

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 61 (1995)
Heft: [7]

Artikel: Pumpkin fever in Switzerland
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945054>

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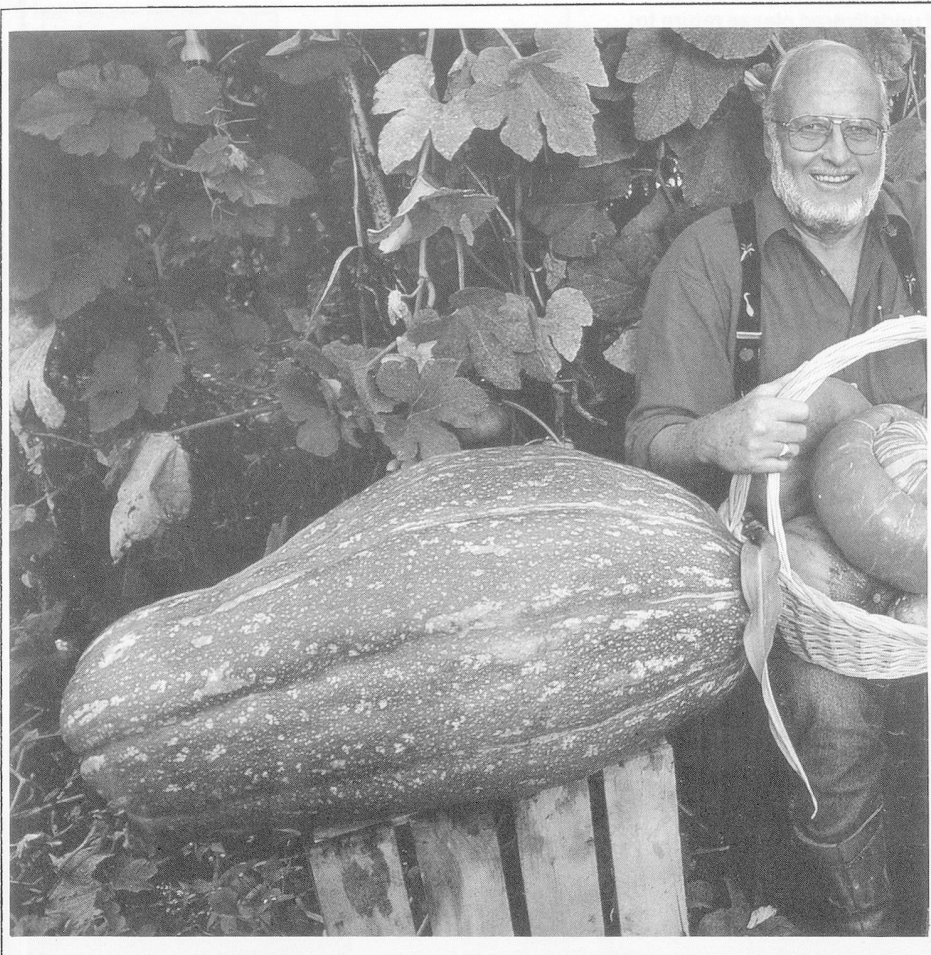
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PUMPKIN FEVER IN SWITZERLAND

Every Club and Association runs some sort of competition or championship. The newest one is the pumpkin growing competition, the winner of which is the gardener who manages to grow the largest and heaviest pumpkin.

It all started with one grower, Ernst Roth, now nicknamed "Chabis-Aschi", who started growing pumpkins in his backyard as a hobby. As his pumpkins and other vegetables became bigger and bigger with the passing years as his experience in growing vegetables grew, he was invited to present his skill on TV. And one day, the idea came to him to start a pumpkin growing competition. At a gardening centre he distributed seeds from his own pumpkins and to his amazement, over 5000 people took up his challenge. So the battle of the pumpkins is on. Ten years ago, Chabis' Aschi's pumpkins weighed up to 33 kgs. Now they weigh 60kg and more. At the next competition, he expects to see pumpkins weighing more than 80 kgs. Where will it all end?

Picture on left: Chabis' Aschi with one of his prize pumpkins.

Picture below: Roman Käppeli, a retired SBB employee turned pumpkin grower, is very proud of his achievements. But he has still a long way to go as his pumpkin weighs "only" 42 kgs.

JAZZ FESTIVAL IN MONTREUX

The 29th yearly Jazz Festival in Montreux ended last July with a record attendance of over 78,000 spectators. The organisers are very pleased with this result and hope for an even bigger attendance next year. If you have ever been to Montreux and realised how much the place is squeezed in between lake and mountain, you must wonder how so many people managed to get there and found enough room to attend the festival.



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