

CALENDAR FOR SPRING - SUMMER SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION

Planting time: February 15 to March 5

*January: Preparation for growing varieties, fertilizers

- Varieties: Several sweet potatoes popularly used in Vietnam include: Hoang Long, Hung Loc 4, HL518 (Japanese - Red), Kokey 14 (Japanese - Yellow), HL491 (Japanese - Purple), Murasa Kimasari (Japanese - Purple 1), HL284 (Japanese - White), KB1...
- Fertilizers: Fertilizer dose for 1 ha: 8 -10 tons Animal manure (0.8 - 1 ton of microbial organic fertilizer), 180 - 230 kg Phosphorus, 100 - 130 kg Urea, 80 - 90 kg Potassium, Lime. For 360 m²: 350 - 400 kg Animal manure , 5 - 6 kg Phosphorus, 4 - 5 kg Urea, 5 - 6 kg Potassium, 20 kg Lime.

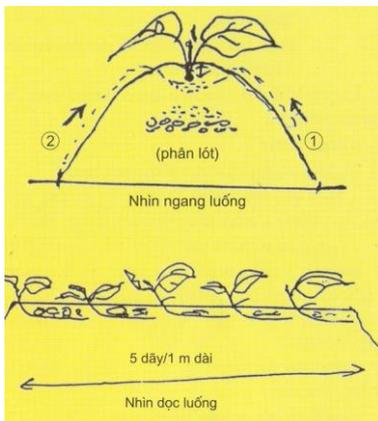


Preparation for growing varieties

* February: Soil preparation, growing, caring

- Soil preparation:
- It is required to deep plough and harrow for making the soil soft texture and weeds are cleaned.
- Ridges are usually made with 1.2 – 1.5 m wide and 35 – 45 cm high (East western orientation is better)
- Basal fertilizing: 100% organic fertilizer + 100% lime + 100% Phosphorus + 30% urea + 20% Potassium.
- Growing technique:

Note: planting when the weather is cool.



- Planting density: 1.400 stem cuttings/360m²; space of 5 - 6 cuttings/m along the ridge.

- Making a single furrow along the ridge and taking cuttings 10 - 15 cm long, and placing the cuttings continuously and parallelly with the ridge and the top leaves just above the soil surface 5 - 10 cm (2 nodes) and 5 cm deep.



Planting

- Keeping regularly enough soil moisture for plant development.

* March: Caring

- Visiting and monitoring regularly planting field, keeping soil humidity at 65 - 80%, watering deeply (along the groove to 1/2 - 2/3 of the ridge) if it is dry.
- The first top dressing (20 – 25 days after planting): 50% urea and 30% potassium fertilizer combining with weed control and earthing up.
- Top pruning: After 25-30 days of planting to enhance growth, development of stems and leaves, accumulation of organic biomass.
- Pulling up any vines that may have rooted so that they put more nutrition into the main roots instead of lots of little one. Pulling up the vines should conduct regularly; placing the vines at the same place after pulling up to avoid damage to the vines and leaves.



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* April: Caring and pest and disease control

- Visiting and monitoring regularly the field, maintaining the moisture for plants to develop well.
- Second top dressing (40 – 45 days after planting): 20% urea + 50% potassium fertilizer combining with weed control and earthing up of soil. Using of root stimulators such as DAP and inhibitors as Paclobutrazol or Hac09.
- Pest and disease management:
 - Two main insects often attack sweet potato including hornworm and cutworms that need to be monitored and prevented. Stem borer is controlled by CAZINON 50 ND, FENTOX 25EC, CAGENT 800WG, ANITOX 50SC, CAHERO 585EC.
 - Several diseases often occurred are: Yellow wilt caused by *Fusarium oxysporum* – using following chemicals NUSTAR 40EC, CAROSAL 50SC, CANTOX D35WP to control; Bacterial wilts caused by *Pseudomonas solanacearum* can be controlled by Cansunin 2L, Canthomil 47WP or Kasuran 47WP.



Hornworm



Cutworms

* May: Caring and pest and disease control

- Earthing up highly around the bases of the plants when root performing so that roots can not be emerged out of the soil. Watering regularly to keep enough moisture and soil not cracking and preventing insects from coming to roots.
- Visiting and monitoring regularly the field to discover pest and disease occurrence so that to take appropriate prevention and control measures.

* June: Harvesting

- Sweet potatoes are ready to harvest based on growth duration of the variety combining with observation when the lower leaves have started turning to yellow. Harvesting is done on a dry, overcast day. Be careful not to damage or slash roots so that it can lower the product value.
- Harvesting on time to prevent from sweet potato weevil infection. Sorting of weevil infected roots so that the weevil can not be transmitted to other healthy roots.



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