

Spring 2017
Edition 2-17

Annapolis Valley Giant Vegetable Growers



Welcome to the Spring 2017 Edition the of AVGVG Patch News

Presidents Message

Well the planning is about to come to an end and the seeds will get planted. I would hope that the weather is in your favor as spring arrives it has been a long winter. I look forward to a successful growing season for all. Please get your entries to a weigh off as we are interested to know how you are doing. Come and join us at our upcoming summer events listed on our web page.

Good luck to all!

All the Best

Ron Muis President AVGVG



Welcome to New Members

We would like to warmly welcome the following new members to the AVGVG:

- Gary Kalges , Slate River, Ontario
- Garry & Eleanor Stevens, Truemanville , Nova Scotia
- Graham Barratt, Abbeydale , United K ingdom
- Bill & Carter Ansems , Canning , Nova Scotia
- Steve Tomlinson & Amanda Whidden, Minasville, Nova Scotia

We encourage everyone who is a gardening enthusiast to join a club for the knowledge exchange, friendly competition, contests, growing information and, of course, great seeds. Our membership fees are \$15.00 per year which, given the variety and quality of seeds alone, is the best gardening bargain you will find anywhere!

New Memberships can be sent to:

Paul Cameron

409 Arnold Road,

Grafton, Nova Scotia, B0P 1V0

Help Feed Our Web Site

Our web site AVGVG.com needs to be fed so we want your photos and videos

- Patch Pics
- Weigh Off Pics
- Garden Pics
- Even pics of your pests in the garden!

Our site will eat almost anything digital!

E-mail them along to kpphalen@hotmail.com for inclusion on our web site.

"Gardening requires lots of water - most of it in the form of perspiration."
- Lou Erickson

My wife said that if I buy any more plants she would leave me.
Damn! I'm going to miss that woman.

2016 Master Gardeners

The 2016 list for GPC Master Gardner has been published! The qualifications to participate in the contest are that you must grow and compete in 5 of the 6 GPC vegetable categories. The **highlighted** (12 out of 35) names are club members who qualified for the 2016 season. Congratulations to Todd, Gerard, Fred and John for making the top 10 in the world! Congratulations also to every grower that took on this challenge and was successful – Looking forward to seeing even more club members participating in 2017!

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Harnica, John | 23. May, Gary |
| 2. Martin, Margaret & Glen | 24. O'Brien, Wayne |
| 3. Kline, Todd | 25. Lobay, Mary |
| 4. Ansems, Gerard | 26. MacQuarrie, Kim |
| 5. Court, Doug | 27. Wexler, Team |
| 6. Ansems, Fred | 28. Ashton, Tamri |
| 7. Fleser, Dan | 29. Cameron, Paul |
| 8. Sippel, Derek | 30. Schnicker, Marty |
| 9. Butler, John | 31. Twelevs, Lexi |
| 10. Marley, Steve | 32. Gerhardt, Jim |
| 11. Nieuwenhoff, John | 33. Risi, Robert |
| 12. Barlow, John & Merri | 34. Puchner, Thomas |
| 13. Weston, Cecil | |
| 14. Reid, Jeff | |
| 15. Ferguson, Paul | |
| 16. Ansems, Shirley | |
| 17. Ansems, Frank | |
| 18. Offermann, Johannes | |
| 19. Ashton, Courtney | |
| 20. Court, Louise | |
| 21. Beal, Jim | |
| 22. Kenneally, Brian | |



Great Pumpkin Commonwealth News

GPC Directors Changes for 2017:

- Ian Paton takes over from Andy Wolf as President
- Gary Grande takes on the job of Vice President
- Treasure will be Glen Martin
- Todd Kline takes over from John Vincent for Quebec and Ontario
- Gary Miller takes over from Jim Sherwood for Pacific Coast, AK & HI

Dave Sletts has been inducted into the GPC Hall of Fame

2017 GPC OTT Chart for Atlantic Giant Pumpkins is attached to this Newsletter or download it at: <http://gpc1.org/PDF/2017%20chartinches.pdf>



2017 Seed Pack

By now you should have received your 2017 seed pack either at a meeting or in the mail. We have set up a page on the AVGVG web site to provide you with any information and growing tips we have for the seeds in your seed packs. Visit our web site or follow the Link : <https://avgvg.wordpress.com/2017-seed-pack/>

Should you have any questions about seeds please contact either :

Ron Muis

1574 Lakewood Road

Steam Mill , N.S. B4N 3V7

Gerard Ansems

1593 Lakewood Road

Steam Mill, N.S. B4N 3V7



Seed Starting

Germination - Sprouting Pumpkin Seeds:

The essentials for good pumpkin seed germination are:

- Viable seeds- Good seeds that are not hollow and are not so old, that germination rates are poor.
- Soil - A good, seed starting mixture that is light and sterilized.
- Water- The soil medium should be moist, but not soaked.
- Warmth - Here is where growers can add to their success. The ideal seed starting temperatures are between 80 and 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Seeds can be germinated outside of this range, but the further away from the ideal range, the lower the germination rate.

Step by step instructions to maximize seed germination:

1. File the edges of the seed lightly with a nail file or a piece of sandpaper. File all edges except the pointed end. This step allows moisture to reach the seed easier. Most importantly, filing your seeds makes it easier for the leaves to emerge from the shell without damage. The shell of giant pumpkin seeds are very thick, and the leaves sometimes have difficulty splitting open the shell. To avoid pinched or damaged primary leaves, we recommend filing the edges of the seeds for all giant pumpkins. As a matter of fact, it will aid germination and seedling emergence for hard shelled pumpkin seeds, and other types of seeds, too
2. Soak the seeds in warm (not hot) water for at least two hours. Some growers soak them for up to 24 hours. We believe 3-6 hours is enough.
3. Fill six inch peat pots with soil. Use a Seed Starter mix if you are new at growing pumpkins. Experienced growers often make their own starter mix, adding a number of other things. I add a little ash from the fireplace and some compost. Add the compost in the bottom inch or two of the pot, and make sure it is clean of insects.
4. Plant the seed in the pot, 1"-2" deep. If you plant them any deeper, they may have trouble emerging from the soil.
5. Place the seed on it's side.
6. Water thoroughly. Keep the soil moist, not wet.
7. Provide bottom warmth to the seeds. Experienced growers use a germination mat, which improves germination rates, and shortens the time to germination. Once the plant has sprouted, stop the bottom heat, as it can harm the roots.
8. Now the wait begins! In four to six days the seedling will emerge from the soil. The word "Emerge" is a misnomer. Healthy plants all but explode from the soil, growing at a fast pace, even as a seedling.
9. The total time to germination may vary. It is usually a week to ten days. If they have not sprouted after ten days, start a second planting.

TIP: Coating the seeds with a fungicide offers protection against mold and fungus growth.

AVGVG 2017 Executive

Ron Muis, President, beetgreen01@gmail.com

Gerard Ansems, Vice President, gansems@xcountry.tv

Judy Knox, Secretary, dm.knox@ns.sympatico.ca

Paul Cameron, Treasurer, paulcameron@live.ca

Brian Kenneally, Seed Coordinator, fbkenneally@eastlink.ca

Like us on Facebook by
searching:
Annapolis Valley Giant
Vegetable Growers



If you would like to contribute to the AVGVG Patch News or have an idea for a story please contact Paul at kpphalen@hotmail.com



Find us on the Web at:

www.avgv.com

Year of the Bushel Gourd

With the growing popularity of Bushel Gourds we are introducing a contest this year exclusively for our club members. This contest will be for the heaviest bushel gourd grown from Nieuwenhoff 108 seed which you will find in your seed packet. As bushel gourds are not yet a GPC recognized vegetable there are a couple rules to follow: If possible please have your entry weighed at a recognized event that has a certified scale, in the fall we will be asking for your contest submissions and we would ask that you have a picture of the grower and fruit with your entry. The prize will be \$250 to the grower of the heaviest bushel gourd and be awarded at the Christmas Social. (Note: Bushel Gourds are now listed on BigPumpkins.com under GPC Info Page - Club Member Todd Kline grew a bushel gourd to 192 lbs in 2016)



2017 AVGVG Annual Meeting Highlights

2017 Meeting Schedule

- May 15th - Plant Exchange
- June - Patch Tour - TBA
- July, 24th - BBQ at Tom Corkum's
- August 28th - Planning Meeting for Weigh Off
- Sept. 20th - Set up for Weigh Off at Glad Gardens
- Sept. 22-23 - Glad Gardens Weigh Off
- Dec. 4th - Christmas Social and meeting

Club Executive will remain the same as 2016 (see above for names and positions)

Glad Gardens GPC registration has been paid and mark your calendars for September 22& 23 , 2017



2017 GPC OTT Chart for Atlantic Giant Pumpkins (inches to lbs)

OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs	OTT	lbs		
160	99	244	335	300	623	330	826	360	1060	390	1320	420	1602	450	1898	480	2204	510	2514
165	108	246	343	301	629	331	833	361	1068	391	1329	421	1611	451	1908	481	2214	511	2524
170	117	248	352	302	636	332	840	362	1076	392	1338	422	1621	452	1918	482	2224	512	2534
175	127	250	360	303	642	333	848	363	1085	393	1347	423	1631	453	1928	483	2234	513	2545
180	137	252	369	304	648	334	855	364	1093	394	1357	424	1641	454	1938	484	2245	514	2555
185	149	254	378	305	655	335	863	365	1101	395	1366	425	1650	455	1949	485	2255	515	2565
190	160	256	387	306	661	336	870	366	1110	396	1375	426	1660	456	1959	486	2265	516	2576
195	173	258	396	307	668	337	878	367	1118	397	1384	427	1670	457	1969	487	2276	517	2586
200	186	260	405	308	674	338	885	368	1127	398	1393	428	1680	458	1979	488	2286	518	2597
202	191	262	415	309	681	339	893	369	1135	399	1403	429	1689	459	1989	489	2296	519	2607
204	197	264	424	310	687	340	900	370	1144	400	1412	430	1699	460	1999	490	2307	520	2617
206	203	266	434	311	694	341	908	371	1152	401	1421	431	1709	461	2009	491	2317	521	2628
208	208	268	444	312	700	342	916	372	1161	402	1431	432	1719	462	2020	492	2327	522	2638
210	214	270	454	313	707	343	923	373	1170	403	1440	433	1729	463	2030	493	2338	523	2648
212	220	272	464	314	714	344	931	374	1178	404	1449	434	1739	464	2040	494	2348	524	2659
214	227	274	475	315	720	345	939	375	1187	405	1459	435	1748	465	2050	495	2358	525	2669
216	233	276	485	316	727	346	947	376	1196	406	1468	436	1758	466	2060	496	2369	526	2680
218	239	278	496	317	734	347	955	377	1204	407	1478	437	1768	467	2070	497	2379	527	2690
220	246	280	507	318	741	348	963	378	1213	408	1487	438	1778	468	2081	498	2389	528	2700
222	253	282	518	319	748	349	970	379	1222	409	1496	439	1788	469	2091	499	2400	529	2711
224	259	284	529	320	755	350	978	380	1231	410	1506	440	1798	470	2101	500	2410	530	2721
226	266	286	540	321	762	351	986	381	1240	411	1515	441	1808	471	2111	501	2420	531	2731
228	273	288	552	322	769	352	994	382	1248	412	1525	442	1818	472	2122	502	2431	532	2742
230	281	290	563	323	776	353	1002	383	1257	413	1535	443	1828	473	2132	503	2441	533	2752
232	288	292	575	324	783	354	1011	384	1266	414	1544	444	1838	474	2142	504	2451	534	2763
234	295	294	587	325	790	355	1019	385	1275	415	1554	445	1848	475	2152	505	2462	535	2773
236	303	296	599	326	797	356	1027	386	1284	416	1563	446	1858	476	2163	506	2472	536	2783
238	311	297	605	327	804	357	1035	387	1293	417	1573	447	1868	477	2173	507	2482	537	2794
240	319	298	611	328	811	358	1043	388	1302	418	1582	448	1878	478	2183	508	2493	538	2804
242	327	299	617	329	819	359	1051	389	1311	419	1592	449	1888	479	2193	509	2503	539	2815

Weight_lbs = (((14.2 / (1 + 7.3 * 2^(-(OTT_inches) / 96)))^3 + ((OTT_inches) / 51)^2.91 - 8) * 0.993