

Spring, 2026



# GPC Common Ground

## 2026 International Growers Convention Salt Lake City Utah

A PUBLICATION  
DEDICATED TO  
GROWERS  
WORLD-WIDE WHO  
CULTIVATE GIANT  
FRUITS AND  
VEGETABLES

Photos By: Mark Mourlas



I was unable to attend this year's convention, and it looks like I missed a great one. The following pages are just a small number of photos that are available at: [Direct link to GPC IGC 2026 Photos](#)

These high resolution photos were taken and provided by Mark Mourlas for you to view, download and share for free. It is his gift to the growing community. Thank you Mark!

As you will see on the following pages, its not only getting to hear great presentations and learning, there are also lots of fun events, and of course the Award Ceremony where the community honors the top achievements for the year.





# Friday Night - Let the Games Begin



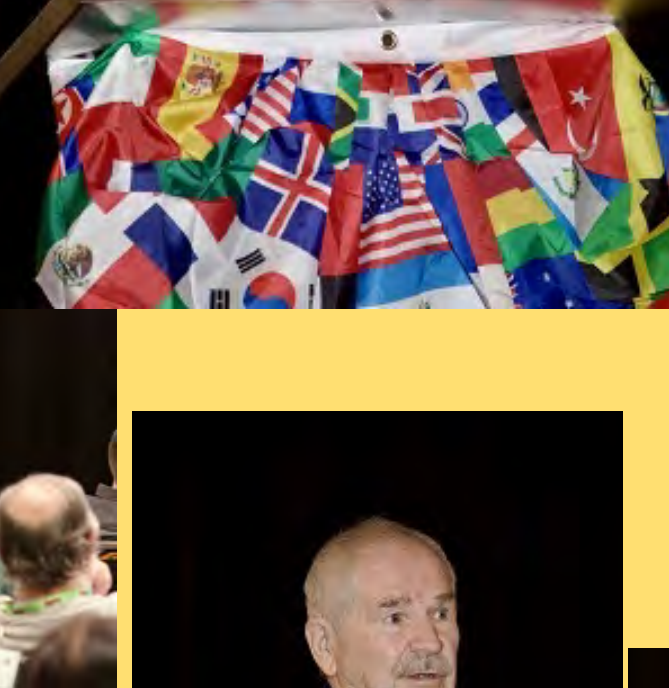




# Grower's Panels & Breakout sessions



# Presentations by Keynote speakers



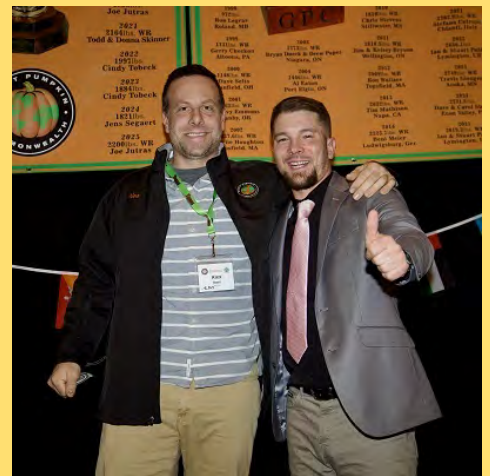


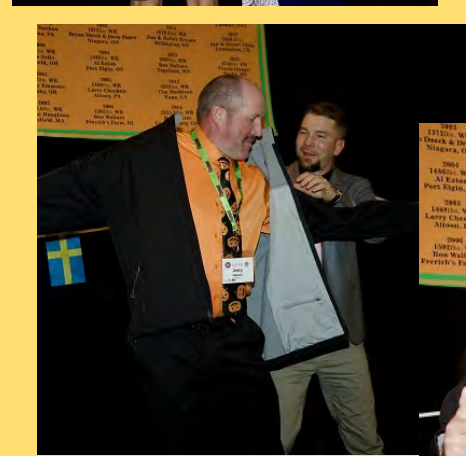
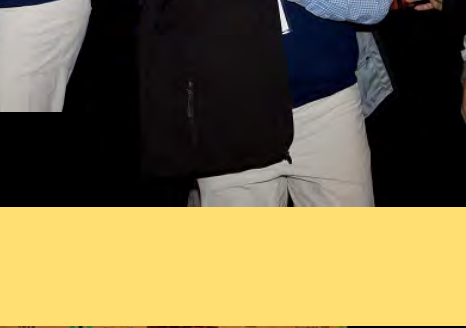
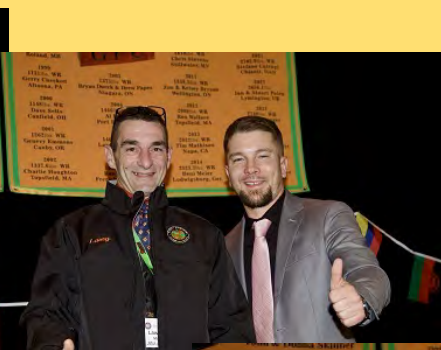
# Presentations are located on GPC1.org

## Direct links below

- Standing on the Shoulders of Giants - Dr. Bruce Bugbee - [Presentation](#)
- Atlantic Giant Pumpkin Diseases, Above and Below Ground Diseases - Harry Kreeft - [Presentation](#)
- Controlled Chaos: The Psychology of Giant Pumpkin Growing - Dr. Mohamed Sadiq, MD - [Presentation](#)
- Why I Can't Beat My Own Records: The Three Too-Muches - John P. Taberna - [Presentation](#)
- Growing the World Record 2200 Lb. Squash - Joe Jutras - [Presentation](#)
- Four Considerations That Will Help Your Grow - Russ Pugh - [Presentation](#)
- In Memoriam - Ron Root, Danny Boyce, Brian Werner, Steve Razo - [Presentation](#)
- Jerry Rose - Hall of Fame Inductee - [Presentation](#)
- Danny Vester - Hall of Fame Inductee - [Presentation](#)
- Big Show Awards Ceremony - [Presentation](#)
- Andy Wolf - Genetics Project - [Presentation](#)

# Awards Ceremony - Celebrating our Champions









# GPC Hall of Fame



# 2027 International Growers Convention

The GPC is pleased to announce that the next International Growers Convention will be held in Canfield, Ohio, on March 5–7, 2027.

We extend our thanks to the Ohio Valley Giant Pumpkin Growers club for their outstanding proposal to host the event in their home state.

More details will be shared in late fall 2026—stay tuned!



## SAVE THE DATE

2027 - IGC  
CANFIELD, OH

MARCH  
5-7





# GPC Charter Members

## Supporting the Future of Giant Growing

A Big Thank you to all that signed up to be a Charter Members and help support the work that keeps the giant fruit growing world thriving!

Name: First	Name: Last
Joe	Adkins
David	Allen
Mike	Alves
Bev	Anderson
Fred & Shirley	Ansems
Rob	Avina
Joseph	Baird
Tilly & Joe	Baird
Ronald	Barker
Don	Barron
Patrick	Barthelemy
Brian	Bassett
Brent	Bayon
Jim	Beauchemin
Elijah	Berg
Ezekiel	Berg
Titus	Berg
Brad	Bergefurd
Travis	Berggren
Charlie	Bernstrom
Craig	Bierle
Anne	Blakey
Alexander	Bogie
James	Bok

Name: First	Name: Last
Tony	Bolander
Robert	Borgers
Allen	Brady
Jason	Bragg
Lloyd	Bright
Chris	Brown
Robert	Broyan
Nicholas	Bruce
Niels	Bunge
Shawn	Burkhart
James	Cain
Maurizio	Camparmo
Harvey	Cardwell
Alex	Carr
Pete	Caspers
Jose & Laura	Ceja
Dave	Chan
Brian	Christensen
Mark	Chwialkowski
Michael	Cichanowski
Allen	Clark
Jackson & Mark	Clementz
Shr-Lyn	Cline
Kevin	Companion

Name: First	Name: Last
Caleb	Cook
Bre	Coulthard
Nate & Jodie	Craven
James	Crise
Ed	Dennis
Todd	Desautels
Laird	Dickinson
Kyley	Dickson
Kevin	Donahue
Rechelle	Donais
C.J.	Drake
Siobhan	Dugan -Carr
Chris	Dunn
Shannon	Engel
Nicolas	Esparza
Ryan	Ewing
Del & Julie	Faust
Scotty	Flaker
Dan	Fleser
Jennie	Flood
Donald	Fredricks
Todd	Friermood
Cheryl	Garcia
David	Garrell
Lisa	Gates
Johnny	Gayton
Jason	Gearhart
Shannon	Gerasimchik
Jerry	Gibson
Travis	Gienger
Tammy	Gomez

Name: First	Name: Last
Mark	Goodwin
Oliver	Grafe
Phil	Groenewold
Karl & Beverly	Haist
Steven	Hall
Trevor	Halliday
Mark	Harbin
John	Harnica
Amber	Harrison
Francis	Harrison
Chris	Hauswirth
Bill	Hendricks
Mikkal	Hodge
Keith	Holbrook
Glenn	Hornstra
Jonathan	Huffman
Mike	Iannacone
Florian	Isler
Niles	Jacobson
Paul	Jarosh
Valerie	Jensen
Kevin	Johnson
Steve	Johnson
Joe	Jutras
Udo	Karkos
Michael	Keegan
Tom	Keenan
Nicholas	Kennedy
Michael	Kennings
Izaak	Kent
Julie	Kent

Name: First	Name: Last
Joel	Kibbie
Doug	Kisamore
Rick	Kisamore
Todd	Kline
Randall	Koziel
Daniel	Kruszyna
Tony	Kuhn
Chad	Kurtenbach
Martin	Lacina
Alan	Laginess
Gene	Lariviere
Curtis	Leach
Andy	Lenart
Jake	Leonard
Matthias	Leuenberger
Scott	Luers
Endre	Lund
Jeanne	Marley
Josh	Marosey
Kevin	Marsh
Joe	Marzo
Larry & Shawna	Masters
Brian	Mathiowetz
Kevin	Matter
Nick	McCaslin
James	McComas
Robin	McKeeman
Jeff	McLain
Benjamin	McMillin
Bryan	Meadows
Hannah	Meadows

Name: First	Name: Last
Friedrich	Melka
Ruben	Mendi
Aaron	Messier
Ronnie	Midkiff
Eric	Miller
Salvador	Mogas
Adam	Momirov
Josh	Monin
Ryan	Morrison
Albion	Morse
Frank	Morse
Mark	Mourlas
Brian	Myers
Clint	Nash
Justin & Melissa	Nelson
Lois	Nelson
Terrance	Nelson
Eric	Ness
Chad	New
Joe	Nigro
Johannes	Offermann
Peter Holst	Olsen
Ethan	Olson
Pat	Otto
Emery	Pahl
Randouth	Palmer
Karl	Parker
Bernd	Paul
Greg	Peine
Jeff	Pelletier
Glenn	Peters

Name: First	Name: Last
Dan	Peterson
Justin	Powell
Mike	Prager
John	Pritchard
Toboyek's	Pumpkin Farm
Lindsey	Quinn
Teal	Quinn
Steve & Karen	Radich
Patrik	Ressel
Jay	Richard
Brian	Richardson
Dave	Righetti
Mitch	Riley
Chris	Rodebaugh
Teresa	Rodriquez
Lee	Roof
Jerry	Rose
Ryan	Rumsey
Erin	Ruthruff
Mohamed	Sadiq
Joshua	Sailor
Ned	Sandercock
Troy	Sawyer
Nathan	Schaller
Max	Schleicher
Mike	Schmit
Heather	Schmitz
Marty	Schnicker
David	Schuman
Tony	Scott
Jim	Seamons

Name: First	Name: Last
Mark	Seest
Jason	Serna
Becky	Settlage
Samantha	Smiley
Gus 'Squashcarver'	Smithhisler
Scott	St Laurent
Kris	Stewart
Steve	Strickler
Carla	Suehowicz
Erik	Svanoe
Sarah	Swanson
Todd	Swarts
Gail	Taylor
Nancy	Taylor
Patrick	Teichmann
Jeff	Theil
Adam	Thomas
Dan & Jane	Thompson
Steven	Thornhill
Jarrold	Thoroman
Cindy	Toback
Brent	Towne
Mark	Tremere
Paul	Tripp
Tom	Trombley
Amy	Turnbull
Brian	Turner
Joshua	Venters
John	Vincent
Ron	Wallace
Owen	Walton

Name: First	Name: Last
Brandon	Warner
Chris	Warren
Randy	Warren
Patrick	Watson
Nic	Welty
Quinn	Werner
Cecil	Weston
Barbara H.	Wiberg

Name: First	Name: Last
Luke	Williams
Laverne	Wojciechowski
Jay	Yohe
John	Young
Ken	Zappitella
Vince	Zunino
Onlypumpkins.com	
Porkchop	

**Read Charter Member Testimonials [HERE](#)**



## *GPC Rules Updated*

The GPC Committee has completed a comprehensive revision of the GPC Rulebook. We extend our sincere appreciation to the GPC Sub-Committee for their diligent and thorough review of the rules. Ensuring a fair and level playing field remains a fundamental responsibility of the GPC, and the ongoing evaluation and refinement of the rulebook are essential to fulfilling this mandate.

**See Full Rules [HERE](#)**

**[Click here to view the Rule Change Summary](#)**

*There is a New 2025 AG Pumpkin Squash Weight Calculator and Chart*

*courtesy of Scott Holub*

**[Click here to go to the Calculator](#)**

**[Click here to go to the Calculator \(Metric\)](#)**

**[Click here to go download the LBS chart](#)**

**[Click here to go download the METRIC chart](#)**

**The GPC Committee asked for your input. Thanks to all who participated.**

# **We Heard You!**



## **GPC Grower Survey**

Help shape the future of the GPC.  
Take our short survey today!

### **Survey is closed**

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Membership Survey — your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps shape what comes next. We will be publishing the results/highlights of growers' responses soon!

**Click [HERE](#)** to watch President Cindy Tobeck's video for some initial insights from what we've heard so far.

# Using AI Intelligently in Giant Pumpkin Growing

## A Practical Approach for a Community That Values Real Data

by Cecil Weston

Some of you may know I am an IT professional with over 40 years of experience (since before IT even existed). I have been a part of the computer industry through the entire lifespan, from computers as big as a room that used relays for memory and did less than a simple calculator app today. I am seeing a big trend everywhere I look and I felt compelled to offer my opinion on using AI in hopes I can help you use it successfully, rather than chasing things down paths that waste time and resources.

Artificial intelligence is becoming another tool in the grower's toolbox, but like any tool, it only works well when you understand its limits. AI can summarize information, help organize notes, compare techniques, or draft explanations for questions you want to answer. But it can also be confidently wrong, subtly misleading, or based on sources that were never credible to begin with.

If this sounds familiar, it should. These same rules we've all learned from years of doing our own research apply just as strongly to AI.

### **AI Is Not a Substitute for Evidence**

AI systems are trained by using huge amounts of text from the internet. This means they absorb the good, the bad, and the downright fictional. They can repeat unsubstantiated claims, outdated advice, or marketing-driven content with the same confident tone they use for peer reviewed research.

Growers already know this problem well. For years we've sifted through articles that promise miracle products will make the difference, only to discover that most of them are written to sell something, not to inform. AI doesn't magically filter that out. If anything, it can amplify it.

### **Cross Check AI the Same Way You Cross Check Any Source**

When AI gives you an answer, treat it like a first draft, not a final verdict.

Ask the same questions you'd ask of any article or forum post:

- **Where did this information come from?**  
If there's no citation, assume you need to verify it.
- **Does this match what experienced growers have observed?**  
The giant vegetable community has decades of collective knowledge. AI doesn't override that.
- **Is this supported by extension research, controlled trials, or documented results?**  
If not, it's speculation - even if it sounds polished or succinct.
- **Does the claim violate basic plant physiology?**  
AI can, and often does, confidently state things as factual that simply aren't true.

# Using AI Intelligently in Giant Pumpkin Growing

## A Practical Approach for a Community That Values Real Data

by Cecil Weston

### AI Can Be Useful - When You Use It Correctly

Despite its flaws, AI can be extremely helpful when used with intention:

- **Summarizing long research papers**
- **Drafting emails, newsletters, or educational materials**
- **Organizing notes from multiple seasons or growers**
- **Comparing different approaches with those you already understand**
- **Helping brainstorm ideas you can later verify**

Think of AI as a fast assistant, **not an expert**. It can save time, but it cannot replace judgment.

### The Giant Vegetable Growing Community Sets the Standard

One of the strengths of the giant vegetable world is that growers share real data - weigh off results, soil tests, tissue tests, genetic lineages, experiences and season logs/recaps. That culture of transparency is exactly what keeps misinformation in check.

### AI should be held to this same standard

- **If it can't show its work, you double check it.**
- **If it contradicts proven results, trust the results.**
- **If it sounds too good to be true, treat it the same way you treat any miracle cure posted on a gardening blog.**
- **Ask for citations from peer reviewed research, then follow up to make sure it's real.**

Use a separate AI to check the first AI's work, but don't just rely on this as the source of truth. They all use the Internet for their source data. Think back to the time when you've heard someone say, jokingly, "it was on the Internet, it must be true". (Does the commercial that said, "My boyfriend is a French Model" ring a bell?) LOL

### The Bottom Line

AI is a tool. Powerful, imperfect, and only as reliable as the grower using it. When approached with the same skepticism and discipline you already apply to online research, it can help streamline your work without leading you astray.

But the core principles of good growing haven't changed:

**verify, test, observe, and rely on evidence - not hype.**

# The Giant Pumpkin Genome Project

by Andy Wolf

I've been growing giant pumpkins for about 30 years. It's been amazing to see the progress of the weights over time, with seemingly no end in sight. A few years ago, I was asked what I was doing differently now compared to how I was growing 20 years ago. While there are a few different techniques, fertilizers, and vine patterns - I'm not doing things "1,000 pounds better" than when I grew the 1407 in 2005. Subtracting the cultural practices and of course the weather, we're left with the genetics, which are doing the heavy lifting.

We all believe that seeds are important, but it wasn't until I grew over 30 plants in field conditions in 2024 and again in 2025 that things really stood out to me. Planting multiples of some seeds, it was eye opening to see how two seeds from the same pumpkin could be completely different from their neighboring plants. I could walk the rows and visually pick out the two plants that burned with the slightest heat or the three that used nitrogen a bit differently without looking at my map to tell me which seeds they were.

A little over a year ago, I had a chat with Chris Hernandez and Alex Noel about pumpkin genetics. I had originally met Chris about 10 years ago at a weighoff here in NY. At the time, he was studying genetics at Cornell and had already been growing pumpkins for a few years. Chris is now the Principal Investigator and Assistant Professor of Plant Breeding leading the University of New Hampshire Cucurbit Breeding & Genetics Program. We talked about doing a giant pumpkin genetic testing project, and what it would take to measure how things have changed over time. Those discussions resulted in the "The One Ton Genome Project" - a plan to do genetic sequencing on nearly 100 seed samples ranging from the 1980 Dill's world record seeds, to the modern genetics, and seeds in between.

We're hoping to learn a few things from the project: Which parts of the genome are shared among the largest pumpkins, how famous pumpkin lineages are genetically related, and how much genetic variation remains in giant pumpkin lineages. And who knows what new things we'll discover along the way!

To learn more or to donate to the project, visit <https://bigpumpkinlab.org/>





# GPC European Representative Wanted!

## The GPC is Seeking a European Representative who...

...can meet Sundays for a Zoom call and is a team player, a good sportsman, someone who has integrity, a positive attitude and believes in tactful communication. We are seeking an individual who wants to give back to the giant growing community. Please contact Cindy Tobeck, GPC President if you're interested!

[Cindytobeck@gmail.com](mailto:Cindytobeck@gmail.com)





# GPC News from President Cindy



What a wonderful time we all had in Salt Lake City, Utah at the GPC International Growers Convention! The Utah club really rolled out the red carpet for our grower community, and the committee pulled off an outstanding show with fantastic speakers and panelists, educational break-out sessions, Olympic-style fun and games, an exciting and fast-paced live auction, and some great new awards to honor our champions. There is so much planning behind the scenes to put on a convention and awards banquet; it is a real team effort, and I can't thank my team enough for all of their hard work. Thank you to those of you who showed up, and who provided feedback afterwards with our survey. We will use your comments and

suggestions to improve as we look forward to our next IGC in Canfield, Ohio!

During my "State of the GPC Union" address Sunday at the Convention, I unveiled a new, voluntary Charter Member program. Growers who were eager to support the hobby rushed to sign up to be the first GPC Charter Members, and within two and a half weeks, all 100 Charter Memberships were filled! I appreciate everyone who stepped up to be a part of this new era of the GPC!

Behind the scenes, we're working hard on finalizing the contract for the Ohio Convention. Also, we are wrapping up site registrations and getting ready to design and order our awards packages. We have a small subcommittee who are looking at getting bids for the awards from some new potential vendors to make sure we are good stewards of our resources.

Speaking of awards, we've made a change to the large prize package that has the plaques and ribbons: The black plaque that used to read "Heaviest Overall" will be changed this weighoff season to now read, "Heaviest Pumpkin". This will alleviate some of the confusion associated in the rare occasion when a squash is the heaviest at the weighoff, and wins both the green "Heaviest Squash" plaque AND the black "Heaviest Overall" plaque. The committee felt that it would be more equitable to honor the Heaviest Pumpkin AND the Heaviest Squash with their own respective plaques.

As GPC President, I have a couple of big goals that I spoke about at the IGC, and one of them is the idea that all of our weighoff sites have more consistency with judging. When I first became the Vice President, I attended the Michigan spring seminar, and Don Barron and I had a great conversation about how various sites in his area differ in their judging. I have noticed the same thing in my region. I promised him that I would work to get something in place to address the inconsistencies. As an avid equestrian, and horse show exhibitor, when I enter a show, the trained and certified judge is always listed online and in the prize list. Our judges have a very important job, and oftentimes records and significant prize money are at stake at our GPC



# GPC News from President Cindy



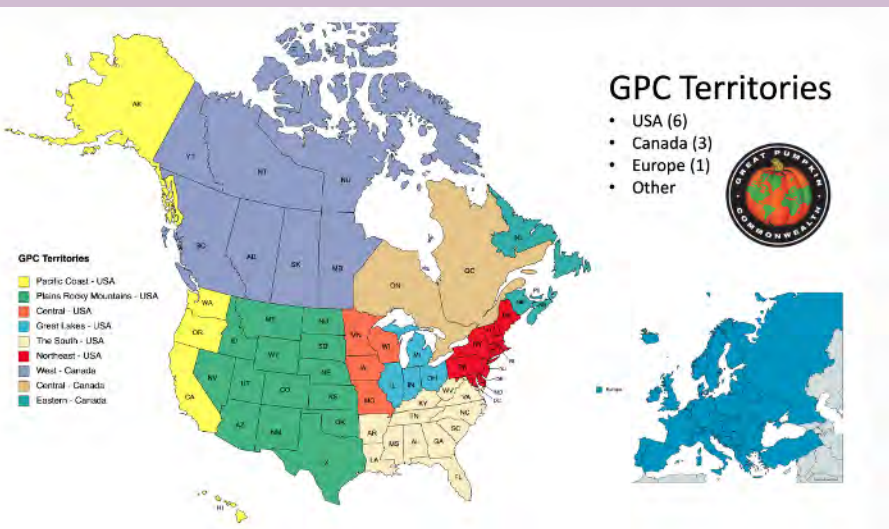
events, so the GPC needs to step up and actively educate our weighoff officials. We have created a training module and a judges' test to get educated and certified prior to the weighoffs. Each site will need one or more of their judging panel certified under this new program. I think that it is a great resource for ALL growers to gain a more in-depth understanding of the GPC rules before attending a weighoff, and I welcome ANYONE to partake in the training and the judging test! We are in the final testing phase, and will be rolling this out very soon so that there is enough time for site coordinators to identify their judges, and those individuals to complete their certification before the weighoff season.

Looking further ahead at our rules and the judges training and certification, we see a need to make these resources available in other languages, and we are actively starting with German for next year. Our European sites are growing, with Germany leading the pack. Many European countries have German as their national language, so this would be a logical first step in making our rules and trainings more readily accessible to all growers and sites.

I have analyzed the number of sites per region, and after discussing with our committee have made the decision to reduce the GPC representatives for Canada to two, down from our current three. I had a conversation with Laverne, Fred, and Todd after our latest meeting about the Central Canada vacancy that hasn't been filled. After looking at the relatively low numbers of sites overall in Canada, despite being a large area geographically, Laverne and Fred are confident that they will be able to split those sites between themselves (and Laverne would still handle the "other" sites). Todd would help make the transition as seamless as possible by arranging for all of the awards with his current supplier before his retirement in June.

Therefore, we are now seeking candidates for another European Rep. If you look at the attached data, with 39 sites, Europe desperately needs more representation, especially in light of the fact that Luca is currently in Canada where he is attending college.

Here is the our GPC regional map and the latest site data to help you understand this decision:



2026 weigh-Off Site Distributions of 5-10-2026		
		Perc.
Central Canada	6	
Eastern Canada	5	
Western Canada	3	
<b>Sub Total Canada</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
Central USA	9	
Great Lakes USA	12	
North East USA	15	
Pacific Coast USA	12	
Plains Rocky Mountain	12	
The South USA	11	
<b>Sub Total USA</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>55.9%</b>
Europe	39	30.7%
Other	3	2.4%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>127</b>	



# GPC News from President Cindy



Finally, I want to talk about the phrase I've used a few times in the last few months, "A new era of the GPC". I think change within the leadership of an organization can be a very positive thing, whereby new ideas and initiatives are brought forth. The GPC is a large international organization that continues to evolve to serve growers and sites. Just as in years past, the committee that I work with are dedicated volunteers who use our mission statement to guide our actions that serve the giant growing community. Whenever there is new leadership, one can expect, and hope for positive change. Every leader has a desire to build upon the foundation that has already been established in previous years, and I am no exception. I am inspired by their accomplishments, and wish to honor them by pushing the GPC forward.

How I see this current committee embracing a "new era" is our desire for **greater communication** between what we're doing and you, the growers. The idea of communication has been very central to my leadership since I was brought on board to create the GPC Common Ground Newsletter. Even though I am no longer the newsletter editor, I am committed to communicating through this feature column so that I can keep everyone abreast of what the GPC Committee is working on. That, along with video messages and surveys will help to bridge the gap with the governing body and the growers. We are also actively discussing the idea of a quarterly advisory panel of growers, to include Hall of Famers, and past GPC officers to aid in even greater communication. I feel like now, more than ever before, the GPC is wanting information from, and acting upon our number one resource: YOU! But, let's not forget what continues to be the BEST way for your voice to be heard, and that is by reaching out to your Regional Representative. Do you know why we changed the "Heaviest Overall" plaque? Because a grower had a conversation with his Rep, and then we had a great discussion at our weekly Committee meeting. We LISTEN to YOU!

Another reason why we're in a "new era" of the GPC is that we are going to be **more transparent** with the "goings-on" of the organization. Our survey revealed some want greater understanding of our meetings, and especially the financial position. I know that in years past a brief annual accounting was given by the treasurer at the convention. We have decided that the best way to get this information out to a wider audience would be immediately after filing our taxes and then publishing the financials in the spring edition of the Common Ground newsletter. This committee is very much committed to being good stewards of our resources so that we may continue to uphold our mission statement. The following page details our finances for the 2025 year. Please reach out to myself, Mark, our amazing treasurer, or your Regional Representative should you have further questions. Our contact information is always on the last page of this newsletter as well as the website.

Happy spring growers!

Cindy Tobeck, GPC President

# 2025 GPC Income and Expense Report

By Mark Mourlas – GPC Treasurer

In March 2025, I assumed the role of GPC Treasurer. Over the course of the year, I implemented a new bookkeeping system that provides a more detailed and efficient way to track income and expenses. This improvement has enabled us to better evaluate the net financial impact of key initiatives, such as the International Growers Convention (IGC) and weigh-off registrations.

Additionally, the new system has increased our self-sufficiency in preparing and submitting our annual nonprofit IRS filings. Ensuring accurate financial reporting and proper form submission is essential to maintaining the GPC's compliance and nonprofit status.

The GPC is committed to transparency and clarity in reporting its financial performance. This report provides an overview of our financial position for the calendar year 2025, including income, expenses, and resulting net income, in alignment with what is reported on our annual IRS tax filing.

As you review this report, please note the commentary of how our cash balance naturally fluctuates throughout the year due to the timing of revenues and expenses. It is also important to review the guidance regarding GPC Committee travel expenses, which are limited to partial reimbursements and apply exclusively to the IGC.

Looking ahead, we anticipate a stronger financial position in 2026. This outlook is supported by Charter Membership contributions, continued cost management efforts, and the potential that the New York Botanical Garden revenue will return to prior levels.

## 2025 GPC Income & Expenses Report



### 2025 GPC Income and Expenses (Jan 1 - Dec 31)

	US \$
<b>Income</b>	
Sponsorship	\$ 2,500.00
Weigh-Off Registration	\$ 55,900.00
International Growers Convention (IGC) Registration	\$ 40,560.50
Donations	\$ 200.00
Seed Auction	\$ 3,548.00
IGC Raffle	\$ 2,690.00
New York Botanical Gardens	\$ 10,000.00
	\$ 115,398.50
<b>Expenses</b>	
Weigh-off Awards	\$ 44,600.19
IGC Awards	\$ 12,762.43
IGC Committee Travel	\$ 9,398.94
IGC Event	\$ 41,181.16
Software Subscriptions	\$ 1,137.70
Shipping	\$ 295.69
Pay Pal fee	\$ 1,943.59
Tax Preparation	\$ 600.00
New York Botanical Gardens	\$ 2,526.50
Misc.	\$ 473.18
	\$ 114,919.38
<b>Net Income</b>	\$ 479.12

### Commentary on 2025 Financial Results

- Net income totaled \$479 US, remaining positive despite a year-over-year revenue decline from the New York Botanical Garden. This outcome reflects effective cost containment across all expense categories.
- The report is presented on a calendar-year basis (Jan 1 – Dec 31). 2025 IGC registration revenue spans two events registration —Kasterlee, Belgium (early 2025) and Green Bay, Wisconsin (late 2025)—and should be interpreted accordingly when assessing period performance.
- Miscellaneous expenses primarily include P.O. Box rental, office supplies, and other postage.
- A portion of the GPC Committee's IGC travel expense is covered since the full committee is needed to attend, execute and manage the IGC show. All other committee individual travel expenses to weigh-offs and club meetings are out of pocket and not covered by the GPC.
- Cash balances are typically elevated at the beginning and end of the year, preceding the recognition of significant IGC-related expenditures.
- 2025 sponsors included WOW Wallace Organic Wonder, Neptune's Harvest, New York Botanical Garden, and Kelp-4-Less.
- This report reconciles to the GPC IRS form 990 PF, accepted by the IRS on May 4, 2025. Consistent timing and reconciliation are expected for the 2026 report.

Cash	US \$
Balance 1/1/2025	\$ 33,100.42
Balance 12/31/2025	\$ 33,579.54
Difference	\$ 479.12



# The GPC Bids Todd Kline a Happy Retirement

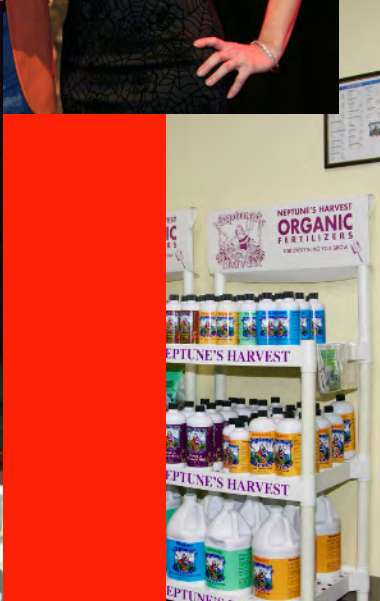
By Woody Lancaster

Todd started as Central Canadian Rep. in 2017. He has selflessly served for 9 years. During this time as one of the "Elder Statesmen" he has helped guide the GPC as we grew.

He's devoted countless hours fulfilling his commitment to our community. Only those who have served in this capacity can understand how much time and energy he has given.

We wish you to know how much your fellow GPC committee members value and appreciate all you have done.

Hope you enjoy your new found freedom. Live for Today and Grow Big!



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# SUBMIT ARTICLES TO THE GPC COMMON GROUND!



Thank you for reading Edition 29 of The GPC Common Ground! It is my hope to publish a newsletter that reflects the interests of giant fruit and vegetable growers as well as provide educational content, grower features, event recaps, club spotlights, and regional highlights.

It is the intent of the GPC board to provide this newsletter to growers worldwide as a means to exchange information, grow community, and advance the weights of giant produce.

Got a story to share? We'd love to feature your tips, experiences, products used, successes or even lessons learned while growing giant fruits and vegetables! Whether it's a quick growing hack, or a full article, your contribution helps inspire growers worldwide. **GPC Common Ground will be by growers, for growers, so I need your input. The time to submit for the next edition is now. Accepting all document types, plain text or in a Doc format preferred, but I can usually get what I need from pdfs too.**

GPC Common Ground will be published four times per year and posted on the GPC website. Archived newsletters are also available at <http://www.gpc1.org/newsletter>

Please direct feedback, photos, inquiries and article submissions to:  
**Cecil Weston: [cuntryboy764@gmail.com](mailto:cuntryboy764@gmail.com)**

Spring is finally in the air, and with it comes that familiar surge of excitement across the growing community. Social feeds light up with early greenhouse shots, fast starts, and plants that look like they're already auditioning for a world record. It's fun to watch. This is the season of big dreams, clean slates, and the optimism that keeps all of us coming back year after year. But it's also the time when growers, especially newer ones, can feel the pressure to "keep up" with what they see online.

A gentle reminder: this is a marathon, not a sprint. The temptation to push harder, a little more fertilizer, a little more watering, a little more "boost", is strongest right now, and it's when plants are most vulnerable. Over-fertilizing in May to match someone else's photo can set a plant back for the entire season. Stressing a young plant to chase early size can cost you later when it matters most.

Healthy plants come from steady routines, not shortcuts. They come from balanced nutrition, predictable care, and an environment where stress is minimized day after day. The growers who finish strong in September are the ones who stay disciplined in May.

So enjoy the excitement of spring - it's part of what makes this community great. Celebrate the fast starters, cheer on the early photos, and share your own progress with pride. But stay grounded in your own plan. Trust your preparation, trust your program, and give your plant the steady, low-stress start it needs. There's no substitute for details, and there's no shortcut that beats consistency. The season is long, and the biggest pumpkins are grown by growers who play the long game.