



The Pumpkin Vine

November 2012

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Congratulations to Tyler Quigley

In the largest ever Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers weigh-off, where over 80 pumpkins from 3 states were brought to the scales, the grower who ultimately came out on top was Mountain Green grower, Tyler Quigley. Tyler's pumpkin was grown from the 1338 McConkie seed. This pumpkin was Tyler's largest,

beating his old personal best by an impressive 450 pounds. The Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers would like to congratulate Tyler on an amazing year and a mighty impressive pumpkin!

To learn about his secrets to growing a big one, see page 13.



New UGPG President



We also want to congratulate the new President of the Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers Association, Kyle Fox. Kyle has served three years as the vice president of our club and has introduced many new ideas and events that are ongoing traditions with our Utah club. We trust that Kyle has many more ideas that he will be introducing in the months to come. This is an exciting time for our club. The club has grown amazingly well over the past several years and we are sure that it will continue to grow as we share the fun with others.

New State Record Squash and Long Gourd State Record

Congratulations to Richard Glassford who broke Brent Wolfley's 7 year old squash state record with his 825.5 lb "Precious." It was an awesome specimen! Also congratulations go out to Marc Tovar who broke the long gourd state record with his 111" gourd. Way to go guys!!



Saving Seeds

Remove the seeds from the pumpkin. Wash them thoroughly to remove all the guts. Wash them one more time with a solution of 10% bleach and 90% water. This will disinfect them and help to kill any disease or mold that maybe be on them. Dry them off with a towel.

Spread the seeds out on a table, cookie sheet or screen to dry. Place the seeds so they aren't touching each other. Pick an area where they won't be disturbed by mice, cats, dogs, or children. Dry for two weeks then turn them over and dry for an additional two weeks.

Identify or label them, place them in a zip lock baggy or jar, and store in a cool and dry place. A label consists of the fruit weigh, the grower's last name, the year, the cross if known, and Sq. or squash if it was a squash. For example, 1454.5 Quigley 2012 (1338 McConkie 11 x open) or 1171.5 K. Fox 2012 (1520 Sperry x 1600 McConkie).



Online Seed Auction

Utah's online seed auction will be January 6th. (time pending) Join our auction to get your hands on some of the best seeds in the world. Support our club's auction by going online to bigpumpkins.com All of the money made from this auction goes directly to the growers of the UGPG.

Ginormous Pumpkin Regatta

We want to thank everyone who participated in the 2nd annual Utah Ginormous Pumpkin Regatta. We want to especially thank Mountain Valley Seed Company for sponsoring this great activity. We had a great turnout with about 3 times as many spectators as last year and we trust that this activity will continue to grow each year. We'd like to congratulate Ross Bowman for winning the Grower's Open Event. His boat was carved from his 1013.5. We also want to congratulate Carrie Fox for winning her 2nd annual race in the women's division. Everyone had a great time, participants and spectators alike. The Whack-O Jack-O heat was new at the regatta this year. You don't need a giant to come and have fun at the pond. The winner was one of the UGPG's newest members, Dan Farr of Salt Lake City.



Ross Bowman paddling into First Place!



Ross Bowman - the Victor!



Carrie Fox competed with the men



Whack-O Jack-O winner - Dan Farr

Top UGPG Winners



1st
Tyler Quigley
1454 lbs.



2nd
Kyle Fox
1171 lbs.



3rd
Ross Bowman
1013 lbs.



4th
Brandon Roper
956 lbs.



5th
Kyle Clark
934 lbs.



6th
Marc Tovar
854 lbs.



7th
Dave Bradley
812 lbs.



8th
Dale Elwood
802 lbs.



9th
Brent Evans
801 lbs.



10th
Hawk Gudmundson
758.5 lbs.

2012 Weigh-off Results

We want to thank everyone who volunteered their time and helped out with the weigh off. It takes a lot of people to prepare for and run a good weigh off and we appreciate everyone's hard work. I think the weigh off was a big success. As we said before, we had a record number of pumpkins that were weighed in at this weigh off. Eighty One pumpkins were weighed this year and we would also like to thank all of the grower's young and old who brought their pumpkins to the weigh off and made it such a great day. We also want to thank Kyle Fox for organizing this year's weigh off and making it such a great event for growers and spectators alike.

Rank	Grower	Weight	Hometown	Comments
1	Quigley, Tyler	1454.5	Mountain Green	
2	Fox, Kyle	1171.5	Pleasant Grove	
3	Bowman, Ross	1013.5	Brigham City	
4	Roper, Brandon	956	American Fork	
5	Clark, Kyle	34	Highland	
6	Marc Tovar	854	Layton	
7	Bradley, David	812	Salt Lake City	
8	Elwood, Dale	802	Hyde Park	
9	Evans, Brent	801	West Valley City	
10	Gudmundson, Hawk	758.5	Midvale	
11	Vaughn, Annette	682	Ogden	
12	Fox, Carrie	669	Pleasant Grove	
13	Leavitt, Richard	666	West Valley City	
14	Black, Chad	653	American Fork	
15	Black, Colton, Morgan & McKell	646.5	American Fork	
16	Saxton, Susan	592	Enoch	
17	Warren, Cliff	572	Pocatello, ID	
18	Snell, Jake	551	American Fork	
19	Hughes, Brent	537.5	Centerville	
20	Schmid, Wade	510.5	Morgan	
21	Gebert, Alan	501.5	Millville	
22	Woods, Clay	499.5	Layton	
23	Pace, Daniel	498	Salt Lake City	
24	Miller, Chris	467.5	Salt Lake City	
25	Richardson, Kristin	459	North Salt Lake	
26	Kolb, Emily	421	Roy	
26	Ford, Iris	421	Hyde Park	
28	Tanner, Kyle	420	Kaysville	
29	Schumann, Mark	414	Lehi	
30	Hahnel, Greg	401.5	Jackson Hole, WY	
31	Kolb, Sarah	396.5	Roy	
32	Davis, Brian	389.5	Payson	
33	Card, Kevin	374.5	Highland	
34	Baker, Dustin	373.5	Pleasant Grove	

Rank	Grower	Weight	Hometown	Comments
35	Snell, Andy	371.5	American Fork	
36	Baum, Ladell	367.5	Provo	
37	Ensign, Bryson	351.5	Salt Lake City	
38	Saxon, Curt	338.5	Kamas	
39	Kolb, Ken	337.5	Roy	
40	Davidson, Cameron	328.5	Saratoga Springs	
41	Kassing, Jason	324	Draper	
42	Snell, Max	322.5	American Fork	
43	Hanks, Jeff	310.5	Pleasant Grove	
44	Wilson, Craig	305.5	Kaysville	
45	Shaffer, Gregory	293.5	Spanish Fork	
46	Tateishi, Isaku & Jackie	275	Orem	
47	Boud, Thomas	269	South Jordan	
48	Baldwin, Mark	261	Fairview	
49	Vallejo, Noel Roberto	255.5	Alpine	
50	Buckley, Anthony	243.5	Brigham City	
51	Tanner, Gordon	240	Kaysville	
52	Crapo, Kyle	239	Delta	
53	Fox, Cole	220.5	Pleasant Grove	
54	Quigley/McConkie Kids	219	Mountain Green	
55	Smith, Scott	206	South Ogden	
56	George, Stevie	191	American Fork	
57	Fox, Kade	183.5	Pleasant Grove	
58	Fox, Kit	178.5	Pleasant Grove	
59	Nielsen, John	169	Lehi	
60	Fox, KC	162	Pleasant Grove	
61	Kassing, Kenzee	152.5	Draper	
62	Stephens, Christopher	150.5	Herriman	
63	Guymon Family Kids	124.5		
64	Dalebout, Hailey	51.5	Provo	
65	Stevens, Spencer	28.5		
66	Fox, Karac	.5	Pleasant Grove	
Exhibition	Evan, Brent	798	West Valley City	
Exhibition	Clark, Kyle	788.5	Highland	
Exhibition	Schmid, Wade	479.5	Morgan	
Exhibition	Bradley, David	450	Salt Lake City	
Exhibition	Richardson, Kristin	420	North Salt Lake	
Exhibition	Hughes, Brent	363	Centerville	
Exhibition	Leavitt, Richard	337	West Valley City	Howard Dill Award
Exhibition	Davis, Brian	248.5	Payson	
Damaged	Holt, Nathaniel	845	Provo	
Damaged	Evan, Travis	510	West Valley City	

Rank	Grower	Weight	Hometown	Comments
Giant Squash				
1	Glassford, Richard	825.5	Lindon	New State Record
2	Tanner, Kyle	341.5	Kaysville	
3	Glassford, Heather	338	Lindon	
4	Tanner, Gordon	155	Kaysville	
Long Gourds				
1	Tovar, Marc	111"	Layton	New State Record
2	Quigley, Tyler	105.5"	Mountain Green	
3	Sadiq, Mohamed	104"	Washington Terrace	
4	Glassford, Richard	83"	Lindon	
Exhibition	Sadiq, Mohamed	85.5"	Washington Terrace	
Exhibition	Glassford, Richard	82.5"	Lindon	
Exhibition	Glassford, Richard	79"	Lindon	
Tomato				
1	Thurber, Dale	2 lb 8.2 oz	West Valley City	
2	Tovar, Marc	2 lb 1.6 oz	Layton	
3	Vallejo, Noel	1 lb 9.8 oz	Pleasant Grove	
4	Smith, Danielle	12.2 oz	Roy	
5	Brinkerhoff, Aspen	9.6 oz	Benjamin	
6	Brinkerhoff, Sterling	9.4 oz	Benjamin	
Watermelon				
1	Jacobsen, Christi	94	American Fork	
Field Pumpkins				
1	Warren, Cliff	106.5	Pocatello, ID	
2	McConkie Kids	61	Mountain Green	

Utah Giant Pumpkin Drop

























The Utah Giant Pumpkin Drop hosted by Hee Haw Farms smashed last year's record by dropping a whopping 15,000+ pounds on October 27th. For every pound dropped, 10 cents was donated to the March of Dimes (Kyle and Carrie Fox's favorite activity!)



Utah's Top 25 Growers

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

Rank	Photo	Grower	Weight	Year	Hometown	Site
1		Matt McConkie	1600	2011	Mountain Green	Thanksgiving Point
2		Tyler Quigley	1454.5	2012	Mountain Green	Thanksgiving Point
3		Andrew Israelsen	1182	2011	Taylorsville	Thanksgiving Point
4		Ross Bowman	1174	2011	Brigham City	Thanksgiving Point
5		Kyle Fox	1171.5	2012	Pleasant Grove	Thanksgiving Point
6		Kenny Blair	1104	2006	Bountiful	Rockin E Country Store
7		Gordon Tanner	1054.5	2008	Kaysville	Rockin E Country Store
8		Dale Elwood	1032	2011	Hyde Park	Thanksgiving Point
9		Kyle Tanner	995	2011	Kaysville	Thanksgiving Point
10		Brandon Roper	956	2012	American Fork	Thanksgiving Point
11		Kyle Clark	934	2012	Highland	Thanksgiving Point

12		Mohamed Sadiq	901	2011	Washington Terrace	Thanksgiving Point
13		Brent Wolfley	877	2009	Layton	Thanksgiving Point
14		Dori Perry	869	2012	Vernal	Basin Nursery
15		Russ Haslam	855	2008	South Jordan	Rockin E Country Store
16		Marc Tovar	854	2012	Layton	Thanksgiving Point
17		Richard Glassford	825.5	2012	Lindon	Thanksgiving Point
18		Lee Perry	819.5	2010	Vernal	Basin Nursery
19		David Bradley	812	2012	Salt Lake City	Thanksgiving Point
20		Brent Evans	801	2012	West Valley City	Thanksgiving Point
21		Ralph & Juana Laub	794	2012	Davis	Basin Nursery
22		Bruce Orchard	777.5	2001	Bountiful	Thanksgiving Point

23		Hawk Gudmundson	758.5	2012	Midvale	Thanksgiving Point
24		Randy Tousley	697.5	2007	West Valley City	Rockin E Country Store
25		Susan Saxton	693	2012	Enoch	Basin Nursery

Feast for the Beast



If you would like to be a part of Feast for the Beast at Hogle Zoo, please contact Cagney at 801-821-0577. You will receive free passes to the event and more for a return trip. The best time to drop off your pumpkins will be Saturday, November 10th from 9am to 3:30pm.

1st Annual UGPG Calendar Contest

We are going to put together the first ever UGPG calendar. We would like all growers to submit any and all photos you'd like to enter in the 1st annual UGPG Calendar Contest. The calendar will have fun dates marked such as: soil prep, planting, how to bury, pollination, fertilizer secrets, etc. This will be a really fun calendar and we hope to make it a UGPG tradition.

Please email all pictures to carrierox1@gmail.com and watch the UGPG Facebook page for details on how to vote for your favorite. All photos are welcome, and the winner will receive a free calendar.

Calendars will be for sale during the month of December (prices to come).

Great Pumpkin Commonwealth Conference

Get away from the cold Utah winter. Come learn and mingle with the world's best in sunny Las Vegas, Nevada on **February 22-24**. Registration information to come.



The UGPG belongs to the worldwide Great Pumpkin Commonwealth. Did you know that Utah had more pumpkins entered into the Thanksgiving Point weigh-off than anywhere else in the world?!

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-offs* 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. Matt McConkie		Average Weight – 1065				
	1600 (2011)	1338 (2011)	1169 (2010)	909 (2011)	311 (2009)	
2. Ross Bowman		Average Weight – 1013				
	1174 (2011)	1082 (2011)	1013.5 (2012)	1013 (2011)	782 (2007)	
3. Andrew Israelsen		Average Weight – 1008				
	1182 (2011)	1097.5 (2010)	948 (2007)	919 (2009)	893.5 (2008)	
4. Tyler Quigley		Average Weight – 976				
	1454.5 (2012)	994 (2011)	896 (2011)	886 (2010)	651 (2011)	
5. Gordon Tanner		Average Weight – 966				
	1054.5 (2008)	963.5 (2006)	960 (2011)	932.5 (2005)	920.5 (2005)	
6. Kenny Blair		Average Weight – 889				
	1104 (2006)	988 (2007)	969.5 (2008)	752 (2003)	633 (2000)	
7. Brent Wolfley		Average Weight – 771				
	877 (2009)	803.5 (2010)	737 (2005)	731 (2007)	706.5 (2009)	
8. Lee Perry		Average Weight – 744				
	819.5 (2010)	764 (2012)	736 (2011)	732 (2009)	666 (2011)	

9. Dori Perry **Average Weight – 737**



869 (2012) 775 (2011) 774.5 (2010) 719 (2010) 545 (2011)

10. Kyle Fox **Average Weight – 719**



1171.5 (2012) 870 (2011) 742 (2009) 429 (2010) 380.5 (2008)

In Memory of Larry Sagers

by Ray Tolman

We are so sad about Larry Sagers death. He was diagnosed about a year and a half ago with Mesothelioma, a rare form of cancer. At that time the Doctors gave him about 6 to 8 months to live. He had been doing everything he could in and out of town with specialists on both coasts to try to extend his life or save his life. He underwent a grueling treatment regime, enduring radiation and chemotherapy and surgery.



I met Larry Sagers about 30 years ago and we have been good friends all these years. The Sagers had a tour company. My wife and I have been on several trips with him and his wife, Diane. We have seen some of the most beautiful gardens, and historical sites in America with them and many others. I would like to say a few things about Larry and the UGPG. For many years he had been in a lot of our Pumpkin patches doing interviews with us, taking pictures and doing write ups in his weekly Deseret News column about us and the UGPG.

He did interviews with many of us on the KSL Greenhouse Show on Saturday mornings. He did a lot to help advertise and promote the UGPG, and the State Weigh-off over the years. When I asked Larry to MC our Weigh-offs he said yes, and it wasn't easy for him to do so because he was always so busy. Sometimes after he got through doing the KSL Greenhouse show he would travel from one end of the Wasatch Front to the other to be there. He always made it. When he said he would be there he always kept that commitment.

Larry made the Weigh-off's fun. He would always interview the growers and where they were from and let them tell about their growing season, etc. He helped many UGPG growers on pest control, and getting our soils the way they needed to be to grow the big ones. He was friendly, and took the time to talk to anyone. He had a great personality, and was always positive and had a very dry wit. He had a vast knowledge of not only horticulture but about many other subjects. Tim Hughes said, " In the 28 to 30 years he had been answering thousand of questions on the KSL Greenhouse Show he had never been stumped by a question".

He will be greatly missed by many many people as the USU Extention Horticulturist, and educator. We will greatly miss him as one of our good friends, and fellow UGPG members. Our condolences and prayers go out to his wife and family.

Q&A with Tyler Quigley

Interviewed by Matt McConkie

What was the biggest reason for your success in 2012?

When I was tilling and preparing my patch for planting in the spring, I found an old horseshoe right where I planned on planting the 1338 McConkie. I kept the horseshoe attached to my watering/feeding system all season long.

Soil preparation and conditioning in 2010 and 2011. Using a tractor to till the soil made a huge difference for me. I made a concerted effort in 2012 to work my butt off in the patch. I gave it some serious time. With the time I made sure I had each of my plants pruned and buried. I invested in some knee pads and hand buried. I tried to avoid soil compression by walking and kneeling on boards.

What did you do differently this year than in years past?

I had more air flow throughout the patch. In past years I used black silt fence around the entire patch. This year I only had it on one side for wind protection and used my shade cloth on the other side. I am thinking that next year I will take my shade cloth down to the ground on each side of my patch to provide even better air circulation.

I fed the plant much more and much more aggressively this season. I made sure I used fungicide and insecticide at least once per week.

The other thing I did better in '12 was prune and bury each vine. I used a blend of mycorrhiza and seaweed as I buried.

In your opinion, what are the biggest factors that contribute to final pumpkin size?

Genetics, soil preparation and conditioning, even consistent watering and feeding, hard work, and good friends (see tip #1).

If you could give 3 "tips" to new growers, what would they be?

1. Find a growing partner. Strategize together and motivate each other. Grow on the same land together. This method has allowed us to go bigger and better than we would have been able to do alone. Sharing in such costs as: tractor/tiller, shed, feed, sprinklers and other equipment.
2. Find a plot of ground to grow on near your home where you can have a humongous plant and not have to take your entire yard. There are vacant fields all over. With some good sales language you can obtain very reasonable leases on the ground. For example, "I will take care of the weeds on this land for you for x # of years if you allow me to grow a giant pumpkin on it." Make sure you have water access and can amend the soil.
3. Use a growing mentor. Find someone who can tell you of the mistakes they have made. Frequently provide lunch at your patch with your mentor. The time sitting on a bucket and eating a sandwich will be time well spent. Not only because you will make a new friend, but because you will learn real Utah techniques that you cannot learn in books or online.

What would you recommend a grower should do this fall to prepare for 2013?

Test your soil and most likely you will need to add more organic material. I used horse manure and compost from the landfill. Till it in and any other amendments the soil test recommends then kick back and start your strategy on paper for 2013. What seeds to plant and start thinking BIG!!!

What is your soil like?

My soil is almost pure sand. I started growing on this patch in 2010. When I started, there it had

been nothing but a weed patch for the past 30 years. My actual patch is 25'x100'. That first season I added right around 100 yards of horse manure and compost. I had the soil tested and turned the results to my mentor, Gordon Tanner, who helped me figure out what other amendments to add.

What do you do preseason to prepare the planting area?

In 2012 I tilled the patch and added only 2 yards of compost from the dump right in the area where the seed was to be planted. I used one soil heating cable per plant. I coil it around where my hoop house will be in the spring. In 2011, I added some cow manure in the spring and it made my soil too "hot" and hurt me. I prefer to add manure in the fall. I mound up the area where the seed will be planted.

What is your watering system like?

My watering system is a 4 zone system. I have 4 valves, one for each plant. I patterned it after Thad Starr's system. <http://www.starrfarms.net/sprinklerguide.htm>

The pvc only lasts a few seasons I have found. Be prepared to have a lot of parts on hand to fix cracks or other blow outs that occur during the winter. The heads tend to get clogged after a few seasons really easily too. Easy to fix, but remember to keep an eye on them during the season to make sure your water is flowing and giving you good even coverage.

What did you feed your pumpkin this season?

This season I was very aggressive in my feeding. I used mico and seaweed in my planting area. Most of my food came from <http://www.extremepumpkinstore.com>. I ordered my sprinkler heads from them as well. Fed the following at different times and in rotation throughout the season: Alaska fish, seaweed, TKO Phosphite 0-29-26, Potassium 0-0-25, Extreme blend, Epsom salts. As crazy as this is going to sound... I rarely measured any of the food this season. I went with a good estimate and gut feel system. When it came to fish I really used a lot.

How often do you feed?

Several times per week! Never on Sunday. I figured the plant and kin could use a day of rest too.

I fed both in with a drench system and a foliar feeding system. Another advantage of having a growing partner is the ability to add equipment easier. This season we added a Stihl mist blower. Made feeding fun. <http://www.stihl.com/STIHL-power-tools-A-great-range/01532/Mistblowers-and-sprayers.aspx>

Do you use shade over the plant?

I use a 40% white shade cloth over the entire patch. I purchased these from <http://www.greenhousemegastore.com/product/40-percent-white-bulk-shade-cloth/shade-cloth>. They have many different kinds to choose from. Plan ahead and maybe even ask your spouse for a gift certificate from here for Christmas??? How great would that be! I went with 2 cloths 32'x72'. I have them attached to my long gourd trellis in the middle of my patch and then to t-posts on the sides. The shade cloth is supported above the plant by 17' pvc hoops.

Do you shade the pumpkin itself?

I keep a sheet over the pumpkin itself all season. I do make sure that my sprinklers are not hitting the sheet as much as possible. My pumpkins prefer a white 1,000 thread count Egyptian cotton sheet. The more you can introduce the number 1,000 to your kin the better off you will be.

How do you select the seeds you grow?

2012 is the first time I have given a lot of thought to what seed to plant. I like growing seeds from

Utah growers. The McConkie 1338 occupied 2 of my 4 spots this season. I wanted to, and did, prove it to be a winner. The other spots are for at least one proven seed. I go with a gut feel on what will work well for me.

What do you do for insect control?

Bayer Grub Ex
Bifenthrin

What do you do for disease control?

Eagle 20
Liquid Systemic Fungicide by fertilome
Broad Spectrum Fungicide by fertilome

What would you have done differently?

I worried way too much about things this season. I almost gave up at least 2 times. Seriously. I was burned out when I was taking care of 4 plants, pruning, burying and weeding. I was really depressed when I lost one of my 1338 McConkie plants that had a 200 lb. kin on it. My 1600 McConkie went down when the kin was 35 days old and measuring 493 lbs. It is still hanging in there today though on my front lawn (Oct. 26th). I think both of these had a fungus and the kins just stopped growing. All that being said I am sitting here staring at the trophy and thinking of how cool it is to have grown a 1,454.5 pound pumpkin. I have already forgotten about the 3 I lost. What 3?

Fun Links

Pumpkin Drop: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7h5MtT6F2g>

Find us on Facebook: Utah giant pumpkin growers

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Grower diaries: www.bigpumpkins.com