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Steve learned from Jim Story and uses Jim's "Pressure Test" to check on the maturity of gourds at the end of their growing season. "Press hard on the gourd with your thumbs to check for thickness and maturity. If the gourd shell gives, it has less than a dense thick shell. They are not fully mature and may dry ok but are not candidates for the green scrape cleaning method (removing the outer gourd skin). Resulting quicker drying will likely cause them to pucker.

Steve shared a few other bits of knowledge at seed packing day: Do you know what helped determine how wide a field crop row should be? "In earlier days it was the width of a mule's ass, so they could get between rows for cultivating." (lol)

Asked what they enjoy most about the gourd society, Steve and Peg agree that it is the members, so diverse in age, and background, very creative, very enjoyable to talk with, visit with, and learn from.

As with so many other IGS members, Peg and Steve are a delight, have a wonderful sense of humor, and are very knowledgeable and generous with their time and energy.



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