We also hold 2 seminars in the spring. One at Rockin-E Country Store and one at Thanksgiving Point. At these seminars you can rub shoulders with obsessed people, and learn from some of Utah's best Pumpkin growers their methods and techniques. We asked business and individuals to be sponsors, and to help with the prize money and merchandise to reward the pumpkin growers at the Weigh-Off.

A seed action is held each year around December. All of this helps to run the UGPG, Their activities and Weigh-Off during the year.

GARDNER VILLAGE hosted the State Weigh-Off in 2005. They were good host, and the Merchants were so glad to have us, as it increased their sales that day. With their activates and the State Weigh-Off they could not handle the large crowd that the event created. So a decision was made between them and us that they could not host it anymore. At this Weigh-Off Gordon Tanner broke his old record of 906 lbs with his 932.5 lb Pumpkin.

**Top Ten Giant Pumpkins in 2005
Gardner Village**

1.	932.5 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
2.	920.5 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
3.	878.5 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
4.	774 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
5.	737 lbs	Brent Wolfley	Layton
6.	703 lbs	Brent Wolfley	Layton
7.	536 lbs	Marilyn Wynn	Idaho
8.	503 lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
9.	494 lbs	Ross Bowman	Brigham City
10.	474.5 lbs	Phil McSwain	Bountiful

ROCKIN-E-COUNTRY STORE located in Woods Cross hosted the State Weigh-Off from 2006 to 2008. We couldn't have asked for a better host and a better place to hold our UGPG State Weigh-Off. We can't say enough about Debi and Loren and their staff for making the Weigh-Off Successful. Rockin-E lets us hold one of our Spring Seminar's at no cost to anyone who wants to come, and learn how to grow Giant Pumpkins. If you haven't visited Rockin-E-Country Store you are missing out. Not only is their nursery one of the best, but they also carry all animal feeds and products. They have a complete line of clothing and accessories, including western boots, hats, and work clothing. It's also fun to see all the clever decorations for home and garden. During the weigh-off's Rockin-E-Country Store also had the KSL Greenhouse Show with Larry Saggars, and Tim Hughes. In the years of 2007 and 2008 we had over 60 entries each year. We also had around 200 people come to see the Pumpkins, and to watch the State Weight-Off. Kenny

Blair broke Gordon Tanner's 932.5 lb. state record with his 1,104 lb Giant Pumpkin in 2006. This record still stands.

**Top Ten Giant Pumpkins from 2006 to 2008
Rockin-E-Country Store**

1.	2006	1,104	lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
2.	2008	1,054.5	lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
3.	2007	988	lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
4.	2008	969.5	lbs	Kenny Blair	Bountiful
5.	2006	963.5	lbs	Gordon Tanner	Bountiful
6.	2007	948	lbs	Andrew Israelsen	Taylorsville
7.	2008	893.5	lbs	Andrew Israelsen	Taylorsville
8.	2008	855	lbs	Russ Haslam	South Jordan
9.	2008	796.5	lbs	Gordon Tanner	Kaysville
10.	2008	782	lbs	Ross Bowman	Brigham City

If you go to our Webb Site([Utah Pumpkin Growers.com](http://UtahPumpkinGrowers.com)) you can see a listing of all the Top Giant Pumpkin Growers who have grown a pumpkin or squash over 300lbs, and the pumpkin and squash state records since 1990.

As you can see, since 1990 to 2008 (18 years) Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers have gone from 132 lbs to 1,104 lbs.

The Number of Pumpkins and Squash grown in Utah over 300 lbs. from 1990 to 2008:

224 over 300 lbs
136 over 400 lbs
80 over 500 lbs
45 over 600 lbs
30 over 700 lbs
14 over 800 lbs
9 over 900 lbs
2 over 1,000 lbs

I think within the next 2 or 3 years in Utah we will see a Giant Pumpkin that weighs over 1400 lbs. because of what we have learned as growers over the past 18 years. There were a few growers that pumpkins split or go bad before the Weigh-Off. A couple of these according to their estimated weight would have set a new state record. So...Remember our Motto. "Good Seed, Good Soil, and GOOD LUCK!

We have been very fortunate to have Larry Sagers as our Master of Ceremonies over the years at our State Weigh-Off. Larry is the Horticulturist for the State of Utah, and the host on the KSL Greenhouse Show every Saturday morning. He is a very busy man, and we can't thank him enough. Larry Sagers has interviewed some of the growers and visited the pumpkin grower's patches. He has written about growing giant pumpkins in his weekly Deseret News article.

Over the years I have contacted all four TV Stations, Radio, and Newspapers to make sure the State Weigh-off was covered. Most all TV Stations some radio stations and newspapers have shown up to take pictures, and interview the growers. We have also been on the KSL Greenhouse show every year and talked about growing Giant Pumpkins. They have also advertised the Weigh-Off to make the public aware of the place and times.

It's been fun going on our Patch tours every year to see other grower's techniques, and then getting together for a barbeque. I have developed many friendships over the years, which I value very much.

Gordon Tanner and Kevin Card need to be thanked for all they have done since we became the UGPG. We also want to thank each member for your support and help over the years.

We want to thank all the sponsors over the years that have been so generous in supporting us. WE ESPCICALLY want to thank all the Weigh- off Sites for their hosting the UGPG State Weigh-Off. We would not have had this much success over the years if they had not been so willing to Host the event. A special Thanks goes to Randy at Meldrum Scale Company for donating their scales every year. We could not have a weigh-off without scales. THANKS Randy and company.

GIANT PUMPKINS?

I grew giant pumpkins because I liked battle, and growing One was an everyday fight. You had to be in it for the long haul. Rain, frost, bugs and fungus could strike at any time and stop you dead. Only certain growers are cut out to handle this pressure—tough people of steel who can stand against the odds. Richard says giant-pumpkin growers are the spawning salmon of agriculture, since only the strongest make it upstream each year for anything worth mentioning.

Not all vegetables are this draining. Lettuce doesn't Bring heartache. Turnips don't ask for your soul. Potatoes Don't care where you are or even where they are. Tomatoes Cuddle up to anyone who'll give them mulch and sunshine. But giants like Max need you every second. You can forget about a whiz-bang social life.

Written by Joan Bauer (her book "squashed")

**AS I SAID AT THE BEGNING
"THERE IS A FINE LINE BETWWEN "HOBBY" AND "MENTAL ILLNESS"**

Amending with Soil Test Recommendations

Making amendment based on your soil test can be a little tricky especially if you haven't done it before. In our news letter last fall we had an article on the benefits of soil testing. We recommended having your soil tested at Western Laboratories in Parma Idaho. Use Test 70. Go to <http://www.westernlaboratories.com/> then soil/garden/submission form. Members get a 10% discount (\$41.40) if you include your check with the sample. The soil test report gives recommendations specific to giant pumpkins. On the next page are two figures the first is a part of a soil test results page and second is part of a soil report recommendation that Gordon Tanner received from Western Labs last year.

Figure 1 is for reference to only for those who would like to see how your soil compares to Gordons. Figure 2 contains the recommendations. Giant pumpkins are in Group 8, so we only look at the numbers in the group 8 column. Patch size and fertilizer type are the two factors used to convert a number given in the table to a number that you can use to apply an amendment to your patch.

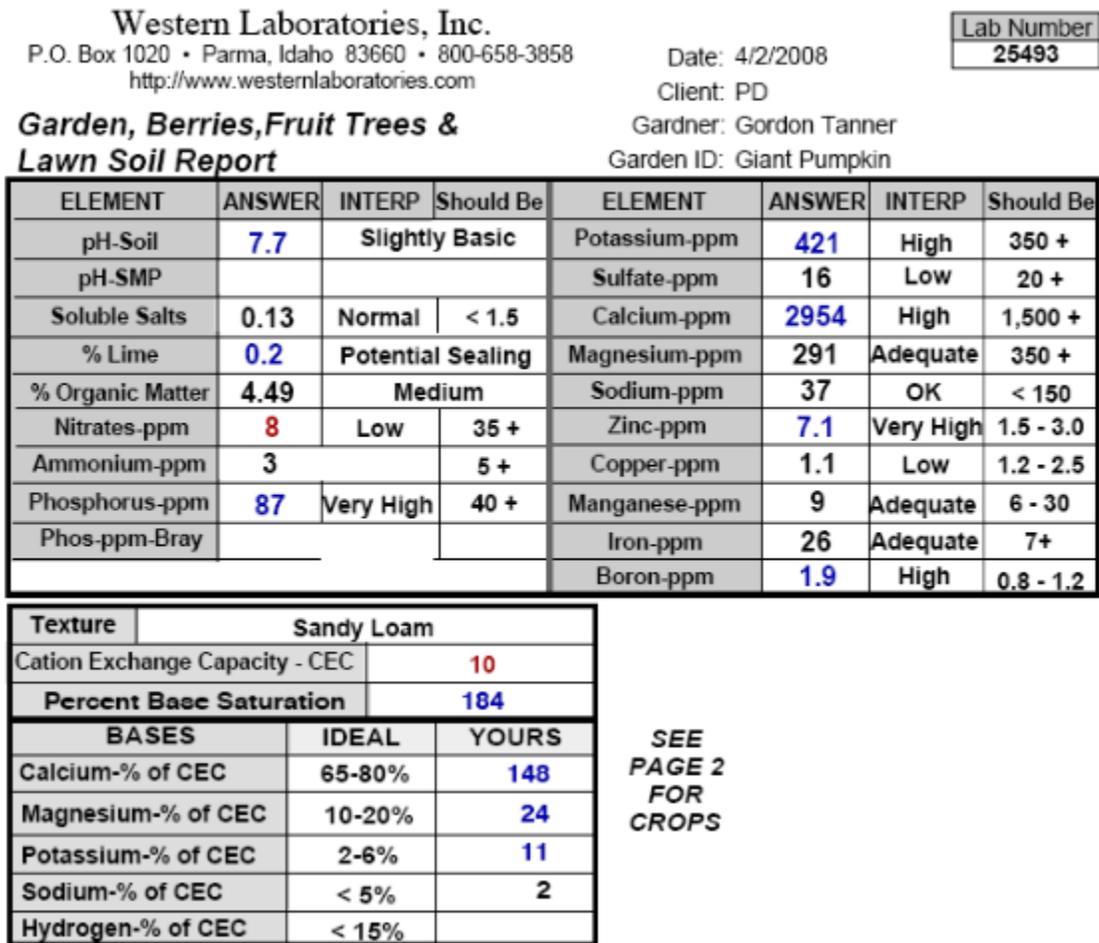


Figure 1. Soil test results.

RECOMMENDATIONS IN POUNDS PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET								
GROUP	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3	GROUP 4	GROUP 5	GROUP 6	GROUP 7	GROUP 8
Nitrogen*	1.7	5.3	3.5	3	3.9	3	2.8	3.5
Phosphorus	1.4	4	1.4	.8	1.2	2.6	2.4	1.7
Potassium		.7						
Sulfate Sulfur	.3	.8	.6	.6	1.1	.8	.3	1
Elemental Sulfur	4	3	5	3	4	4	3	5
Reclamation Iron	3	3	4	3	3	4	3	4
Gypsum								
Lime								
Magnesium	.5	.7	.5	.5	.5	.6	.5	.7
RECOMMENDATIONS IN OUNCES PER 1,000 SQUARE FEET								
Zinc		.5			.1			1.1
Plant Food Iron								
Manganese		1.5	.7		.7			1.5
Copper	.3	.7	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Boron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 2. Soil test recommendations.

Patch Size:

Notice that there are two titles in the chart and they both give recommendations per 1,000 square feet (sq. ft.) We need to ratio the recommendation amount to your patch size. Let do the conversion for two patches Patch A and Patch B. Patch A is 850 sq ft and Patch B is 1400 sq ft. We will start with Nitrogen. The recommendation for Nitrogen is 3.5 lbs per 1,000 sq ft. To get the proper amount for both Patch A and Patch B we ration our patch size to the 1,000 sq ft standard as follows.

Patch A for Nitrogen $3.5 \times (850/1000) = 2.98$ or $3.5 \times .85 = 2.98$

Patch B for Nitrogen $3.5 \times (1400/1000) = 4.90$ or $2.5 \times 1.4 = 4.90$

So for Patch A we need to add 2.98 lbs of Nitrogen to meet the soil test recommendation. And for Patch B we need to add 4.9 lbs.

The next step is to perform this calculation for all of the amendment. So for Patch A we take all the numbers in column 8 and multiply them by .85. For Patch B we take all the numbers in column 8 and multiply them by 1.4. If we do that then we get the following results. Note that we dropped all the ones that were zero.

Patch A (850 sq. ft.)		Patch B (1400 sq. ft.)	
Nitrogen	2.98	Nitrogen	4.90
Phosphorus	1.45	Phosphorus	2.38
Sulfate Sulfur	0.85	Sulfate Sulfur	1.40
Elemental Sulfur	4.25	Elemental Sulfur	7.00
Reclamation Iron	3.40	Reclamation Iron	5.60
Magnesium	0.60	Magnesium	0.98
Zinc	0.94	Zinc	1.54
Manganese	1.28	Manganese	2.10
Copper	0.26	Copper	0.42

Fertilizer Percentage:

Ok so that is the first conversion. It isn't so tough. The next conversion is a little trickier because it depends on what fertilizer we use to provide the needed amendment. We have to remember what the numbers on fertilizer packages are. XX-XX-XX on a package are Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium or N, P and K. For Nitrogen, different types of Nitrogen fertilizer have different amounts of Nitrogen in them. Urea 46-0-0, ammonium sulfate 21-0-0-24 and a general all purpose fertilizer say 16-16-16. So we have to know exactly how much Nitrogen is in the fertilizer we select to use. Urea is 46% nitrogen, ammonium sulfate is 21% nitrogen and a 16-16-16 fertilizer is 16% nitrogen. Other not so common fertilizers will list the percentage on the back or in the fine print somewhere.

Back to our Nitrogen example, next we need to adjust for the percentage of nitrogen in the fertilizer that we select by dividing our number by the percent nitrogen in our fertilizer. If we chose to add Urea, we would note that it has 46% nitrogen per 1 lb of fertilizer, so make the following calculations for our two patches.

Patch A, Urea- Nitrogen $2.98/.46 = 6.47$ lbs of Urea

So for Patch A we would evenly spread 6 ½ pounds of Urea over the patch to obtain our recommended 2.98 lbs nitrogen in our 850 sq. ft patch.

For Patch B we could do the same calculation.

Patch B, Urea- Nitrogen $4.90/.46 = 10.65$ lbs of Urea

The exceptions to the percentage calculation are Elemental Sulfur and Reclamation Iron. Elemental Sulfur is 100% sulfur so it requires not percentage calculation. Reclamation iron is also known as Iron Sulfate and the soil recommendation from the lab gives what you need to add, no percentage calculation is required. Also remember that some of the recommendations are in pounds and some are in ounces.

Where it can get more confusing is if we want use a product that has two or more of the amendments in it. For example in Patch A if we wanted to use ammonium sulfate (21-0-0-24) instead of urea we would divide our nitrogen number by .21, since ammonium sulfate is 21% nitrogen. And our sulfate sulfur by .24 since ammonium sulfate is 24% sulfate.

Patch A, Ammonium Sulfate- Nitrogen $2.98/.21 = 20.42$ lbs of Ammonium Sulfate

Patch A, Ammonium Sulfate- Sulfate Sulfur $0.85/.24 = 3.54$ lbs of Ammonium Sulfate

We would not want to add 20.42 lbs Ammonium Sulfate to Patch A, because that would be adding more Sulfate Sulfur than we needed. We could add 3.54 lbs which would give us the correct amount of Sulfate Sulfur but then we would still need to add 2.13 lbs ($2.98-0.85=2.13$) of Nitrogen from another source.

Now let do the math for Manganese, of the elements that is recommended in oz. The soil test recommends that we add 1.3 oz for each 1,000 sq ft. We already did the conversion for Patch A, so we need to add 1.28 oz. of Manganese to the patch. Manganese comes in the form of manganese sulfate and has 11% Manganese. So we would need to add 11.6 oz or approximately ¾ lb of Manganese Sulfate. Manganese Sulfate is a fine powder. It would be fairly difficult to evenly spread ¾ lb over 850 sq. ft patch. One solution is to add the Manganese Sulfate and all the other small materials amounts together with some water and apply with a sprayer. A hose end

sprayer or a pump bottle sprayer would work. Another would be to combine all the small material amounts together with the other amendments, mix well and then spread. Another problem is that Manganese Sulfate is difficult to find and usually comes in a 50 lbs bag. Kenny Blair and Ray Tolman bought a 50 lb bag last year and have lots of it left over. We'll see if we can get them to bring some 1 lb bags to the seminars.

In summary there are two conversions that you need to make. First is the patch size by using the size ratio and second is the percentage in the type of fertilizer that you are using. Also beware that some fertilizers or amendments contain two or more of the things you need to add and that you need to account for those.

UGPG GROUP BUY

Last fall's newsletter discussed the benefits of mycorrhizal fungi and seaweed extract. This year we have decided to group buy Holland's and RTI Mycorrhizal fungi and Holland's soluble seaweed extract powder. The price will depend on the amount we order. The more we order the cheaper it will be. We expect the Holland's Mycorrhizal fungi to be \$8/lb or less, the RTI Mycorrhizal fungi to be \$8/ lb or less, and the Holland's seaweed to be \$12/lb or less. We will make the orders around March 10th, then distribute at the seminars, unless other arrangements have been made. Email or call Gordon 801-451-5002, s1tanner@yahoo.com if you would like to order.

SEED STARTING

There are almost as many different ways to start your seeds as there are growers. The methods differ but the idea is the same. Control the environment to help ensure that your prized seed has the greatest chance of making it to the full plant stage. You want to keep the seed damp but not wet and warm. Between 80° and 90° F is ideal, use a thermometer to check to make sure you are in the temperature range.

Most growers start by carefully by gently filing around the edge of the seed, except near the tip, with a piece of fine sandpaper. File until you see a color change. Filing helps moisture get into the seed and also weakens the shell which will aid in shell removal later on. Practice filing on some of less important seeds to get the hang of it.

Soak the seeds in 50/50 water-hydrogen peroxide solution mixture for 4-8 hours in a warm place. Soaking ensures that the whole process starts off right.

Germination Box: The idea is to find or build a box with vents and a light, as a heat source. An old aquarium makes a great germination box. Once the box is set up, adjust the light wattage and vents to maintain the proper temperature. Place the seeds in their containers in the box.

Camp Cooler: Place the containers with the seeds and bottles of hot water inside a camping cooler. Close the lid to keep everything warm. Replace the hot water in the bottles approximately every 8-12 hours.

Zip Lock Baggy: Cut two pieces of a paper towel just smaller than the area of the baggy. Wet the pieces with your water and hydrogen peroxide solution mixture and squeeze the excess. Place the seed between the two layers and put into the baggy. Make sure the baggy is 100% sealed or the paper towel pieces and the seed will dry out. Place baggy in a warm area, on top of a refrigerator, a computer monitor, etc. Hold the unopened baggy up to a light to check for germination. Once the seed has germinated, carefully plant the seed into potting soil, about ½ to ¾ in deep in a container.

Lots of different things can be used for containers. The smaller the container the faster the roots will reach an edge and have a higher likely hood of balling up or being damaged when transplanting. Small to large pea pots, ½ gallon ice cream containers,

plastic ice cream buckets, and drink cups from the local fast food place have all been used as containers. Until the plant breaks the ground, place a piece of plastic wrap over the container to help keep the moisture in. Use damp but not wet potting soil. A good way to do this is to add your dry potting soil to a bucket, add water and mix. When you transfer the soil to the container, use your hands and squeeze out any excess water.

Remember that seeds do not require light to germinate just moisture and warmth. But once they have sprouted they need light.

Place some clear plastic in the area where you are going to plant 3-4 weeks before you transplant. Plastic acts like a green house and warms up the soil underneath it.

Transplant your seedling outside shortly after it reaches the first true leaf stage. As a general rule, the main vine will grow in the opposite direction that the first true leaf is growing. Work in some potting soil in the area around where you plan to transplant. Dig out a hole enough to accept the plant. If the plant is a little high you can always mound soil up to it. If the seedling is long or leggy you can bury the stem up to the cotyledons to help stabilize it. Many growers like to angle the seedling when planting to help encourage it to grow a certain way.

UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS *The Pumpkin Vine*

Pumpkinisms

15. Follow me to the Utah Giant Pumpkin Weigh-Off at Rockin' E Country Store.
14. Just try to steal my pumpkin this year you rotten kids!
13. One on the scale is worth two in the patch.
12. The baloney stops when the tail gate drops.
11. A love of my life gained 40 lbs. yesterday. Keep going baby!
10. Hi neighbor how's your back and what are you doing Friday Oct 9th?
9. My wife said it's either me or the pumpkins... every now and then I miss her.
8. My Dad won first place at the weigh off and all I got was this lousy T-shirt.
7. Old growers never die they just go to the big weigh-off in the sky.
6. Giant Pumpkins: Grow'em or Blow'em
5. Milk injecting, the biggest myth ever!
4. UGPG: The toughest bunch of growers west of the Mississippi.
3. Moving to new house so you can have a bigger patch is worth it.
2. I've got HPD – Hyperactive Patch Disorder, what's your excuse.
1. Happiness is spending hundreds of dollars to win a \$5 ribbon.

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1393 SOUTH 750 EAST
KAYSVILLE, UT 84037-3006