

Sweet Potatoes

Project List



- ☐ Use **Vital Earth Organic Compost** or **Acidified Compost** for amending native soil.
- ☐ Sweet potatoes need excellent drainage. Consider adding **Expanded Shale** to make sure it drains well.
- ☐ Planting in **raised beds** is another option to ensure the best drainage.
- ☐ See the **Vegetable Gardening Project List** handout for soil recipe recommendations.
- ☐ Feed with a good organic fertilizer monthly, such as **Espoma Garden-Tone**.



Sweet Potato Planting & Care

- Select a site that receives **6 or more hours of direct sunlight**, and plant only when temperatures are **consistently warm**.
- Make sure your sweet potatoes have **plenty of room to grow**—vines sprawl and can get quite large!
- Use our recommended soil mix or Mayer Materials' **Raised Bed Mix** for raised beds, or **NHG Organic Premium Potting Soil** for containers. Sweet potatoes need consistent moisture and well drained soil.
- **Set slips (plants) as soon as possible after purchase.** Place roots in the ground and plant about halfway up the stem, 3-4" deep. Set slips 2 feet apart in the garden or use a 20-24" container. Water slips in well at planting.
- **Feed monthly** with a quality organic plant fertilizer such as **Espoma Garden-Tone** according to package directions.
- **Sweet potatoes mature 90-120 days after planting.** Check size of tubers by carefully removing soil from around root area. If tubers are about 6" long, it's time to harvest!
- **Harvest your sweet potatoes.** Cautiously dig tubers with a large fork or shovel, or even better, by hand. Handle carefully, as the skin of freshly dug sweet potatoes is very delicate. Try to avoid nicks and scrapes.
- **Dry freshly dug sweet potatoes outdoors in the shade for several hours**, then place tubers in a basket or crate and **do not wash dirt off**. Keep at room temperature and dry, preferably in a space with high humidity like a laundry room.