

Grow Guide

Sweet Potato

Sweet potato cuttings are vulnerable to high heat and dry conditions for their first few weeks. Water daily until plants are well established, though irrigation throughout the entire season increases yield. A small branch of palm leaf over the cuttings can help them adjust for their first few days in direct light coming out of a shipping box. We direct plant our cuttings into the ground. We space sweet potatoes at 12 inches apart in a bed. Sweet potatoes may be available to harvest in 100-120 days. One can reach under the main stem and harvest large potatoes and allow the vines to go on and produce more potatoes on periphery vines as a secondary crop. Plants grow very well under young fruit trees and help to outcompete weeds, providing a crop at the same time.

Sweet potato is a tropical, heat loving crop that performs best during the warmest months of the year. Sweet potato is very vulnerable to cold. For cuttings received in winter, consider rooting in small pots and protecting. Plant out transplants once it is warm enough. In central Florida this is late February-early March. Gardeners in south Florida may be able to plant sweet potato year-round, though growth is slow in cool conditions.

