



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release  
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## **NEW WORLD-RECORD PUMPKIN ON DISPLAY AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN**

**Giant Pumpkin Weighing 2,032 Pounds, Beating Last Year's World Record Holder,  
Will Be Transformed by Master Carvers During "Giant Pumpkin Carving Weekend"  
October 19 & 20, 2013**

The largest pumpkin in the world arrives at The New York Botanical Garden just in time for Halloween. Winning pumpkins from regional weigh-offs across the United States and Canada, part of growing competitions around the world, including one that broke the world record for heaviest pumpkin set last year, will be on display for a limited time from October 19 through October 31, 2013, at The New York Botanical Garden. The enormous pumpkins each weigh over a 1,300 pounds. The largest pumpkin, weighing an astounding 2,032 pounds, was grown by Tim and Susan Mathison from Napa, California.

The other pumpkins that will be on display are equally impressive. They include: two pumpkins grown by Dawn and Bill Northrup from New Brunswick, Canada, weighing 1,813 pounds and 1,024.5 pounds; and another two grown by Dave and Carol Stelts from Edinburgh, Pennsylvania, weighing 1,496 pounds and 1,391.5 pounds.



Also on display will be the world's largest watermelon, weighing 350.5 pounds, grown by Chris Kent of Sevierville, Tennessee, and the world's largest long gourd, at 139.25 inches, grown by Fred Ansems of Nova Scotia, Canada.

Poised to amaze everyone arriving for *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden*, and other autumn attractions at The New York Botanical Garden, this showcase of champions is scheduled to be on view through October 31. In collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC), the recognized standard of weights, measurements, and fairness of competitive growing, the five behemoths will be housed at the Garden's Clay Family Picnic Pavilions, where visitors can marvel at and take pictures with these wonders of both nature and growing technique.

During the "Giant Pumpkin Carving Weekend" on October 19 and 20, Master Carvers Ray Villafane of *Food Network* fame, along with a team of other carvers, including Sue Beatrice and Chris Vierra, will transform humongous pumpkins into giant carnivorous plants and other unearthly creatures. Visitors can participate in daily Q&A sessions with the carvers and snack on seasonal treats provided by Whole Foods Market®.

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***The Haunted Pumpkin Garden*** in the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden is open all day for exploration, with guided activities from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends. Pumpkin sculptures of spooky scarecrows, frightening spiders, sneaky snakes, and more await discovery at every turn. The display includes more than 500 orange and multicolored, hand-carved pumpkin sculptures sure to capture a child’s imagination. Every day, kids can play inside a “gourd-geous” Pumpkin House, put on a scary show at the Pumpkin Puppet Theater, look for wiggly worms under a rotting log, and join a Halloween Parade, while each weekend offers even more treats.

Taking organic gardening to the extreme, the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth is the governing body of almost 100 official weigh-off sites worldwide, their supporting clubs, and growers. These sponsored sites host hundreds of thousands of visitors to the ever popular annually run festivals and weekend events held each summer and fall. The GPC strives to foster an environmentally friendly approach using basic organic techniques that have shown extreme fruit development can be obtained without harming our surroundings. All the winning growers used the RTI Industries giant pumpkin program to obtain these weights and world records. More information about the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth can be found at <http://gpc1.org>

The giant pumpkins, some of the largest in the United States and Canada, and the dioramic fall display with the glorious landscape as a backdrop, will be a picturesque sight for everyone to behold during their fall visit to The New York Botanical Garden.

An unforgettable departure from the everyday, The New York Botanical Garden is America’s premier urban garden. Its special exhibitions, seasonal programs, and engaging activities inspire visitors of every age and interest. The Botanical Garden is an ever-changing living museum, and a showplace of natural beauty and wonder. For more information, visit [nybg.org](http://nybg.org) or call 718.817.8700.

*Produced in collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth*

*MasterCard® is the Preferred Card of The New York Botanical Garden.*

**The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, Rock Garden, and Tram Tour. Grounds admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit [www.nybg.org](http://www.nybg.org)**

**The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458**

**The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden’s general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.**

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