

2013 NATIONAL YOUTH GARDENING CONTEST **WINNERS**

SUNFLOWERS

1ST Place - Sarah Street (age 7) from Rome, NY – sunflower head 25”

2nd Place – Claire Keysor (age 7) from Van Wert,OH – sunflower head 20”

3rd Place – Bethany Blumer (age 14) from Fort Wayne,IN – sunflower head 18”

PUMPKINS

1st Place – Ben Blumer (age 16) from Fort Wayne,IN – pumpkin weight 25 lbs.

CONTAINER GARDENING

1st. Place – Christopher Faley (age 8) from Fort Wayne, IN

Words from and about our winners:

Sarah Street says the most fun about watching her winning sunflower grow and change was seeing it go from a seed to a 10’2” plant with a 25”flower on the top.

Claire Keysor learned that earthworms helped her sunflower to grow.

Bethany Blumer found out that removing the sunflower’s head is harder than it looks!

Ben Blumer encountered a problem with bugs that managed to kill the main plant leaving the pumpkins stunted too small sizes. Bug poison did not stop the aggravating pests.

Christopher Faley watered his plants with compost tea that he and his grammy made.

NATIONAL CONTEST SUNFLOWER PARTICIPANTS

Beth Keysor (age 5) from Van Wert,OH – sunflower head 17”

Emma Keysor (age 9) from Van Wert,OH – sunflower head 15”

Ben Blumer (age 16) from Fort Wayne,IN – sunflower head 15”

Virginia Williams (age 10) from Akron,OH – sunflower head 14 ½”

Olivia Ghent (age 10) from Fort Wayne,IN – sunflower head 8 ½”

Cayden Faley (age 10) from Fort Wayne, IN – sunflower head 6 ½”

Van Wert Club Report of youth not entering the national contest: two pumpkins the largest belonging to Marissa Parsons at 94 lbs., 9 sunflowers the smallest belonging to Ashley Brown with a head of 1 ½", and 5 with container gardens.