

Growing Sweet Potatoes



Growing sweet potatoes can be easy and fun! You start them by sprouting out seed potatoes rather than growing by tiny seeds. You can order "seed" potatoes late January/early February from a local supplier OR pick up organic sweet potatoes from the grocery. Non organic potatoes are often sprayed with inhibitors to stop sprout growth so don't choose those!



March-ish

Grow sweet potato slips in water or soil. Slips can take up to 6 weeks to develop. If growing in water you may need to change the water out every couple weeks to avoid mildew. If in soil-keep soil moist (but not too moist) and consider using a heating mat and grow lights.



Early May

Clip the emerging stems (slips) from potato and soak them in water to create roots. This can take a week or 2.



Late May

Choose a sunny location and plant sweet potatoes about 12 to 18 inches apart, and allow 3 feet between rows so the vines will have plenty of room to run. Sweet Potatoes take about 90 days to harvest.

September

Harvest time! Sweet potatoes are usually ready to harvest just as the ends of the vines begin to turn yellow. To avoid injuring tubers, find the primary crown of the plant you want to dig, and then use a digging fork to loosen an 18-inch wide circle around the plant.

