

News Release
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THREE NEW PRODUCE RECORDS SET IN 2013
Gardeners Encouraged To Report 2014 Successes

Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick congratulated three growers on new produce records set in 2013 and exhorted West Virginians to go all-out on their gardens this year.

"We'd love to see some more records fall this year, but more than that, we'd love to see more West Virginians feeding their neighbors and expanding our state's economy from within," said Helmick.

"We're seeing new records every year so West Virginia's farmers are doing something right when it comes to growing these impressive specimens."

In 2013, Marilyn Conley and Steve Cutlip of Newton in Roane County grew an ear of corn that measured 14 inches. Bryar Ellis of Lewisburg grew a stalk of corn that was 13 feet, 9-3/16 inches tall. And Travis Evan of Oak Hill produced a whopper of a tomato that weighed in at 4.5 pounds.

WVDA has kept records of the largest fruits, vegetables and other plants since 1996.

Entries for next year are open to any fruit or vegetable grown in West Virginia. Entrants should send photos of their prize plants and documentation to verify their sizes and/or weights to WVDA - Marketing and Development Division, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25305, or e-mail them to ctolley@ag.state.wv.us.

For more information about starting a vegetable garden, download www.wvagriculture.org/images/Literature/StartingAHomeVegetableGarden.pdf

Worried about more than you can eat or sell to your neighbors, at the farmers' market, or to your local school system? Download www.wvagriculture.org/images/Literature/Successful_Home_Canning.pdf.

LARGEST FRUIT & VEGETABLE RECORD HOLDERS

Fruit/Vegetable	Weight/Height	Year	Grower
Apple	1 lb. 8.5 oz.	2002	George S. Orr & Sons
Basil Leaf	18 sq. in.	1996	Susan Sauter
Cantaloupe	27.45 lbs.	2011	Glen Knox
Cucumber	41"	2010	Howard Hager/Ann Buggington
Cushaw	57 lbs.	2008	Gail Cline
Ear of Corn	14"	2013	Marilyn Conley & Steve Cutlip
Elephant Garlic	1.25 lbs.	1999	Shawn & Christy Bittinger
Mushroom	9.83 lbs.	1999	Phillip D. Smith
Potato	3.16 lb.	2000	Gwen Wilson
Pumpkin	1,157 lbs.	2006	Scott Wotring
Radish	13.27 lbs.	2011	Michael R. Tolley
Rutabaga	9 lbs. 6 oz.	1998	Shawn & Christy Bittinger
Stalk of Corn	13' 9-3/16"	2013	Bryar Ellis
Sunflower	13' 11"	2012	Laird & Stacey Marshall
Sweet Potato	14.81 lbs.	2012	Ray Hendrix
Tomato	4.50 lbs.	2013	Travis Evans
Turnip	9.26 lbs.	2001	Donald G. Thompson
Watermelon	142.5 lb.	2005	Walter Jones
Zucchini	10 lb.	1996	Johnna Grapes

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