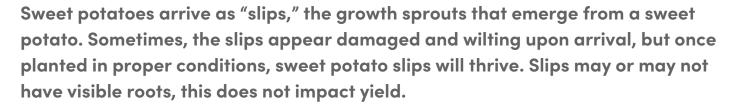
PHS Community Gardens

Growing Sweet Potatoes



GROWING SWEET POTATOES:

Site Preparation

- Plant sweet potatoes into fertile, well-drained soil
- Sweet potatoes have tropical origins, therefore they perform best in warm, full-sun locations
- Planting sweet potatoes into cold soil or areas with poor drainage may cause rot
- Sweet potatoes prefer sandy loam soils, however planting into raised beds is a good option to ensure warmth and adequate drainage

Planting

- Plant sweet potatoes 4"-6" deep 10"-18" apart, the larger the spacing, the larger potential for tubers
- When planting, ensure that all "nodes," of developing roots are buried
- Immediately after planting, thoroughly water your slips
- Slips take about 1-2 weeks to become established, during this time, regularly check slips to ensure they do not dry out
- Planting into black plastic mulch is a popular way to suppress weeds and ensure soil warmth

Seasonal Maintenance

- Keep young plants weed free with shallow cultivation to protect plant establishment
- Do NOT trim runners on sweet potatoes
- It is suggested to cover sweet potatoes with row covers at the beginning and end of their growing season if low overnight temperatures are anticipated

Harvest & Storage

- Frost will damage plants and tubers
- Before onset of potential frost, mow sweet potato foliage (or harvest to eat!) and dig the tubers with care, as to not damage the skins
- Cure sweet potatoes in a warm dark room for a week before moving into 55-60 degree storage. Do not store below 50 degrees.

2024 SWEET POTATO VARIETIES

- Luminance (Japanese Murasaki Type)
- Covington (Standard)

Q: "Which end of my Sweet Potato Slip should I plant?"

A: Root side in the ground. Although roots may not be present on your sweet potato slips, there are other indicators of which end to plant:

- The root end tends to be thicker
- Petioles of leave will be facing the opposite direction of the root
- Nodes are present where new root growth will happen