

Tom Beachy

The next time you sit down and relax and begin to be contented with how much effort you're putting into giant pumpkin growing, remember that there are young men, like Tom Beachy, who are still working. From Indiana, and obviously possessing unlimited energy and ingenuity, Tom Beachy is, with little doubt, a force to be reckoned with in giant pumpkin growing.

His pumpkin patch appears many times in this book, and for justifiable reasons. I was enormously impressed with the amount of AGs he grows, and the attention he gives to every plant. Most growers find it difficult to keep up with care for just a few giant pumpkin plants, but Tom cares in extraordinary detail for 20 or more plants – and he does it with nothing withheld that could squeeze another ounce of life out of them. If there is strength in numbers, then Tom Beachy is marching, in close ranks, towards 1500 pounds at a cadence none of us can keep.

These two pages, and pages 152 and 153, show in a montage of photos his dogged determination to plant as many Atlantic Giants as any person could possibly imagine – and do it with a passion and commitment to every detail... It is absolutely frightful!

All of the basic chores of growing are attended to, and many of the not-so-basic are also addressed: shade for every fruit, pathways protected from soil compaction, aggressive pruning, heated water, and on and on.

Tom's personal best is his 2002, 1097.5 pound pumpkin, officially weighed but not officially sanctioned as the all-time Indiana state record. With only three years of experience under his belt, 2000-2002, look for much from this grower – a new state record, and maybe a new world record. If it doesn't happen, it won't be for lack of effort.

