

# PLANTING GUIDE FOR SWEET POTATOES

If you're still thinking which vegetables/crops to grow in your garden, you can consider sweet potatoes as they're relatively easy to maintain that yield good harvest later in the season. Follow these steps to grow them from the ground up.

## Starting from Slips:

- A. Generally, start sprouting sweet potato slips in March or April and plant them in the ground in May or June.
- B. Choose a sweet potato variety to your liking that have slips or small sprouts.
- C. Put them in the sink and wash them well. Cut your potato in 1/2, 1/3 or 1/4 if they are too large.
- D. Prepare a jar or a glass with large opening enough to fit your potato and fill it with water.
- E. Place the potato into the jar and stick 4-5 toothpicks out of the sides of your potato equidistant apart and near the middle like spokes of a wheel.
- F. Place the jar where it can receive a lot of sunlight.
- G. Around 2-4 weeks, small leafy slips will begin to sprout out of the potato.
- H. Once slips have covered most of the potato tops, you can gently twist each one.
- I. Put the slips in a shallow bowl of water with the stem submerged in the water. After several days, roots will be formed from the bottom.
- J. Once roots have developed at the bottom, remove the slips from the bowl and ready to plant them in the garden.



## Prepare a Garden

- A. Choose a garden lot that can receive a lot of sunlight and plenty of space for the vines to grow.
- B. Sweet potatoes will grow deep into the ground, so till the soil as deep as 12 inches.
- C. Add a layer of compost to create a rich soil.
- D. Sweet potatoes prefer warm soil so better plant it a month after the last frost date.
- E. Choose a mulch to trap the heat in the soil.

## Planting Sweet Potatoes

- A. Dig the holes around 12-24 inches apart since sweet potato slips require more space than others.
- B. Plant the potatoes into the dug-up holes and cover the stems with soil.
- C. Add some mulch to trap the heat, block the weeds and prevent too much vine growth.
- D. Water the sweet potatoes daily. After some time, reduce it to weekly watering schedule.
- E. Water the beds and remove weeds regularly. By early fall, the sweet potatoes would be ripe and ready for harvest.
- F. After 4 months or so, sweet potatoes have become mature enough to harvest.
- G. Place the sweet potatoes in an area with temperature between 29-35 °C with 80-90% humidity for about a week or so to lock in the flavours and grow tougher skin. You may now enjoy your fruits of labor---sweet-tasting tubers!

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