



THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

For Immediate Release
October 14, 2010

**LARGEST PUMPKINS IN THE WORLD ON DISPLAY
AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
October 22–31, 2010**

**Three Giant Pumpkins, Winners of National Weigh-Off Competitions,
Including NEW WORLD RECORD HOLDER Weighing 1,810.5 Pounds**

Three winning pumpkins from regional weigh-offs across the United States, including a new world record holder, will be on display for a limited time from October 22 through October 31, 2010, at The New York Botanical Garden. The enormous pumpkins each weigh over 1,600 pounds, with the new world record holder, grown by Chris Stevens from New Richmond, Wisconsin, weighing an astounding 1,810.5 pounds. The other two giant pumpkins include one grown by Ken Sweet from Washington, Michigan, which tied the old record at 1,725 pounds, and one weighing 1,674.5 pounds, grown by Steve Connolly from Sharon, Massachusetts.

This showcase of champions will be in the Leon Levy Visitor Center as visitors arrive for *Halloween Hoorah* and other autumn attractions at The New York Botanical Garden. In collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC), the recognized standard of weights measurements and fairness of competition, three regional winners of national pumpkin weigh-offs will be delivered to the Garden and displayed where visitors can marvel at and take their pictures with these wonders of nature and of growing technique.



The GPC is the governing body of over 80 official weigh-off sites worldwide, their supporting clubs, and growers. These sponsored sites are attended by hundreds of thousands to the ever popular annually run festivals and weekend events held each summer and fall. The GPC strives to foster an environment friendly approach using basic organic techniques that has 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.



The top regional winners—the three largest pumpkins in the world—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.

For more information, visit nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

###

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 Botanical Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays. **ADMISSION PRICES FOR HALLOWEEN HOORAH (October 9–31):** Weekends (Saturdays and Sundays): Adults \$15, Seniors/Students \$13, Children \$8, Children Under 2 and Members Free; Weekdays (Tuesdays–Fridays): Adults \$10, Seniors/Students \$9, Children \$4, Children Under 2 and Members Free. Proceeds benefit the Children’s Gardening program. Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours, 718.817.8687. Grounds-only admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit www.nybg.org Read the Botanical Garden’s popular blog, *Plant Talk: Inside The New York Botanical Garden* at nybg.org/wordpress

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.

Media Contact: Nick Leshi 718.817.8658/8616 or nleshi@nybg.org; **Images available**