



03/01/2021

Site and Fee Structures

2021 GPC SITE FEE AND AWARDS

The following choices will be available for your site and other weigh-off groups who wish to join the benefits of this world class organization.

1) **Basic Entry Level \$100.00**

- Includes membership in the GPC
- Weigh-off documentation on Big Pumpkins.com
- GPC Banner to be displayed at sanctioned weigh-offs
- Available for “single category” competitions, **which do not include** pumpkins (watermelon-only contest, for example)
- Top 3 ribbons for featured category

2) **Premium Level \$380.00 – Ribbon Only Pkg.**

- Includes all of Basic Level benefits
- Ribbons 1st -10th
- 1st place ribbons for other GPC recognized categories
- Howard Dill Award ribbon
- Eligible for any other GPC Bonuses
- Ribbons do not have site name.

3) Premium Plus Level \$430.00 – Ribbons and Plaques

– Includes all of the Premium Level benefits, but with plaques (instead of ribbons) for 1st place pumpkin, HD award, and top squash. The plaques will have the weigh-off site name.

Notes: -Additional shipping charges may apply if site fees received after the due date.

-All money in US funds

The GPC encourages weigh off sites to submit grower data and final weights online into Bigpumpkins.com final tallies within one week of completion of your weigh off event. It is important to our grower's efforts are properly noted in a timely fashion for due recognition. Sites that continually miss the deadline could face consideration of removal from further GPC recognition.

GPC AWARDS

1) **Best top ten average**– This award goes to the site with the best top 10 average from all Premium GPC sites. All fruit regardless of color are eligible for top ten considerations. All rules explained in Article II apply.

2) **Most improved site**– This award will go to the site with the biggest percentage increase in top ten average weight gain over the previous year. The sites must have 10 qualifying pumpkins both years to calculate this average.

3) **Grower of the year award**– This award will be given to the grower or “team” (as defined within Article 2, Section 1 of the GPC Rules) who accumulates the most total pounds combined from three official fruit weighed at multiple sanctioned GPC events (only Premium registration levels will be eligible for this award). The GPC will recognize the top three official fruit entered at a minimum of two separate sanctioned GPC events, providing the two fruits weighed at the same event are one pumpkin and one squash. A grower may enter in more than two GPC events but only the three heaviest fruit will count. The grower must be present with their fruit at all events to be eligible.

4) **Grower Jackets & Patches** – Awarded to the growers who are in the current top 300 pound weight class as compared to the world record of that year, but increase a maximum of 100 pound increments from the previous minimum qualification. Jackets will be awarded to pumpkins weighing 2200# for the current calendar year. A grower will only be awarded one jacket; in following years patches will be awarded to the grower to add to their jacket with the same weight class requirements. These patches will denote the weight class achieved for that year.

7) **4,000 pound club** – Awarded to the grower who accumulates a total of 4,000 pounds of pumpkins, squash, or combination of each between their three heaviest fruit, following the same rules as the “Grower of the Year” award. The prize is a patch that

can be sewn onto the grower's jacket. If a grower makes it into the 4,000 pound club without previously being awarded a grower jacket, they will be awarded one for making the 4,000 pound club.

8) **European Champion** – Awarded to the heaviest pumpkin from all European GPC sites.

9) **Master Gardener** ([Team Growing is included](#))-

- The GPC is introducing a new master gardener scoring system based on points per weight (or length for long gourds) starting this season!
- This new system is designed to be more fair and equitable within and among fruit classes, such that classes with fewer or more growers can be weighted appropriately.
- This is a scoring system like the Olympic decathlon where each time or distance is assigned a score value. This system is more equitable than the rank scores used in the past because it's set up for all fruit to be on a similar playing field. (As opposed to top-down or bottom-up rank scoring which can over- or under-weight less popular classes). In the point per pound system a fruit at the top 10% (90th percentile) of the general field for its class is set to equal 35 points.
- This then allows scoring parity across all fruit classes. Regardless of the number of growers who chose to grow in each class, a comparably large fruit will be rewarded appropriately (and conversely small fruit with high rankings will receive appropriately balanced scores.)
- This also sets up more equitable scoring within each class. e.g. a 2002 lb and 2001 lb AG in first and second place will get nearly the same points (48.05 points and 48.02 points). Whereas a 2002 lb first place and 1600 lb second place will earn much different scores, where the second place is worth 38.40 points. In the old system both situations would earn 47 and 46 points (in a field of 47 growers).
- The point per pound system should be fairly stable over a several year period and shouldn't need changing. The plan would be to leave the points per pound as they are year over year to allow year to year comparisons. However, if one class really starts to outperform, adjustments could be made to the scoring between seasons.
- An additional benefit is that the pre-season clarity of the scoring system would allow growers to clearly assess where they would fall in the ranking system given their past results. This might encourage more growers to give the master gardener a try. While steadfast repeat growers should enjoy the benefits of tracking/estimating their scores mid-season as often as they choose, rather than waiting until the season is well over and scores are calculated to see how they did. Points per pound also creates scores that don't depend on the total

number of growers, which again makes for a long term comparable scoring system, possibly allowing official world records to be established for Master Gardener.

- As before, scores are determined by adding up a grower's top 5 scoring classes. A grower must have at least one official entry in at least 5 classes to compete.
- A calculator will be made available in English and metric units, so that master gardener contenders can easily track their own score through the season (as well as compare your scores to last year to see how you're doing) – That should add to the fun!
- We hope this clarity and transparency in scoring will also bring new perspective Master Gardener contenders off the sidelines when they are able to estimate a score based on their past results. For reference a score of 110 to 125 is an average score, while 200+ is an excellent score.
- We expect to use this scale for years to come.

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In the event of a tie:

- 1st tie break: Number of categories each grower has won.
- 2nd tie break: If both growers have the same number of winning categories, add the total points in their (winning) categories to determine the winner.

Definition: **Team is two growers contributing equally to the care of a fruit/vegetable grown at the same physical address and exhibited together.**

AWARD Categories:

Best Top 10 Average:

Most Improved Site:

Grower of the Year (GOTY)

2500# Challenge

European Champion

Southern Hemisphere Champion

Canadian Champion

US Champion

Asian Champion

Master Gardener:

Other Recognized Categories (Squash, Long Gourd, Tomato, Watermelon, Field Pumpkin, Bushel Gourd, Marrow)

Current WRs are:

- 2624.6 # Pumpkin
- 2118 # Squash
- 155.70 inch Long Gourd
- 10.795 # Tomato
- 211 # Field Pumpkin
- 350.5 # Watermelon
- 470.5 # Bushel Gourd
- 206.5 # Marrow
- GPC heavy hitter coats will be given to growers who exceed 2200 pounds and/or have their 3 biggest exceed 4,000 pounds