

## 2018 Pumpkin Variety Trial Results

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The search for the perfect pumpkin variety continued in eastern NY during the 2018 season with CCE ENYCHP conducting 2 pumpkin variety trials; one at Wertman's Farm and Greenhouses in Melrose, NY (Rensselaer County) and at Robert O. Davenport and Sons Farm in Kingston, NY (Ulster County). Despite the roller coaster weather, the Wertman location turned out good and is the trial in which all data is based on. Unfortunately, the Davenport site suffered some poor stand issues and was used for observational data only.

The Wertman trial was planted on May 30, 2018 under excellent conditions. Rows were marked and fertilizer laid in furrow at a rate of 400 lbs per acre of 15-15-15 with a Monsem planter on 6' centers. Two seeds per variety were planted by hand using a jab planter at the recommended spacing based on square footage per plant values determined by using the recommended seed company spacing and the grower spacing of 6' between rows. Plots were 10 hills (5 hills planted in side-by-side rows) and replicated twice. Hills with multiple plants were thinned to one plant in mid-June. The herbicide program consisted of 1 pint Dual Magnum, 1/2 ounce Profine (halosulfuron) and 5 pints Strategy (pre-mix of clomazone and ethalfluralin) post plant/pre-emergent and one cultivation just before vine closure in mid-July. Insecticides and fungicides were applied by the grower appropriately.

Pumpkins were harvested beginning on September 2 and fruit were counted, weighed and evaluated. Because this trial has so many entries, the full table and a slideshow of all the varieties and this information can be found on our website at: <https://tinyurl.com/y9l8essl> or contact Chuck Bornt at 518-859-6213 or [cdb13@cornell.edu](mailto:cdb13@cornell.edu) for a copy.

**Varieties of note: Large Jack-O-Lanterns** (15lbs and up): Kratos (Harris) continues to be one of the nicest, most consistent pumpkins I've seen in many years and we were not disappointed this year! Unfortunately, we did not have many seed of Tallon from Harris, which is reported to be a new and improved Kratos so I look forward to seeing more of it in 2019. Secretariat (Harris) is one that I would highly recommend you try this year as it was very impressive. Conquest from Outstanding Seed was probably be far one of the largest fruit, but also one of the most variable in terms of size and shape which

leads me to think it would be great for retail sales but a hard one to grow for wholesale if you are looking for specific bin counts. The Johnny's release, JPN 625005R was also very impressive in terms of shape, color, handles and overall fruit quality. One surprise was a variety called Igor, also from Johnny's – it is what I would call an “ugly” pumpkin, but with so much character. The numerous, deep ribbing, dense flesh and unique odd shape was eye catching and captures the meaning of Halloween for me anyway. Hulk from Siegers gets an honorable mention as I really liked the shape, size, color and heft – unfortunately, the stems were fair at best.

**Medium Jack-O-Lanterns:** (10-15 lbs) This is a tricky group as the size range is sometimes hard to decide what to do with. Orange Sunrise from Seedway and Harris was very nice as was Pegasus from Outstanding. From Rupp, RPX 6688, RPX 6208 and RPX 5588 are varieties to certainly look at.

**Pie and Specialty Types:** This for me is always the most interesting group and this year was no different. There are several nice pie types including Early Abundance, RPX 6680 and Gumdrop. In addition, if you are looking for a white pumpkin that stays white, I would suggest looking at Blanco, a small (4-5 lbs), very attractive fruit (we received this seed late so it was used as an observational variety). Likewise, I was impressed with RPX 6927, another white pumpkin from Rupp that really maintained great white color still in the field late into the season (October). Other oddities included RPX 6629 which was a tall-round, tan to brown fruit. Specter, which is supposed to be more white but ended up being more yellow with some warts, was interesting and may do well at retail outlets. Likewise, Miniwarts, Warty Gnome (both small and warted) and 2 munchkin types, Spark and Flame that were very colorful with white, orange, green and yellow coloring.



Growers get a chance to see the fruit firsthand at one of two twilight meetings.

<b>2018 Pumpkin Variety Highlights</b> – For full table and pictures please visit: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/y9l8essl">https://tinyurl.com/y9l8essl</a>		
<b>Variety Name</b>	<b>Average Weight (lbs)</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Conquest 880	19.1	Really nice. Round-round, to tall-round, slightly pointed, variability. Massive stems, 2.5 inches diameter, dried grey/black and rock solid. Ribs are deep, narrow, numerous, with some wide deep ribs. Wholesale might have some concerns because of variable shape. Retail would be great. Good size, very heavy and thick, hefty.
Flame	0.8	Munchkin type, Creamy to yellow skin with more orange in the ribs. Some more white and some more orange. Some 1/4 to a pound. High shoulders, deep ribs, flat type. Variation in shape - some more rounded. Grey, hard stems, firm handles.
Gumdrop	7.5	Variable shape, but pleasing. Teardrop shape, a point near the top. Thick handles, dried down hard, grey color. Great attachments. Fairly ribbed and looks nice, catches the eye. Dark orange color, quite appealing.
Hulk	22.8	Tall-round, tall-tall elongated shape. It's pretty nice. Some of the stems are dodgy, 4 of 9 have dried grey nicely, 5 are doughy. Great carver type. Color is medium orange, with some russeting in the back. Medium rib, skin is smooth. Nice but stems are a concern. A few stems are beautiful, a few are questionable. Okay heft.
Igor	21.5	Interesting! Tall to tall-round to elongate-round. Ribs are very numerous and very deep. Skin texture is rippled. Okay handles, not the best. Kind of freaky looking, very cool. Some potential here similar to Mrs. Wrinkles, but this is taller. Beautiful ribs. Color is orangy brown, hard to describe. Pretty heavy.
JPN 62005R	17.4	Nice, squat-round to round-round. Uniform shape. Handles are very nice, 6 of 7 have dried to black/grey and are very solid. Orangy brown color. Medium ribs, even. Nice pumpkin. Potential for medium/large jack. Two fruit didn't take frost well but they are lighter color.
Kratos	18.1	Beautiful, barrel shape round. Tall-round to round-round. Dark orange color. Nice medium rib. Nice handles, short and stocky, dried down pretty good, good anchors. Solid fruit, hefty. Medium rib, decent number of ribs.
Mini-warts	2	Small warted variety. Hard as nails stems dried down. Mostly orange color with green/yellow/orange warts. Not a dark orange, but a bright, happy orange. Round-round, very uniform. Excellent for this size market. Light heft
Orange Sunrise	12.6	Not bad looking, medium to dark orange color. Nice jack o lantern orange. Stems aren't terrible, dried down to grey/black color, very well attached. Fruit is tall-round, to medium tall-round to a round-round. Decent ribbing, shallow rib but numerous, makes it look nice. It's okay.
Pegasus 8870	13.1	Handles dried down rock hard but aren't very big, nicely sized for the fruit. Round-round, to barrel-round shape. Medium orange to yellow orange in color. Okay ribbing. High shoulders, stem in a little pocket. Fruit are very solid and heavy in comparison to same sized fruit.
RPX 5588	11.8	Pretty heavy. Really nice, fairly uniform. Round-round shape. Stems have dried down grey, but nice. Medium, numerous ribs. Dark orange color. Really nice fruit for a medium size.
RPX 6208	13.5	Not bad. Tall to round-round. Stems are thick and great, dried down nicely. A nice dark orange color, not burnt. A little texture to skin. Great handle anchors. Would like to see again. Fruit are heavy/hefty.
RPX 6229	9.7	Tan to yellow color. Round-round to slightly tall-round. Uniform in shape. Lighter color might be younger fruit. Medium rib, nice handles. Flecking in the skin, orange/brown flecks. Okay ornamental for some color variety. Down at Davenport's, they are more dark tan/brown.
RPX 6680	5.2	Love this. Tall-round to round-round pie. Beautiful dark orange color. Great stems, hard as rocks, dried down to grey. Fairly uniform. Medium, numerous ribs. Beautiful color, very pretty.
RPX 6927	6.5	White pumpkin. Held color very well in the field into late season. Slight yellowing but mostly white. Stems are okay, short and a little thin but some dried okay. Round to squat-round shape. Medium ribbing. Fairly smooth skin texture. Impressed with color.
Secretariat	11.9	Excellent shape. Handles are in good shape. Barrel shape to round round/squat round with some variability but all nice. Deep ribbing, very nice, numerous. Anchors are excellent and very nice looking.
Spark	0.4	Munchkin type but much smaller than Flame. Same coloration, tan/yellow orange in ribs, green mottling. Very uniform. Nice handles. High shoulders. Looks nice, decent yield. Flat, round, deep ribs, true munchkin.
Warty Gnome	2.5	Similar to Blaze but with warts. Space saucer shaped. Yellow background, dark yellow with yellow orange, medium dark orange on the ribs. Stems have dried rock hard, nice stems, 3 inches long, some longer. Lovely ribbing. For specialty market, it is nice. Pretty uniform.