

The St. Croix Grower's Association



~~The Vine~~
August
2010

Editor's Rant

Happy August, Growers. I'd like to bring something to your attention. Specifically, the impact our little group of growers is having on the giant pumpkin community at large. According to the GPC (<http://greatpumpkin-commonwealth.com/resources.php>), our over-arching sanctioning body for weighoffs, pumpkins weighed at SCGA events in 2009 put the upper-midwest on the map as a driving force in the world of AG's.

Of the >65 GPC weighoff sites across the entire GLOBE, Stillwater, MN ranked #5 in 2009. This in contrast to #18 in 2008 and #32 in 2007. Our 2009 top ten average was 4lbs shy of 1300, and only 3lbs short of the giant pumpkin mecca, Topsfield, MA. Wowza! Additionally, SCGA growers helped push Nekoosa, WI to the #2 spot in the world at 1369lbs. And Canfield, OH blew away the entire field with a top ten average of 1503lbs.

Red Wing flexed muscle in the GPC ranks as well,



Stillwater ranked #5 in 2009 worldwide top 10 site average

although for reasons unknown, its top ten average is not reported in the rankings. Sliding in at what should be #16 in 2009, its top ten average was an impressive 1151lbs. Don't forget that a 1502, 1475.5, 1303, and 1179 were weighed as exhibition fruit here, which are



John Hopkins, 1297.5, Kevin Marsh, 1399.5, Chad Revier, 1544.5

not counted in the average. (sidenote: anyone remember the STINK emanating from that 1502?*) Had these fruit been official and allowable by GPC standards, Red Wing's top ten average would have been 1300lbs. Wowza x 2!

The Indiana Pumpkin Grower's Association (<http://www.ipga.us/TTAPumpkins.htm>) maintains a list of the top ten pumpkin average for each state. SCGA growers have elevated Wisconsin to the #9 spot and Minnesota falls in at #11. Ohio takes the cake (no surprise, given that the world record 1725lber comes out of Ohio).

The take-home message is simple- The upper-midwest has proven it can grow world-class pumpkins and compete with the best of em. Grow 'em big -Joe



SCGA Growers in Red Wing, MN

The following is an interview with Matt Kowalski, President of Natural Industries, Inc.

Can you share with us a little about the history and evolution of Natural Industries? Natural Industries is a little family-owned microbe shop from Texas. Since 1992, Natural Industries has been committed to developing patented beneficial microorganisms for the horticulture, agriculture and lawn & garden industries. After years of use by commercial operations, our plant protection products are now available to the consumer lawn and garden market. As we continue to expand our market segments, we are constantly testing and trialing new microbes for use in organic plant protection. Today, our beneficial microbes are used all over the world in over a dozen countries.

The company's core focus is on the use of a very specific beneficial bacteria, what can you tell us about this microorganism? *Streptomyces lydicus* WYEC, is our flagship microbe that is a patented beneficial actinomycete. Found in our Actinovate and Actino-Iron products, the *S. lydicus* microbe fights harmful fungal diseases found in the root and foliar areas of plants. This powerful microbe has been found to effectively suppress and control a wide range of root rots and damping off caused by nasty little pathogens including Pythium, Phytophthora, Fusarium, and Rhizoctonia. Actinovate is also effective as a spray application for annoying foliar diseases like Powdery and Downy Mildew.

What sets your product apart from the numerous other biological controls on the market?

There's no doubt people want to know why *Streptomyces lydicus* WYEC so much better than the other microbes out there. For starters, there are two types of microorganism based products on the market: Controls and inoculants. Inoculants contain one or more beneficial microorganisms that aid in plant growth, strength and vigor. Almost always these types of products use "general" microbes, meaning that the genus or strain has not been identified. Because the strain has not been identified in these products, results can be inconsistent and varied. On the other hand, control microorganism products contain specific unique microorganism that are

Recommended in
How to Grow
World Class Pumpkins
by Don Langston

Prevent & Cure Foliar & Soil Borne Diseases

Actinovate® AG is a biological fungicide labeled for use against foliar and soil borne diseases. Use as a drench down, transplant dip, seed soaking or direct seed spraying.

Will Not Clog Machinery
Actinovate AG is 100% soluble powder that is compatible with chemical pesticides and fertilizers and may be tank mixed or rotated with most products. Because Actinovate AG has several modes of action, diseases cannot build a resistance to it and thus, is a perfect rotational or tank mix partner in any diseases management program. Try Actinovate AG in your pumpkin crops today.

To order, contact your local supplier today
or call 888.261.4731
www.naturalindustries.com

identified down to the strain. Control products also have to be registered with the EPA for their pesticidal activity. Because of the EPA process, control products have an enormous amount of research behind them prior to reaching the end user.

Our organic fungicide products fall into the control category. Our *Streptomyces lydicus* WYEC, as mentioned before, is a patented beneficial actinomycete. This microorganism is unique in the fact that it produces several antifungal byproducts that are not produced by any other beneficial microorganisms. These alternate modes of action are complimentary to other beneficial controls so both products together could produce better results than either alone. *Streptomyces lydicus* is also unique in that it can survive in soil without a plant host for quite some time (up to two years) and is temperature tolerant of up to 140 degrees F. Most beneficials, particularly Trichoderma, are very sensitive to high temperatures. Also, *S. lydicus* is not UV sensitive and can survive on leaves or foliage.

Our popular Actino-Iron product is an iron and humic acid based carrier combined with *S. lydicus*. It is used as a soil additive and protects the roots from soil

diseases while at the providing slow release iron. In addition, the humic acid is very beneficial to overall plant health. Actino-iron is a three feature product (fungicide - iron source - humic acid) is listed with OMRI as approved for organic production. There's nothing like it ion the market.

Anything new and exciting in the pipeline that giant pumpkin growers may take interest in? Yes! We have two new microbial-based insecticides coming on the market that we are very excited about. The latest microbe we are working on is *Paecilomyces fumosoroseus* strain FE 9001 (PFR). Primary targets are whiteflies, aphids and thrips. It attacks the insect by growing on the host's body and robbing it of nutrients. Internally, we are calling it "noFly" with a final brand name coming soon. 'noFly' be available for use by the end of this year. To entice you further, we have another microbial insecticide still in early development that works by producing a toxin that is deadly to pests. Target insects include tobacco hornworm, Colorado potato beetle, corn root worm, diamondback moth and others. This product's target release is 2012.

SCGA Member Discount!

Actinovate Lawn & Garden, 2oz (5000sq ft) Package: \$12.00 + S&H
Send orders to: stcroixgrowers@frontiernet.net

Ailts/Landry 1000lb+ Circumference Benchmarks

Day 10 = 25"
Day 20 = 68.5"
Day 30 = 108"
Day 40 = 134.5"

Landry 1200lb+ Circumference Benchmarks

Day 10 = 27"
Day 20 = 71"
Day 30 = 113"
Day 40 = 143"
Day 50 = 160"
Day 60 = 170"
Day 70 = 175"
Day 80 = 179"



CLEAR CHOICE
PRINTING

715-268-7295

800-334-5238

Call us for all your printing needs!

HOLLAND'S LAND O' GIANTS

www.hollandsgiants.com

During 20 years of growing giant pumpkins, we have identified the finest growing supplies available. Our growing supplies have played a role in the growth of many championship pumpkins, and helped numerous growers to achieve a new personal best.

BIOGROW ENDO PLUS

Now with 4 species of Endomycorrhizal Fungi, plus 2 species of Trichoderma & BioStimulant. In 2008 our BIOGROW ENDO PLUS was used in growing the World Champion Pumpkin. In 2009, BIOGROW ENDO PLUS helped grow the 2nd largest pumpkin in the World, the 1,677.5# Hunt and the New European Record of 1,611# by Mehdi Daho of France. Bob Liggett, who grew the Circleville, Ohio record 1,636# said "BIOGROW ENDO PLUS IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY SUCCESS"

SOLUBLE SEAWEED POWDER 1-1-17

Our SEAWEED POWDER is a complex matrix of natural plant growth stimulants. Also contains 17% potassium, and 62 different trace minerals. **Excellent for foliar feeding.**

SOLUBLE AMINO ACID BIO-ACTIVATOR 15-0-0

A new cutting edge technology for agriculture. The 17 Amino Acids are powerful chelating and synergy producing compounds.

KELP MEAL 1 - 0 - 6

"A GREAT TOOL IN GROWING GIANT PUMPKINS"

Our Kelp Meal is made from 100% sun-dried "Ascophyllum Nodosum" Kelp. It is the richest kind of Kelp for Agriculture or as an Animal Feed Supplement.

This Kelp Meal contains 62 different trace minerals and they are naturally chelated due to the presence of Mannitol and Alginic Acids in the Kelp. Ascophyllum Nodosum also contains natural growth promoting hormones such as Auxins Cytokinins and Gibberellins. These natural hormones aid in cell division, cell elongation, fruit growth and plant health. Kelp Meal stimulates beneficial microbial activity in the soil and also contributes to the formation of complex carbohydrates in fruits and vegetables. The decomposition of Kelp Meal in the soil produces polysaccharides that improve soil structure or "Tilth".

NATURAL ROCK PHOSPHATE

30% Phosphorus (3% quick-acting, 27% slow-release) 29% Calcium

Natural Rock Phosphate works synergistically with Mycorrhizae and is friendly to all soil organisms. Chemical forms of Phosphorous can damage Mycorrhizae and other beneficial soil organisms. Natural Rock Phosphate is mined in Montana and ground into an extremely fine powder and then formed into prills or granules with an all natural water soluble binder, making it easy to spread. Application rate is 2 to 4 pounds per 100 square feet.

Also available on our website are Soluble Humic Acid, Soluble Fish Powder, Biomin Calcium, Blossom Booster and Fruit Finisher, Whizzer Sprinklers, organic controls, and much more!



Holland's Land O' Giants
Joel and Mari Lou Holland
P.O. Box 969
Sumner WA 98390
(253) 840-3575
www.hollandsgiants.com

PARAMOUNTGREEN

Natures Best Kept Secret, **Earthworm Castings**

Bring your Soil to Life! Natures most powerful all natural fertilizer!

Use as a soil amendment or create worm tea for an unbelievable shot of life to your giant pumpkin! Worm castings have an extremely high presence of living organisms, good bacteria, and enzymes needed for optimum growing conditions!

Call Nick or Adam for more information! Always fresh, extremely pure, totally potent!
Ph: 651-208-1458 Email: paramountgreen@gmail.com Web: paramountgreenorganic.com



The following is a brief interview with **Dave Stelts, President of the GPC**



Can you tell us what the Greater Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC) is? GPC stands for the standardization of judging, weights, measurements, & fairness of competition basically just look at it like we are the NFL and the growers are the players.

What does the GPC have in mind for the future of our hobby? Future of the GPC is to get better recognition for the efforts of the growers & sites who patronize GPC sanctioned events. We would like to obtain corporate sponsorship to better finance outstanding achievements and most importantly better the education for all growers. We would also like better visibility to show case the excitement of weigh-off day (major TV time).

What functions do the GPC committee members perform? All the executive committee members work very hard to not only represent their region but promote our sport/hobby on a global stage. We have had some growing pains but I feel the committee preforms at a high level especially for our pay grade. I would like to encourage all growers to not only promote their local events but let every one know that the GPC is the catalyst for all growers and sites to compete on a world level.

2010 Local Weighoff Calendar

Stillwater HarvestFest & Giant Pumpkin Weighoff

Saturday, 10/9/2010

Lowell Park

Stillwater, MN

Nekoosa Giant Pumpkin Festival

Saturday, 10/2/10

River Side Park

Nekoosa, WI 54447

715-323-4533

www.nekoosagiantpumpkinfest.com

Biggest and Prettiest Pumpkin Contest

Sunday, 09/26/10

Apple Jack Orchards

4875 37th St. SE

Delano, MN 55328

763-972-6673

www.applejackorchards.com

SCGA Board of Directors

President/Treasurer

Joe Ailts

Vice-President

Chris Stevens

Secretary

Alex Bogie

Weighoff Director: Stillwater

John Branch

Directors at Large

Tom Englund

Dean Christopherson

Chad Revier

Jim Courson

Rick Stohr

Contact the SCGA:

stcroixgrowers@frontiernet.net

715-220-7411

