

## Sweet Potato Summary Sheet

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**Plan your market** – produce auctions, roadside stand, farmers markets, local diners (jumbo for fries - presliced) or restaurants (premium for top quality), organic production ???

**Fact sheets for customers** - (they are considered one of the super foods) with recipes (bake or stir fry), nutrition, storage (never in the refrigerator), can cut large tuber in two and eat half (other half will callous and can eat another day)

Start small first year or two

Order your plants early (January and February or very early March)

Scott Farms 919-284-4030 [www.scottfarms.com/](http://www.scottfarms.com/)

George's Plant Farm (Tennessee), [www.tatorman.com](http://www.tatorman.com) 731-587-9477 (no credit cards)

Steele Plant Company – Sweet Potato - [www.sweetpotatoplant.com/](http://www.sweetpotatoplant.com/)

Know your fertility requirements and planting schedule

Know that deer will eat plants (fencing) and that mice will chew on tubers

Apply fertilizer, make your beds and lay plastic two weeks prior to plants arriving if possible

Plant slips (last week of May or first week of June) 12-15 inches apart (bury slip three quarters into the ground) with a little starter

Water well the first few weeks so get them growing

Apply some N late June and again later July, check for weeds from plant hole and between the rows

Make sure you water through drip line (they can tolerate drought once established but will still do better if optimum water)

Niche market for newest growth as a green

Maybe a market for fingerlings late August

Consider covering with remay in September to extend season

Heat units almost done by end of September so should be harvesting early October

Cut back plants (bushhog, manually, ???) (in the south, this is one method to cure them)

Dig tubers and cure (sort in field if you have time)

Storage

Write down your observations of problems or successes

On farm trials for comparisons (spacing, N, varieties, remay in spring for a couple weeks after planting, remay in fall to keep soil warmer for a few more weeks, mouse traps, methods of harvest.