

Virtual Early Tomato Weigh off

- The GPC has set up an avenue to record and recognize weights of tomatoes harvested prior to the annual weigh off season. This is called the Virtual Early Tomato Weigh off.
- The GPC understands that a grower does not know when he/she will harvest their heaviest tomato of the season. In the interest of fairness to the growers and of genetic record keeping the GPC will accept additional early tomato entries, however only the grower's heaviest 3 entries will be marked official. All additional entries by the grower will be marked as exhibition or DMG.
- Results will be recorded on the Early Tomato listing, on the GPC info page at Big Pumpkins.com.
- Once a grower has 3 official entries in the early tomato contest any additional entries must be heavier than the smallest of the grower's previous 3 official entries. The larger entry will replace the lightest of the three. The replaced tomato/ tomatoes will be marked as exhibition.
- The GPC will accept entries up until September 30th of each year.
- Any tomato entered via the early submission Virtual Tomato contest are not eligible at any other GPC event. A fruit can only be entered once.
- Early entries must be weighed on a legal for trade scale certified by NTEP (national type evaluation program) such as a supermarket deli scale.
- **The grower must present a copy of the Early Tomato Contest entry form to the scale operator and witness/witnesses for them to read, check the condition boxes, sign and provide their contact information.**
- Growers must supply pictures of their tomato on the scale. The readout should be visible or a weigh slip. **Additional pictures required of their entry are of the top, bottom, sides, trimmed stem and a picture of the scale last certification test approval sticker.**
- Early entries with a circumference of less than 25 inches must be witnessed by an impartial third party witness, such as the scale operator who has read and understands the rules.
- Tomatoes with a circumference of 25 to 28 inches need to be witnessed by two impartial third party witnesses who have read and understand the rules.
- Any Tomato in excess of 28 inches circumference challenging the world record must be verified by a GPC rep, either in person or by his/her designate and one other impartial witness. Additional pictures are required, **the scale last check test approval sticker**, the (taped) circumference, the trimmed stem, top, blossom and sides of the tomato. A video showing the areas mentioned would suffice.
- Entries must adhere to the tomato rules as set out below.
- Growers must complete and submit the "Early Submission Form for Tomatoes" as found on the GPC web site, resources section, email to: tomato@gpc1.org within 24 hrs of the specimen being weighed.

Tomato Eligibility Rules

- 1) All tomatoes must be healthy; a healthy tomato must be free of significant soft spots or leakage.
- 2) Skin may be cracked but not leaking.
- 3) Tomatoes must be weighed on certified scales, calibrated to no less than 2 decimal places in pounds or pounds and ounces, Kilograms and grams, i.e.: 6 pounds 5.53 ounces or 6.35 lbs).
- 5) Stem must be cut within 1 inch or 25.4 millimeters of the tomato.
- 6) Green fruit will be allowed for weigh-off purposes.
- 8) No frozen specimens will be allowed.
- 9) The entirety of the fruit flesh must be connected – pictures or video must show this.

*The GPC Steering Committee reserves the rights to make the final decision with contested entries. To contact witnesses, scale owners/**operators** or other interested parties as deemed necessary.*