



# The Pumpkin Vine

September 2014

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## THE BIG PUMPKIN ISSUE



*Weigh-off  
Saturday, September 27th*



*Regatta  
Saturday, October 18th*



*The Drop  
Saturday,  
October 25th*



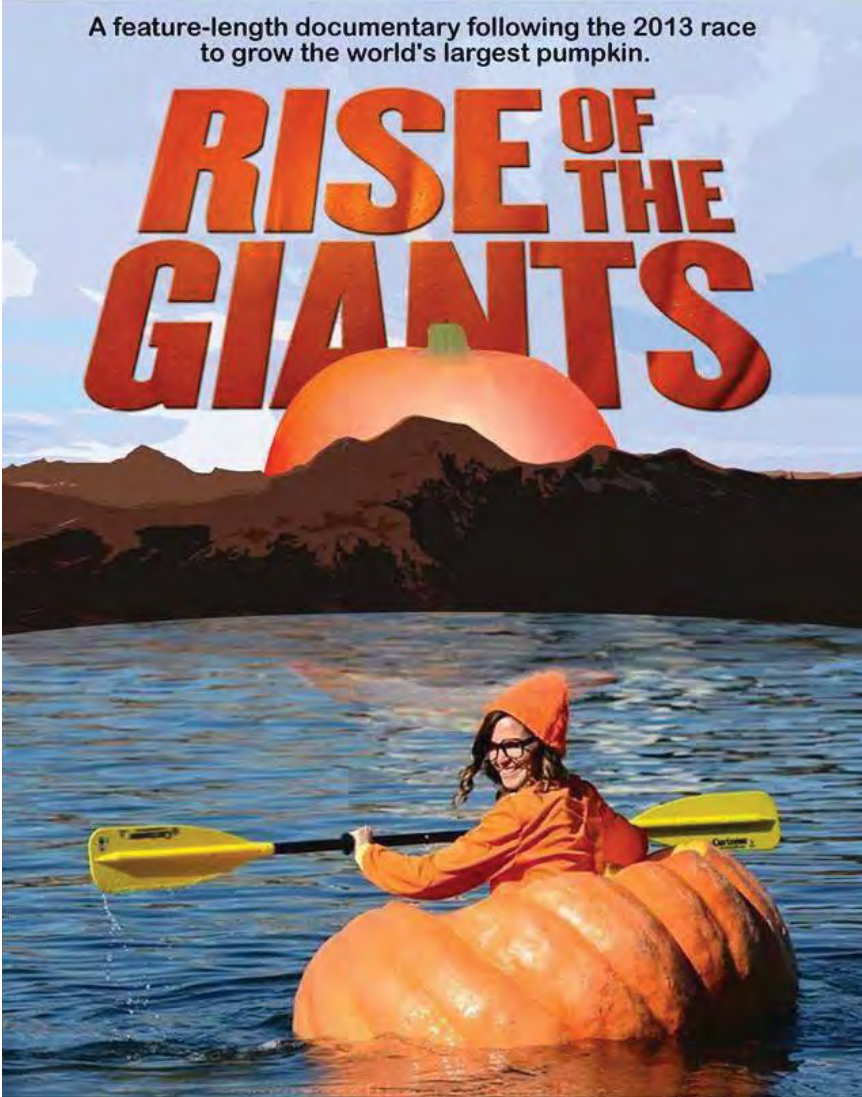
*Hogle Zoo  
Thursday,  
November 27th*

# The Rise of the Giants Movie Sneak Peak

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

A feature-length documentary following the 2013 race to grow the world's largest pumpkin.

# RISE OF THE GIANTS



THE FIRST-EVER SCREENING OF "RISE OF THE GIANTS" THE DOCUMENTARY ABOUT GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS  
SATURDAY 9/20 AT THANKSGIVING POINT THEATRE MUSEUM OF ANCIENT LIFE AT 4PM  
1935 THANKSGIVING WAY  
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW AT [WWW.RISEOFTHEGIANTSMOVIE.COM](http://WWW.RISEOFTHEGIANTSMOVIE.COM) \$6/TICKET  
DIRECTED BY DARIA MATZA PRODUCED BY DARIA MATZA & MARK DEVENDORF



*Thank you Mark and Daria - we love you!*





# PATCH TOUR RECAP

by Kyle Fox, UGPG President

The patch tour was another great Saturday morning in Utah. We started the day off right with a stop to the beautiful Brigham City home of Ross Bowman. Our second stop was Matt McConkie's place where we all had to hold our jaws up from hitting the ground. Matt has upgraded the place with two full size green houses. From the looks of things, it was a great addition. Next we went to the home of Travis Evans in the Salt Lake Valley to find a nice pumpkin growing in his back yard. Travis has added a few more weapons to help him make a shot at his dad's record pumpkin. We will find out if that happens when the Clay Maker Trophy passes hands at this year's weigh off. A few of the local growers near Travis' neighborhood have a traveling trophy they compete for. Last stop on the tour was at the home of Kyle and Carrie Fox. In the Fox patch we found the same story as we have in years past. HIS and HERS - Husband and Wife - Girl and Boy. Carrie and Kyle love each other until it comes to the battle in the back yard of who can out grow the other. The club-sponsored lunch was a GIANT pizza along with orange soda and treats. One of the favorite events of the year was a BIG success.



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# Disaster Prevention

By Matt McConkie

This is an extremely high risk hobby. It is amazing that more growers don't suffer stress induced ulcers and heart attacks as a result of all the disasters that can occur in a pumpkin patch. There is nothing more frustrating than having a promising pumpkin stop dead in its tracks due to insect infestation or disease. The purpose of this article is to reduce the number of disasters that occur for our membership, thus getting larger pumpkins to the weigh off.

This article will offer basic instruction on how to treat both fungal and insect problems using chemical treatments and will use both the brand name and active ingredient when recommending a particular product. Keep in mind, there are dozens of other effective products on the market that are not mentioned in this article. When shopping, ALWAYS FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE LABEL. This includes safety precautions including but not limited to the use of respirators, eye protection, protective clothing, etc. Leaf damage can occur when spraying on hot or sunny days. Spraying in the evening when temperatures have dropped is the safest option.

## Fungicides

With its hot and dry weather, Utah has fewer problems with disease than many other areas of the country. That being said, for growers that water multiple times per day and use shade or otherwise enclose their plants, we can create environments where disease can thrive and become a serious problem. To combat this, many growers will apply 1 systemic fungicide every 7-10 days (rotating between different systemics), along with regular applications of a contact fungicide. Keep in mind, the use of fungicides can have a detrimental effect to mycorrhizae.

**Cleary's 3336 (Thiophanate Methyl)** -- Broad spectrum systemic used to combat fusarium, powdery mildew, and other diseases including soil borne diseases. Mix 6-12 oz of Cleary's 3336

WP with 100 gallons of water and drench into 1000 sqft of garden area. Use in rotation with other systemics.

**Subdue (Mefanoxam)** -- Systemic fungicide used to fight soil born diseases including Pythium. Mix 1-2 oz of Subdue with 100 gallons of water and drench into 1000 sqft of garden area. Use in rotation with other systemics.

**Liquid Systemic (Propiconazole)** -- Broad spectrum systemic fungicide. Add 1 TBS Propiconazole (1.55%) per gallon of water. Spray on leaf surfaces with a compression sprayer or fogger. Very effective against powdery mildew. Apply 2 gallons of solution to 1000 sqft of garden. Use in rotation with other systemics.

**AgriFos (Phosphorous Acid)** -- Systemic fungicide used to prevent and fight root rot, downy mildew, phytophthora, and pythium. Mix 1 TBS per gallon and apply as a foliar, using 2.5 gallons per 1000 sqft of plant. This product can also be drenched. Use in rotation with other systemics.

**Eagle 20 (Myclobutanil)** -- Systemic fungicide that is particularly effective in the prevention of powdery mildew. Begin application at ¼ tsp per gallon of water starting mid July and apply every 1-2 weeks. Apply solution to leaf surfaces using compression sprayer or fogger. Two gallons of solution will treat 1000 sqft of garden area.

**Daconil (Chlorothalonil)** -- Is a contact fungicide. Spray on the leaf surfaces as needed. There are varying concentrations of this product so read the label carefully for the proper concentration.

## Insecticides

**Merit (Imidacloprid)** -- This is a systemic insecticide. It poisons the cells of your plant (to insects) and consequently when an insect takes a bite of your plant, it dies. Keep in mind this



*Aphid Infestation*



includes pollen so please take care to preserve the bee population. It does not wash off with irrigation or rain, but instead works its way out of your plant over time. Merit should be applied via drench every 2-4 weeks beginning mid May. Apply 1 TBS of Dominion 21 (21% Merit) into 50 gallons of water and apply to 1000 sqft of garden. This product is very effective against aphids.

**Warrior T (Lambda-cyhalothrin)** -- This is a contact killer insecticide. This means that it will treat the surface of your leaves and kill most insects but is not absorbed by the plant itself. Effective against squash bugs. Mix approximately 1 gallon of solution per plant and apply via compression sprayer or power fogger/mister. This treatment will wash off the surface of your leaves with irrigation and precipitation. Weekly application of some type of general contact insecticide is advised.

**Talstar (Bifenthrin)** -- This is another very effective contact killer. Add 1 tsp of Talstar (7.9%) per gallon of water. 1 gallon will treat 1000 sqft of garden area with a compression sprayer or fogger. Weekly application of some type of general contact insecticide is advised.

**Avid (Abamectin)** -- This miticide is effective against spider mites and aphids. Apply ¼ tsp Avid per gallon of water, which will treat 500 sqft. Apply via compression sprayer or fogger. This product is a contact killer but does translocate on the leaf and thus it is not necessary to completely cover the bottom of leaves. Translocation on severely damaged vegetation is minimal, so removal of dead leaves is advised. Repeat at 7 day intervals for up to 3 applications.

It is important to note that there are many organic solutions to disease pressure and insects as well. For growers who are committed to maintaining organic growing practices, good results can still be achieved. Whether you choose to grow organically, or implement a chemical program

in your patch, one thing remains the same--preventing disasters before they happen is the key. When your pumpkin stops growing due to disease or insects, unfortunately it will not simply start to grow again once the treatment has been administered.



*Squash Bug eggs on underside of pumpkin leaf*



*Mosaic Virus on pumpkin leaf*

# Weigh-off Information

## Trailers and Pallets

We would like to encourage everyone to bring a pallet for their pumpkin that has a 4-inch rise from the ground, allows the forklift access on all 4 sides of the pallet, 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 to move the pumpkin without damaging it.

## A Pumpkin's Value

Every year at the weigh-off, folks show up ready to buy our pumpkins. Some of us give them away, trade them, or get paid cash. There has been many discussions about what the fair price should be. Prices have been anywhere from 50 cents per pound and on up. We encourage our growers to not devalue the great giant pumpkin. A giant pumpkin is very rare and as you know, it takes a LOT of time and effort to get one to the weigh-off. One could argue his/her pumpkin is priceless where others would say, "I don't want to take this pumpkin home after the weigh-off."

There are organizations and individuals that are anxiously waiting to buy pumpkins at this year's weigh-off. When I am contacted by them, I tell them to show up at the weigh-off to see and meet the growers.

We have a few opportunities to donate pumpkins for free, some of which you could write off as a charitable donation on your taxes.

For the time and money we put into a growing season, these giants are worth a lot.

Bottom line is, help keep the value of this rare giant where it belongs.

If you are interested in selling your pumpkin, please email [kylefox1@gmail.com](mailto:kylefox1@gmail.com) to be introduced to a buyer.

## Suggested Value

<i>Weight</i>	<i>Per lb. price</i>
0-500 lbs.	\$ 0.50
500-1,000 lbs.	\$1.00
1,000 lbs +	the sky is the limit

[http://www.utahpumpkingrowers.com/weighoff\\_main.html](http://www.utahpumpkingrowers.com/weighoff_main.html)



# The BIG Fall Pumpkin Schedule

## 4th Annual Ginormous Pumpkin Regatta 2014

Presented by Mountain Valley Seed Co.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPC9Bikf14M>

**Date: Saturday, October 18th**

**Time: 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

**Location: Sugar House Park Pond - 2199 S 1400 East, Salt Lake City, UT**

Growers,

The leaves are starting to change and hopefully the 'kins are packing on the pounds. That can only mean one thing, time to start thinking about rowing mighty 'kins for bragging rights and glory.

This year's event is on Saturday, October 18th from 1:00 to 3:00 at Sugarhouse Park. As usual, we request that you please arrive NO LATER than 11:30 so we have time to get you unloaded and so that you have time to carve (from 12:00 - 12:45) and warm up before the first heat at 1:00. Speaking of "heat", we are planning to use the same format as last year with a few heats and the top qualifiers in each heat going for glory. Feedback from last year was pretty good but if you hated the format please let us know ASAP.

Please also email us ASAP to let us know if you plan on bringing a 'kin and rowing. If we don't hear from you before September 19th you are still welcome to row but no guarantee that we will have shirts and gifts for you, so please let us know soon!

Please email me at [robb@mvseeds.com](mailto:robb@mvseeds.com) if you intend to row this year.

This year we have a shot at a Guinness world record for the fastest 100 meter row in a giant pumpkin.

There will be prizes for the winners and the losers. You have already won if you can float in your pumpkin! 600 lbs. is pushing it to be a boat, but don't let weight get you down. There is a division for the not-soo-big, the Wacko-Jacko Division. Guidelines are to make a vessel out of "mostly pumpkins". In the past, some growers have duct taped two 200-300 lb. 'kins together to make kind of a pumpkin sea horse. Others have packed jack o'lanterns into a fishing net and thrown a pallet on top. Be creative, be bold, be pond worthy.

Thanks all, looking forward to another fun event.

**Mountain Valley Seed Co.**

## Utah's 6th Annual Ginormous Pumpkin Drop at Hee Haw Farms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rGCNQpe7IU#t=40>

**Date: Saturday, October 25th**

**Time: The DESTRUCTION begins at noon!**

**Location: Hee Haw Farms - 150 S 2000 W, Pleasant Grove, UT**

A Family Friendly Experience of Fun and Destruction!!

Growers that commit at the weigh off will get \$50 in addition to the following:

--Family season pass for 2014 season includes admission to the pumpkin drop on October 26

--Two Pumpkin Drop event t-shirts  
--Lunch for 2 at the Giant Pumpkin Drop event  
--Ticket in a raffle for cash prize for bringing giant pumpkin to the drop.

200-500 pounds \$100 prize  
501-800 pounds \$200 prize  
801 + pounds \$300 prize

A favorite of growers. Take your giant and get your family in free. The only 120 year old, homesteaded agri-tainment farm in Utah. See the biggest pumpkin drop in our galaxy. The drop is in its 5th year splatting. Talk to anyone who has been, you will know what to expect. This car crushing, piano smashing, pool splashing, is a pumpkin's nightmare. The pumpkin doctor prescribes 9 out of 10 growers to go to the drop as the best remedy to ending a season and growing pumpkins again the next year.

### **Feast With the Beast - Hogle Zoo**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N1pJe9auvnQ#t=49>

**Date:** Thanksgiving Day, November 27th

**Time:** 9:00 AM

**Location:** Hogle Zoo - 2600 E Sunnyside Avenue, Salt Lake City, UT

Don't miss the Giant Pumpkin Stomp, sponsored by the Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers Association.

Discover the Thanksgiving tradition everyone is talking about! Visit the Zoo while the turkey is in the oven and watch as the keepers give giant pumpkins for the elephants to stomp, roll, drop & chomp! There's something for everyone to enjoy.

If you are interested in donating your giant pumpkin (minimum 200 lbs) for this event, please contact Kyle Fox. You will receive free admission for up to 6 people for the Feast with the Beast event.

## **OUR SPONSORS**

by Brian Davis, Sponsorship

**C**an you feel it?? The excitement is in the air, and the success continues again in 2014 for the Great Pumpkin Cause!! The UGPG is growing in membership and we continue to be the BEST Giant Pumpkin organization in the world!!

Our sponsors are a BIG part of why we have that great success. We wouldn't be able to do many of the events that we do, without our sponsors' continued support. We at the UGPG feel like we have the BEST of the BEST sponsors.

Please accept our BIG thank you, for all your generous contributions in helping us make our vision a reality. We hope to continue our partnership in all future successes. Thanks again and GROW BIG!!

**IFA**

**CornBelly's**

**G&S Crane Services**

**Meldrum Scale Co.**

**Wicked Audio**

**Mountain Valley Seed Co.**

**Wasatch Shadows**

**SignCity**

**Diamond Rental**

**Hee Haw Farms**

**Basin Nursery**

**John Deere**





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.



# 2014 UGPG Weigh-Off Entry Form



Utah Giant Pumpkin Growers 10th Annual Weigh-Off  
Thanksgiving Point, Lehi, Utah

**\*Required**

**GROWER INFORMATION**

\*First Name \_\_\_\_\_ \*Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

\*City \_\_\_\_\_ \*State \_\_\_\_\_ \*Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*Current Member: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ - If no, please fill out membership form on 2<sup>nd</sup> page.  
(UGPG Membership is \$25 from Jan 2014 – Dec 2014)

**ENTRY INFORMATION**

**\*Class – Please Circle One**

Pumpkin    Squash    Long Gourd    Tomato    Watermelon    Field Pumpkin

Exhibition Only \_\_\_\_\_ Damaged \_\_\_\_\_ Jr. Division (15 & younger) \_\_\_\_\_  
(see official rules)

**OFFICIAL WEIGHT:** \_\_\_\_\_

(To Be Filled In By UGPG Judge)

\*Seed (mother) \_\_\_\_\_

Pollinator (father) \_\_\_\_\_

Date Seed Started \_\_\_\_\_

Date Set Out \_\_\_\_\_

Date Pollinated \_\_\_\_\_

Date Removed \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Lobes \_\_\_\_\_

Plant Size \_\_\_\_\_ Sq Ft.

Feet Out On Vine \_\_\_\_\_

Vine Type: Main \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

I ensure the quality of my entered fruit by attesting to the spirit of fairness of competition and fellowship while adhering to all the UGPG/GPC rules and regulations. I have cultivated, nurtured and tended for this pumpkin from planting to harvest.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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



**Membership Application**  
A membership is \$25.00 from Jan-Dec 2014

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**UGPG Weighoff Rules & Regulations**

- 1.) This contest is open to UGPG members only. UGPG Membership is \$25.00 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.
- 19.) Jr. Division is for entrants 15 and younger. No entrance fee or club membership is required for entry. We recognize that entrants likely received consistent help with growing these pumpkins, which is acceptable in this class. We do ask that the child take an active part in caring for the plant during the season. These entries will not recorded as official GPC entries, and will not be entered for prize money in the general field. If a Jr. grower has been the primary caregiver of the plant and would like to enter the pumpkin as an official entry, please do not mark "Junior Division" box on registration form.



UTAH GIANT PUMPKIN GROWERS 2014 WEIGH OFF  
SATURDAY SEPT. 27th  
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, allows the forklift access on all 4 sides of the pallet, 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. If you have more than 2 pumpkins to be weighed, you must contact Kyle Fox (801) 319-9926 or Matt McConkie (801)458-3383 in advance.



**PLEASE NOTE:**

Sponsors have put up separate prizes for kids to encourage growing and reward children for their efforts in the garden. For this reason, we have a Junior Division for entrants 15 and younger. We recognize that these children likely received consistent help with the growing of these pumpkins, which is acceptable in this class. We do ask that the child take an active part in caring for the plant during the season. These entries will not be recorded as official GPC entries, and will not be entered for prize money in the general field. If a young grower has been the primary caregiver of the plant and would like to enter the pumpkin as an official entry instead of a Junior Division, please do not mark "Junior Division" Box.

For a complete set of rules for all official entries, please visit:

<http://greatpumpkincommonwealth.com/PDF/rules.pdf>