



## Plant Resources

# Sweet Potato Growing Guide

Sweet potatoes arrive as 'slips' – a rooted cutting that you plant.

## Planting

Sweet potatoes are very strong and resilient plants! For all their strengths, they don't like cool soil or cool weather.

- Plant after May 15<sup>th</sup> or early June for best results.

### WHEN TO PLANT:

- Plant in the afternoon, after the day's heat has passed.
- Rows should be 36" apart.
- Work the soil in the row into a mound (a 12" high mound if you can).
- The space between the mounded rows become the walkway.

- In the mounded row, set the slips 10 - 18" apart in a line down the row. Water each slip right away.
- Keep the soil moist for 1-2 weeks, until they have started to grow.

<p><b>Fertilizing</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you use fertilizer, just treat part of the row. Then in a week or two you'll see if the added fertilizer was helpful</li> <li>• Average fertility is fine.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Pests</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch for worms or beetles and treat as you would any other vegetable.</li> </ul>

# Harvesting

- You can harvest in September. Earlier harvest gives smaller potatoes however.
- Carefully reach into the soil and pull out a few.
- The plant will keep growing.
- Place harvested potatoes in an open container and allow them to air-dry for at least a week. This curing process toughens the skins, helping them store longer.
- Once cured, move the potatoes to a cool, dry room—but avoid storing them in the refrigerator.



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