

# How to GROW, HARVEST, CURE & STORE Sweet Potatoes

## Sweetpotato management

First, make sweetpotato slips 8 weeks before planting outside and the roots form and sprout. Once slips are 5-6 inches long, remove them carefully from sweetpotato and put them in water to develop roots and also select location with good soil and drainage.

Similarly, plant each slip deep in soil to the start of top leaves in an area that gets enough sunlight and space slips 12-18 inches apart and water them after. Since sweetpotato roots develop into tubers and green leaves are eaten, give enough sunlight and prevent additional rooting of vines to prevent energy waste and water plants deeply occasionally.

Begin checking sweetpotato 90-120 days after planting and when tubers are 3 inches in diameter however, the longer the period sweet potatoes are left in ground, the larger the tubers and a farmer should harvest when vines and leaves begin turning yellow.

Furthermore, cut all vines and leaves and loosen soil around plant and look for primary crown on each plant. Dig out tubers without damaging them and keep them out of direct sunlight or do not wash them off after harvesting. Cure sweetpotatoes to increase storage life and set them in single layer in warm humid area for 10-14 days and store in a cool dry area for longest storage.

Finally, remove sprouting sweet potatoes from the rest.