



Howard Dill's champion pumpkins have averaged over 460 lbs. the last three years. This giant has 10 ft. circumference.

MEASURES 10 FT. IN CIRCUMFERENCE

493 lb. Pumpkin Is World's Biggest

Champion pumpkin grower Howard Dill, of Windsor, Nova Scotia, claims the pumpkin he harvested last fall, a 493 lb. giant, is the biggest ever produced. As winner of the 1981 U.S. pumpkin growing competition in Philadelphia, and the producer of a 459 lb. pumpkin in 1980 and another weighing 438 lbs. in 1979, he should know.

Dill's "biggest ever" world champion Jack-O-Lantern measured 30 in. high, 44 in. wide, and 43 in. long. Circumference was 10 ft. and its rate of gain during the growing season was 8 lbs. per day! "The pumpkin actually weighed 493½ lbs. when picked in early October but shrunk to 469 lbs. by the time it won the competition last fall," says Dill.

He has been breeding pumpkins for 15 years. Breeders disagree, he says, whether big pumpkins are true pumpkins or perhaps part squash. He sold his 1981 record-setter to a store chain in Canada "for several thousand dollars," and got the seeds back, which he's offering for sale at \$5 each. "The genetics are there.

You'll get a big pumpkin," he told FARM SHOW, "but probably not 493½ lbs." Dill's winning secrets include: Good soil, deeply tilled, and lots of cattle manure. I also use commercial fertilizer."

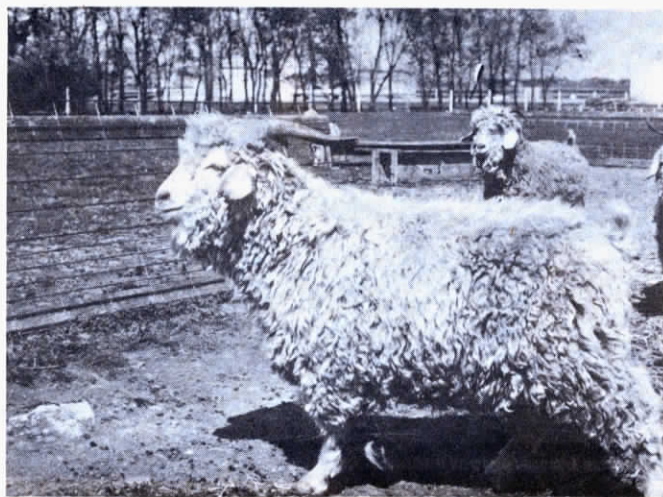
Each plant is spaced 25 to 30 ft. and needs 100 leaves, with each leaf manufacturing more than 4 lbs. of pumpkin. "Don't prune the vines — only the extra blossoms," Dill advises.

His goal this year is to produce a 500 lb. pumpkin, despite the relatively short growing season in his area.

"We have 125 to 130 frost-free days and the last spring frost can come as late as early June. We do have very long days, however," he adds.

Other big pumpkins entered in the pumpkin growing contest last year were grown by Richard Wright of Robinsville, N.J. (391 lbs.) and Francis Collins, Petaluma, Cal. (317 lbs.)

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Howard Dill, 400 College Rd., Windsor, N.S., Canada B0N2T0 (ph 902 798-2728).



Holaway raises 61 Angoras in confinement with his sheep. They yield as much as 20 lbs. of mohair a year.

ANGORAS YIELD \$60 A SHEARING

"Mohair Goats" Thrive In Midwestern Climate

Sheep producers have every reason to be envious of Angora goat raisers. Although smaller than sheep, an adult Angora yields an average of \$60 worth of mohair each year, about 10 times the value of the average sheep's yearly production.

Until recent years, most Angora goats in the U.S. have been raised in Texas and nearby states, but experience has shown that they'll do just as well "up north".

"The goats don't like cold weather but they survive it very well," says northern Angora producer Dwight Holaway, of Pipestone, Minn. He's been running Angoras with his sheep flock for the last five years. He currently has 55 Angora does and 6 bucks.

"The goats and sheep are housed together in a pole shed that we partially heat to 40° at kidding time. After shearing, the goats are kept warm until new hair grows out," says Holaway.

Angoras are sheared two times a year, and the average adult yields 14 lbs. of hair. Castrated males can yield 18-20 lbs. a year.

Because of Holaway's confinement set-up, the goats produce coarser lower quality mohair than goats on pasture, but they'll produce more hair per goat. Holaway notes that hooves grow more in confinement, so twice-a-year trimming is necessary.

In addition to mohair, there's a market for both goat meat and breeding stock. Males bring \$200-250 and does bring about \$125 per head. The Holaways have sold breeding stock locally, out west, and to New England.

Says Holaway: "There's no reason why a farmer successful with sheep should not be able to raise Angora goats."

For information contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Dwight Holaway, Rt. 3, Pipestone, Minn. 56164 (ph 507-825-3651).

Miniature Semi

"We had a local truck dealer build it," says a spokesman for Speare Hybrids, Harriston, Ontario. The seed firm attracts a lot of attention to its booth at fairs and shows with the miniature semi.

It's actually a cut-down version of an Austin front-wheel drive "mini", complete with truck exhaust stacks, horns and lights. Pulling up the rear is a scaled-down, 22-ft. trailer, decked out with Speare advertising and logos.

The miniature rig looks authentic and can be driven down the road. However, it isn't powered to pull any kind of a load in the trailer.



Scaled-down Speare semi has everything you'd find in a full-sized truck, except engine power.