

New World Record for Giant Pumpkin, 2010

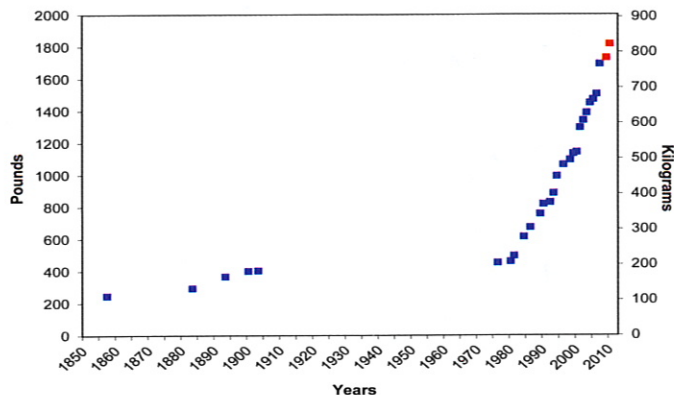
Don Langevin and Jules Janick

A new world record was achieved on October 8, 2010 when Chris Stevens of New Richmond Wisconsin, USA, brought in a 1,810.5 pound (821.4 kg) giant pumpkin at the Stillwater Harvestfest and Pumpkin Weigh off in Stillwater, Minnesota (Fig. 1). The 2009 record was broken by 85.5 pounds and the trend line since 1979 persists (Fig. 2). The weight of competing pumpkins at sanctioned contests for 2010 is astonishing: 433 exceeded 1000 pounds, 300 exceeded 1100 pounds, 186 exceeded 1300 pounds, 63 exceeded 1400 pounds, 28 exceeded 1500 pounds, 11 exceeded 1600 pounds, 2 exceeded 1700 pounds, and one exceeded 1800 pounds. In the last 17 years the record was broken 15 times indicating that 2000 pounds and then 1000 kg is within striking distance.

Figure 1. Chris and Amy Stevens and their daughters Kailey and Amber celebrate their world record pumpkin at the Minnesota weigh-off.



Figure 2. World records of pumpkin fruit weight, 1857 to 2010. The red squares are the 2009 and 2010 records, posted after the last article (Janick, 2008), indicating that the trend line since 1979 continues.



REFERENCES

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS



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Don Langevin is the historian of giant pumpkins and the author of two books on how to grow them: *How-to-Grow World Class Giant Pumpkins I, II, and III* (1993, 1998, 2003) and *How-to-Grow World Class Giant Pumpkins the All-Organic Way* (2009), all from Annedawn Publishing, Norton, Massachusetts, 02766, USA. Email: annedawn@comcast.net

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