

# UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS

## *The Pumpkin Vine*

March 2006

VOL II ISSUE I

Welcome to the Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers, UGPG, 2006 season. As of Feb the UGPG is one year old. We had a fantastic first year! It turned out even better than we expected. We had lots of new members sign up. We have over 40 members now. At our October weigh off we had over 30 entries. We gave away over \$4000 in cash, prizes and give a ways. Members Gordon Tanner and Brent Wolfley produced a new pumpkin and a new squash state record, respectively.

So a big THANK YOU goes out to everyone for signing on and supporting our group. We couldn't have done it with out your help! If you haven't renewed for 2006 please consider doing so. It's going to be a fun year. We have lots of great activities planned.

### OUR WEB SITE

The UGPG has a web site up and running. You can find it at

<http://www.utahpumpkingrowers.com/>

On the site there are several years of weigh off results, pictures, information on upcoming events and other good stuff.

### SEEDS

Enclosed are some great seeds from some of our top UGPG growers and from other top growers around the US and Canada. Enjoy. Thanks to all who shared their seeds!

### 2006 UGPG CANENDAR OF EVENTS

#### SEMINARS

We have two seminars planned for this spring. Come rub shoulders with Utah's best pumpkin growers and learn their techniques. See page 5 for the flyer.

#### UGPG SEED AUCTION

See it at BigPumpkins.com Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the chat auction room.

#### MEMBERS BBQ LUNCH

Let's get together, talk pumpkins and eat! The lunch will be at Ray Tolman's home on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at Noon. See page 6 for more information.

#### PATCH TOURS

Coming this summer the first ever UGPG patch tours. Join with your grower friends and see the patches of your fellow growers. See, listen and learn from them. Often being there and seeing is the best way to a good understanding.

South Salt Lake and Utah Counties

Davis County

Saturday Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> 10 am

Saturday Aug 19<sup>th</sup> 10 am

More details will be made available at a later date.

#### THE WEIGH OFF

The main UGPG weigh off will be at Rockin E Country store in Woods Cross on Oct 7<sup>th</sup>. Larry Sagars will be the MC again this year. More details to come.

## STARTING SEEDS/ TRANSPLANTING/ EARLY PROTECTION

Humm well to be honest there are as many different ways to start your seeds as there are grower to whom you've ask the question. 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 75° and 85° F is ideal, use a thermometer to check to make sure you are in the temperature range). Below are a few the seed starting methods.

**M**ost growers start by carefully and gently filing around the edge of the seed, except near the tip. Use an emery board or a piece of fine sandpaper. File until you see a slight color change. This weakens the seed shell which will help the shell removal later when the cotyledons, seed leaves, appear, also it helps moisture get into the seed. You might want to practice filing on some of your less important seeds to get the hang of it.

Then often seeds are soaked in water or 50/50 water/hydrogen peroxide solution for 1-6 hours to ensure it has moisture in it.

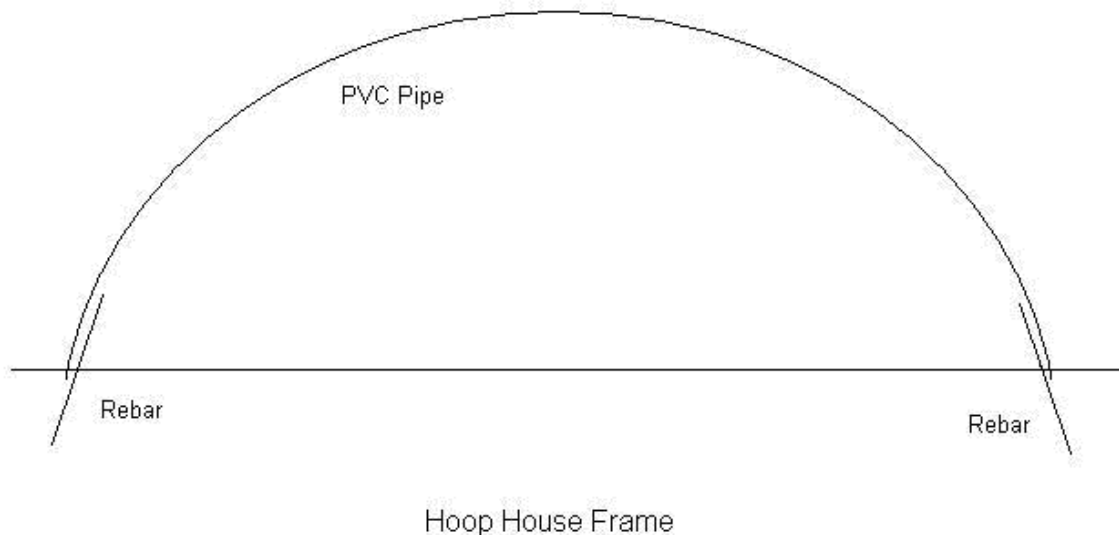
1. Germination Box. The idea is to find or build a box with vents and a light, as a heat source. An old aquarium makes a great germination box. Once the box is set up, adjust the light wattage and vents to maintain the proper temperature. Add the seeds in their containers and you are good to go.
2. Camping cooler. Place the containers with the seeds and bottles of hot water inside the cooler. Close the lid to keep everything warm. Replace the hot water in the bottles approximately every 12 hours.
3. Zip lock baggy. Cut two pieces of a paper towel just smaller than the area of the baggy. Wet the pieces and squeeze the excess water out. 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in deep in a container.

**A** note on containers: 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 being damaged when transplanting. Small to large pea pots,  $\frac{1}{2}$  gallon ice cream containers, 5 quart 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.

**A** seed does not require light to germinate. But once the plant is above the soil and the cotyledons are opening, they need light.

**R**egardless of the method, transplant the seedling outside when it reaches the first true leaf stage. Typically the main vine will grow the opposite direction of the first true leaf. It is a good idea to place some clear plastic in the area 3-4 weeks before you plant to transplant. The plastic will act like a green house and warm up the soil in the area. Have some good potting soil in the immediate area where you plant to transplant. Dig out a hole enough to accept the plant. Don't dig the hole too deep or water may tend to pool in the hole. 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. Some growers like to angle the seedling to help encourage it to grow a certain way. **Building an early season hoop/green house out of pvc pipe, rebar and clear plastic is an easy way to help keep the plant warm and protect it from wind.** ½ inch pvc pipe (10 or 12 ft in length) fits nicely inside ¼ inch re-bar (2 ft long) to make a nice house. Large metal paper clamps, available at office supply stores, work well to attach the plastic to the pipes. Add flaps or vents on the ends or top to avoid overheating during sunny days. Even if the outside air temperature is cool, the temperature inside a hoop house can rise to 120° F or higher in direct sun light without proper venting. Leave the plant in the house until it out grows it or until it is warm enough outside to take it off.



### SQUASH BUG PROTECTION

**Squash bugs (stink bugs) can ruin your whole season if not controlled.** They carry bacterial wilt disease, which they transfer to the plant when they suck on it. An infected plant can go from being healthy to being pretty much dead in just a few days.

**A proven product against squash bugs is Imidacloprid.** Buy a granular product that has Imidacloprid as the active ingredient. Admire, Bandit, Condifor, Gaucho, Marathon, Merit, Premier, Premise, Provado, Submerge, and Zenith all contain imidacloprid as the active ingredient. Imidacloprid is a systemic insecticide for the control of sucking insects.

The most common in our area is a granular Grub-X type product with Merit, which can be found at Wal-mart, IFA or other similar stores. At the beginning of each May, June, July and Aug., spread 1/4 to 1/2 cup of around the base of each plant and water it in well.

**Also use liquid or powdered Sevin on and around the plant if you see squash bugs.** Be careful and follow the direction on the label of the product that you use. Use the low end dose or even less, because Sevin can damage new growth. If you spray, only spray in the early morning or late evening to help avoid leaf burn.

**Planting a catcher plant such as a zucchini plant near the pumpkin plants can also work.** The theory is that the squash bugs are attracted to it first. If you see squash bugs on

your plants pick them off, kill them, and put them in the trash. Dead bugs left in the patch attract others to the area.

### 932.5 lb. STATE RECORD PUMPKIN

Below is a chart with some data on the current Utah state record pumpkin grown by Gordon Tanner in 2005. You can see if your pumpkin is keeping pace. Let's hope so! The 1225 Jutras 2003 seed was started on Apr 24<sup>th</sup>, transplanted outside May 7<sup>th</sup>, and pollinated July 4<sup>th</sup>. It grew over 900 lb in 75 days. Day is days since pollination. OTT, stands for Over the Top. It is a way to estimate a pumpkins weight. A grower measures the pumpkin three different ways and add those together to get the OTT number. Look up that OTT number up on a chart to find the estimated weight. For information on how to do OTT measuring go to: <http://www.backyardgardener.com/weight.html> and <http://www.bigpumpkins.com/ViewArticle.asp?id=57>

Day	Date	OTT	lbs.
20	24-Jul	159.3	96
25	29-Jul	202.5	185
30	3-Aug	238.8	295
35	8-Aug	269.5	418
40	13-Aug	292.0	528
45	18-Aug	308.5	620
50	23-Aug	320.3	692
55	28-Aug	330.9	762
60	2-Sep	338.0	811
65	7-Sep	342.5	844
70	12-Sep	346.1	870
75	13-Sep	351.4	910
80	22-Sep	351.8	913
85	27-Sep	354.5	934

### UGPG T-SHIRTS & HATS

The UGPG has some nice T-shirts and Hats for sale. Shirts are \$20 for sizes thru XL, XXL and XXXL are a little more, and hats are \$16. There is an order form on our web site or contact Ray, Kevin or Gordon for more information.

### WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

We are looking for members to help us with various things through out the year. Some of the areas are Sponsors, Weigh off and Website. If you would like to help or have comments or questions, please contact us:

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

We'd like to thank Andrew Isrealson who has recently left the UGPG board as vice president to be able to spend more time with his family. Thanks for all your help and we wish you all the best!

Again to all our members **thanks** for signing up and have a fantastic season!

# UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS 2006 HOW TO GROW SEMINARS

Saturday, March 25 at 1:00 pm.  
Thanksgiving Point  
3003 North Thanksgiving Point  
Lehi, UT 84043  
Cost: \$7  
[www.thanksgivingpoint.com](http://www.thanksgivingpoint.com)

Saturday, April 15 at 1:00 pm  
Rockin E Country Store  
1201 West 500 South  
Woods Cross, UT 84087  
Cost: Free

Map to Thanksgiving Point Seminar Class room building



Map to Rockin E Country Store Seminar



# UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS

## 2006 BBQ LUNCH

### Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, Noon

We will provide the burgers and dogs but we ask that you bring a side dish: Chips, Salad, Dessert or something along those lines. No alcohol please.

The lunch is for UGPG members and their spouses. (Bring them so they can meet others who are pumpkin obsessed and not think that you are so strange after all.) Also welcome are children 12 years of age or older who are pumpkin growers.

We'll meet at Ray Tolman's home on Saturday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, at Noon.  
331 East Park View Cir.,  
Bountiful, Utah. 84010

Map to Ray's houses



Directions:

From I15 North or South bound, Exit 315 (2600 South) in Bountiful  
Head east on 2600 south, the road will veer to the left and turn into  
Orchard Dr.

Turn Right on to North Canyon Rd.

Turn Left on to Davis Blvd.

Turn Right on Park View Cir.

RSVP Ray 295-7019, Gordon 451-5002 or Kevin 756-5711 if you plan on attending.