

# ***Rules and guidelines for growers competing at 2024 Port Elgin Pumpkinfest***

## ***Saturday Giant Vegetable Weigh-Off Competition***

1. All weights will be recorded in pound increments to one decimal point.
  2. Our competition is open to all individuals from any part of the world. The grower must be in attendance at the competition in order to compete or they must relay in writing, to the festival, their unavailability and their reasons for such and authorize a designee in his (her) place.
  3. Growers must register their specimen(s) between 9 a.m. and 1pm on the day of competition at the Growers Registration area. Please park in Growers Parking Area and fill out the paperwork at the Registration before deadline time. You will be given a lineup number for your turn at scales. Registration fees are non-refundable.
  4. An exhibitor may enter only one specimen per class per day. A husband and wife or other family members/growing partners can register individually and enter separate specimens. Please note that the GPC will only pay one monetary prize per fixed address per class.
  5. All pumpkins and squash must be loaded on a skid/pallet so that forklifts can easily lift the entry and take it to the scales.
  6. A specimen must be sound, healthy and undamaged. Vine must be trimmed to one inch (2.5cm) from the stem (stalk) of the fruit. Foreign material may not be included in the weighing. No carrying device may be included in the weighing.
  7. Specimens of equal weight will be reweighed and then declared co-winners and that prize money as well as the funds from the next level below will be divided equally for those two positions.
  8. All Growers agree that the use of his/her name & likeness may be used for promotional purposes without any further compensation.
  9. No entrant/spectator shall attempt to influence judges or impede the proceedings of a fair competition. The Pumpkinfest Committee will designate an official representative responsible for abiding by and absolutely enforcing the rules of competition. Pumpkinfest reserves the right to suspend or remove any competitor/spectator.
  10. The Pumpkinfest Committee, staff and volunteers shall not be responsible for any accidents, losses or breakage of entries, exhibits or displays.
  11. The winner of the top Pumpkin category agrees to keep his/her specimen on site on display until the festival gates are closed at 6pm for our visitors and media partners. All others are encouraged to remain until that time to allow the public to view the giants.
  12. Color requirements - GPC color requirements will be followed:
    - A) Squash will be classified as follows- The surface area of the fruit as grown in the garden, not including the portion that was in contact with or close proximity to the ground must consist of 100% of the following colours or colour combinations; green, blue, and gray. This area will include the area between the ribs, around the stem, and the blossom end. This will not include any netting (cantaloping) or any discoloration caused by the close proximity to, or from the ground.
    - B) Pumpkins will be all fruit not classified as squash.
- \*Please note: GPC has additional recognition for solid colours of fruit; see the GPC rules for further information***
13. Any \$500 cash award for a new, standing World Record Class 1 Vegetable will be awarded after all sites have reported their statistics and the record confirmed. This payment will be presented in March of 2025 unless other arrangements must be made. Class 2 Vegetables do not qualify for the \$500 award for New World Records.
  14. The Other Heaviest/Longest/Most Unusual Vegetable category is meant to give the growers the opportunity to display and enter any other giant vegetables of competitive merit. The judging of this category will be strictly at the discretion of our officials with very few guidelines except for overall appearance and size.
  15. The registration fee for the Weigh Offs is \$30 Canadian each day for Class 1 vegetables and \$5 Canadian each day for Class 2 vegetables provided a Class 1 registration fee has not been paid, and allows the grower to enter as many different classes as they wish on that particular day. This fee also includes one adult entry into Pumpkinfest Village.
  16. Master Grower Award will be awarded to the highest scoring grower in relation to the other eligible entrants. Explanation of the scoring system can be found at [www.pumpkinfest.org](http://www.pumpkinfest.org) and will be available as a hand-out at the event. Because this award will involve some calculation time the winner will be notified and a cheque will be mailed to them after the 2024 event has completed.
  17. Novice Grower Bonus will be awarded to the Novice Grower (3 years or less growing experience) with the largest pumpkin.