

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN

Studying, exhibiting, and conserving plants for 120 years

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LARGEST PUMPKINS IN THE WORLD ON DISPLAY AT THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN October 20–30, 2011

Giant Pumpkins Are Winners of Weigh-Off Competitions Throughout U.S. and Canada

NEW WORLD RECORD HOLDER Weighing 1818.5 Pounds Is Among Amazing Gourds

Four winning pumpkins from regional weigh-offs across the United States and Canada, including one that broke the world record for heaviest pumpkin set last year, will be on display for a limited time from October 20 through October 30, 2011, at The New York Botanical Garden. The enormous pumpkins each weigh over 1,600 pounds. The largest pumpkin, weighing an astounding 1,818.5 pounds (a new world record), was grown by Jim and Kelsey Bryson from Ormstown in Quebec, Canada.

The three runners-up are equally impressive. They include: one pumpkin grown by Dave and Carol Stelts from Edinburg, Pennsylvania, weighing 1,807.5 pounds; another grown by Leonardo Urena from Napa, California, weighing 1,704 pounds; and a final regional winner grown by Brant and Eleanor Bordsen from Marysville, California, weighing 1,693 pounds.

Poised to amaze everyone arriving for *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden* and other autumn attractions at The New York Botanical Garden, this a showcase of champions will be on display through October 30. In collaboration with the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth (GPC), the recognized standard of weights, measurements, and fairness of competition, the four regional winners of national pumpkin weigh-offs were delivered to the Garden's Leon Levy Visitor Center, where visitors can marvel at and take 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 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.



Jim Bryson and his 12-year-old daughter Kelsey sitting in front of their pumpkin, which weighs 1,818.5 pounds



The top regional winners—the four 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. The giant pumpkins will be turned into works of art by celebrated pumpkin carvers Ray Villafane and Michael Anthony Natiello on the weekends of October 22 and 23, and October 29 and 30, respectively. For more information about *The Haunted Pumpkin Garden* and the Giant Pumpkin Weekends, visit nybg.org or call 718.817.8700.

One of the Giant Pumpkins on display at the Garden's Visitor Center: the regional winner from Edinburg, Pennsylvania, weighing 1,807.5 pounds.

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: \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors and students with ID, \$8 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. A *Grounds-Only Pass* is also available: \$10 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students with ID, and \$2 for children ages 2–12, free for children under 2. Grounds admission is free all day on Wednesdays and from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit 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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