



The Pumpkin Vine

March 2010

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Welcome to the Utah Giant Pumpkin Grower's 2010 Season

We are all excited about the prospects of a new pumpkin growing season. It was a tough year in 2009 for pumpkins but we are ready to put that all behind us and get pumped up for the new year. I think we have all had enough of the cold temperatures and are ready for sunshine and warm garden soil.

NEW UGPG LEADERSHIP

We want to officially announce the new leadership for the Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers. The leadership is as follows:

President
Andrew Israelsen
801-966-1070 hm
801-706-1622 cell
aisraelsen@comcast.net

VP Weigh Off Coordinator
Kyle Fox
801-796-3666
801-319-9926
kylefox1@gmail.com

VP Sponsorships Coordinator
Tyler Quigley
801-808-2100
tylerquigley@gmail.com

Treasurer/Membership Coordinator
Matt McConkie
801-458-3383
isellutah@gmail.com

We would like to thank the old leadership of Gordon Tanner, President; Ray Tolman, VP; and Kevin Card, VP; for all their hard work and dedication to our organization. These are the men who are responsible for starting our organization and making it such a great success these last five years.

2010 MEMBERSHIP DUES

UGPG membership is the calendar year from January 1st to December 31st, so it is time to renew if you haven't done so already. Membership is \$20.00. This gets you in 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 27th 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 okay for 2010. If you are not sure if you are signed up or not, give Matt McConkie a call.

Seed 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 seeds. If you haven't renewed for 2010, 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 have not already received them. Please share your seeds from last year's pumpkins with the group. We are looking for 80-100 packets of seeds. Send your seeds to: Matt McConkie at P.O. Box 150662, Ogden, Utah, 84415. Remember to include the seed cross.

Thanks to all who share their seeds.

Ordering Soil Amendments and Fertilizers

The club will be ordering the following soil amendments in bulk this year:

Biogrow Endo Plus (Mycorrhizae) \$7.00/pound

Seaweed Powder \$8.50/pound

If you would like to order these amendments through our organization, please email Andrew Israelsen at aisraelsen@comcast.net.

UGPG Seed Auction

We had another successful seed auction on BigPumpkins.com in February where we raised over \$2,600 for the club. This money will go into the prize money fund for our weigh off on September 25, 2010 at Thanksgiving Point.

5th Annual Patch Tour

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

Seminars

Come join us for our spring "How to Grow" seminars. We have several seminars planned for this year. The first is March 27th at the Rockin E Country Store starting at 10:00 am and will last for approximately two hours. Cost is free. The first hour will be dedicated to beginning/intermediate growers. The second hour will be for advanced growers and all those who are interested in learning the latest techniques for growing that monster pumpkin.

Kyle and Carrie Fox will be teaching a pumpkin seminar in Santiquin at the Red Barn. This will be on April 3rd at 10:00 am. Call Kyle at (801) 796-3666 for details.

The last seminar will be held at Thanksgiving Point on April 17th at 1:00 pm and will be for all levels of pumpkin enthusiasts. The cost for this class is \$5.00 and we hope to have several bags of fertilizer to give away to offset the cost. Be sure to invite all your neighbors and friends who would be interested in growing a big pumpkin. These seminars have typically been one of our best tools for recruiting new members so be sure to tell everyone you think might be interested. (Share the Fun!)

WEIGH OFF

This year's main weigh off will be at Thanksgiving Point on Saturday, September 25, 2010. This is two weeks earlier than it has been held in the past. Registration will be from 8:00 am - 11:00 am and the weigh off will begin at noon. More details to come as the date gets closer.

SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank Yvonne Israelsen for updating and getting our website back on line. We also want to thank Cathy and Dave Bradley for putting together our newsletter. We appreciate all their help.

You can visit our website at www.utahpumpkingrowers.com. We have added two pages that we think you will like. The first is the *Utah's Top 10 Heavy Hitters* page and the second is *Utah's Top 25 Pumpkin Growers* page. Please let us know what you think of the changes.



SUGGESTIONS FOR STARTING SEEDS

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 degrees F is ideal. Use a thermometer to check to make sure you are in the temperature range.



Most growers start by carefully and 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 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 out 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 1/2 to 3/4 inches 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 likelihood of balling up or being damaged when transplanting. Small to large peat pots, 1/2 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 big 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's All-Time Top 25 Growers

All growers are ranked by the weight of their top pumpkin ever grown in the State of Utah.

Grower	Weight	Year	Site	Hometown
1. Kenny Blair	1104	2006	Rockin E	Bountiful
2. Gordon Tanner	1054.5	2008	Rockin E	Kaysville
3. Andrew Israelsen	948	2007	Rockin E	Taylorsville
4. Brent Wolfley	877	2009	Thanksgiving Pt	Layton
5. Russ Haslam	855	2008	Rockin E	South Jordan
6. Ross Bowman	782	2007	Rockin E	Brigham City
7. Bruce Orchard	777.5	2001	Thanksgiving Pt	Bountiful
8. Kyle Fox	742	2009	Thanksgiving Pt	Pleasant Grove
9. Randy Tousley	697.5	2007	Rockin E	West Valley City
10. Joe Chapman	655	2008	Rockin E	West Jordan
11. Jim Larkins	651	2008	Rockin E	Salt Lake City
12. Kevin Card	650	2006	Rockin E	Highland
13. Mike Kuslan	643	2007	Rockin E	West Valley City
14. Ray Tolman	635.5	2006	Rockin E	Bountiful
15. Dana Clark	632	2009	Thanksgiving Pt	North Salt Lake
16. Marion Bushman	627	2007	Rockin E	Salt Lake City
17. David Latour	606	2006	Rockin E	Pleasant Grove
18. Eric Blair	590.5	2003	Thanksgiving Pt	Bountiful
19. David Bradley	583	2009	Thanksgiving Pt	Salt Lake City
20. Mitch Eiting	578.5	2007	Rockin E	Bountiful
21. Neal Westwood	578	2007	Rockin E	Highland
22. Matt Isom	572	1999	Thanksgiving Pt	Salt Lake City
23. Ben Card	570	2007	Rockin E	Highland
24. Mason Ewing	565.5	2007	Rockin E	Layton
25. Chris Miller	561	2009	Thanksgiving Pt	Salt Lake City

Utah's All-Time Top 10 Heavy Hitters

To be considered a heavy hitter, you must have weighed in a minimum of 5 pumpkins at UGPG (or other) weigh off since 1992 and the pumpkins must have been grown in the State of Utah. The weights of the grower's top 5 pumpkins are averaged together. Pumpkins must weigh a minimum of 300 lbs. to qualify.

1.	Gordon Tanner	Average Weight – 955			
	1054.5 (2008)	963.5 (2006)	932.5 (2005)	920.5 (2005)	906 (2004)
2.	Kenny Blair	Average Weight – 889			
	1104 (2006)	988 (2007)	752 (2003)	696.5 (2008)	633 (2000)
3.	Andrew Israelsen	Average Weight – 806			
	948 (2007)	919 (2009)	893.5 (2008)	647 (2004)	620 (2007)
4.	Brent Wolfley	Average Weight – 751			
	877 (2009)	737 (2005)	731 (2007)	706.5 (2009)	703 (2005)
5.	Bruce Orchard	Average Weight – 619			
	777.5 (2001)	620.5 (1997)	591 (2002)	588 (1999)	518 (1997)
6.	Kevin Card	Average Weight – 613			
	650 (2006)	628 (2008)	620 (2007)	599 (2006)	568 (2000)
7.	Ray Tolman	Average Weight – 551			
	635.5 (2006)	605 (2008)	581 (1999)	503 (2001)	428 (1993)
8.	Randy Tousley	Average Weight – 531			
	697.5 (2007)	497 (2006)	494.5 (2007)	490 (2006)	474 (2006)
9.	David Bradley	Average Weight – 477			
	583 (2009)	572.5 (2009)	517 (2008)	394.5 (2007)	316 (2008)
10.	David Latour	Average Weight – 472			
	606 (2006)	540 (2002)	479.5 (2003)	394.5 (2001)	338 (2001)

Red – Utah State Record

Blue – Weighoff Winner - Non-Record

Other heavy hitters: Matt Isom, Joe Chapman, Scott Nelson & Rick Carlson



2010 Membership Form

The Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers, UGPG, is a group of everyday people who enjoy growing giant pumpkins. Our goal is to promote the hobby of growing giant pumpkins and squash in the Utah area.

An individual or family membership for one calendar year is \$20.

Membership benefits include:

- UGPG annual seed distribution
- 2 - 3 newsletters per year, with growing tips and UGPG news and events
- Free entrance to UGPG weigh offs
- Access to other UGPG members for friendship, fun and growing advice

For more information, call or email any of the following UGPG board members:

Andrew Israesen, President, aisraelsen@comcast.net, (801) 966-1070

Matt McConkie, Memberships Coordinator, isellutah@gmail.com, (801) 458-3383

The UGPG does not sell or give away any of your personal information to anyone. It is used for UGPG purposes only.

Make check to UGPG
 Send completed form to:
 UGPG/Matt McConkie
 P.O. Box 150662
 Ogden, UT 84415-0662

2010 Membership \$20 \$ _____
 T-shirts are \$20 each for S M L & XL
 \$22 for 2XL and \$24 for 3XL
 _____ = \$ _____
 Hats are \$15 each, x _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

New member _____ Renewal _____

Name: _____

(only your name is required for renewal unless other information has changed)

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

Email: _____