

# Sweet potato information kit

Reprint – information current in 2000



## REPRINT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ!

For updated information please call 13 25 23 or visit the website [www.deedi.qld.gov.au](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au)

This publication has been reprinted as a digital book without any changes to the content published in 2000. We advise readers to take particular note of the areas most likely to be out-of-date and so requiring further research:

- Chemical recommendations—check with an agronomist or Infopest [www.infopest.qld.gov.au](http://www.infopest.qld.gov.au)
- Financial information—costs and returns listed in this publication are out of date. Please contact an adviser or industry body to assist with identifying more current figures.
- Varieties—new varieties are likely to be available and some older varieties may no longer be recommended. Check with an agronomist, call the Business Information Centre on 13 25 23, visit our website [www.deedi.qld.gov.au](http://www.deedi.qld.gov.au) or contact the industry body.
- Contacts—many of the contact details may have changed and there could be several new contacts available. The industry organisation may be able to assist you to find the information or services you require.
- Organisation names—most government agencies referred to in this publication have had name changes. Contact the Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or the industry organisation to find out the current name and contact details for these agencies.
- Additional information—many other sources of information are now available for each crop. Contact an agronomist, Business Information Centre on 13 25 23 or the industry organisation for other suggested reading.

Even with these limitations we believe this information kit provides important and valuable information for intending and existing growers.

**This publication was last revised in 2000. The information is not current and the accuracy of the information cannot be guaranteed by the State of Queensland.**

This information has been made available to assist users to identify issues involved in sweet potato production. This information is not to be used or relied upon by users for any purpose which may expose the user or any other person to loss or damage. Users should conduct their own inquiries and rely on their own independent professional advice.

While every care has been taken in preparing this publication, the State of Queensland accepts no responsibility for decisions or actions taken as a result of any data, information, statement or advice, expressed or implied, contained in this publication.



Queensland Government



### Handy Guide 2

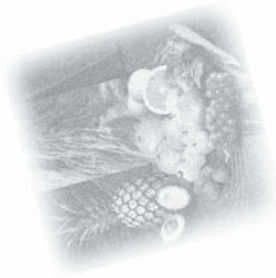
	Pre-plant	Planting to storage root initiation	Storage root initiation to harvest	After harvest
<b>Time from planting</b>				
<b>Time for each stage</b>		5 – 8 weeks 5 – 8 weeks	16 – 25 weeks 11 – 17 weeks	
<b>Management objectives</b>	Propagate planting material. Well-prepared moist soil with no pest host plants around the block.	Establish a uniform stand of healthy plants. Maintain plant health and control pests. Maintain moisture levels.	Maintain plant health and control pests. Maintain moisture levels. Do not allow plants to stress. Remove the tops from plants 5 – 10 days before harvest to firm the skin.	Clean up the field to prevent pest, disease and weed problems in future crops. Plant a cover crop.
<b>Weed control</b>	Do not allow weeds to seed.	Control weeds, cultivate and/or apply a herbicide.	Pull out any large weeds before they seed.	Do not allow weeds to seed.
<b>Pest and disease control</b>	Ensure all plant residue has broken down. Calibrate spray equipment.	Monitor for and control cutworm, soil insects, aphids, sweetpotato weevil, leafeating insects and mites, if indicated by monitoring. Control diseases as necessary.	Monitor for pests and diseases. Control sweetpotato weevil, sweetpotato leafminer, aphids, leafeating insects and mites, if indicated by monitoring. Do not allow soil to crack and allow entry of sweetpotato weevils. Control diseases as necessary.	Remove trickle tape, if used, and then cultivate in crop residue. Cultivate regularly to prevent growth of any sweetpotato plants that could breed up pests and diseases.
<b>Plant nutrition</b>	Apply lime or dolomite, if required. Apply establishment fertiliser.	Apply trace elements, if necessary. Monitor plant nutrient levels with sap tests. Apply fertiliser, if necessary.	Do a sap or leaf nutrient test. A leaf nutrient test at this stage will indicate nutrient problems that may occur in the next crop.	
<b>Irrigation</b>	Ensure soil is moist for planting. Lay trickle tape, if using trickle irrigation and plastic mulch.	Plant into moist soil. Keep soil moist until plants are well established. Install tensiometers in pairs, at 20 cm and 60 cm deep, one pair per block or 5 ha. Irrigate at 25 centibars on tensiometers. Optimum range is 10 – 25 centibars.	<b>Good water management is critical throughout this period.</b> Maintain even soil moisture at 10 – 30 centibars on tensiometers. Allow plants to dry out a little 1 – 2 weeks before top removal. Irrigate lightly before harvest to soften soil.	

# Problem Solver

## HANDY GUIDE

for sweetpotato pests and diseases

Handy Guide 1



### SAFETY FIRST

**Read the label**  
Follow the directions  
Wear protective clothing



**Agrilink**  
your growing guide  
to better farming

November 2000

Active constituent:	chlorpyrifos	chlorpyrifos (bait)	lime sulfur	potassium salts	sulfur	copper oxychloride	garlic + chilli + pyrethrins + piperonyl butoxide	carbaryl (NRA permit)	dicofol	dimethoate	endosulfan	imidacloprid	propargite	diazinon	fenamiphos	phorate (NRA permit)	calcium hypochlorite	chlorpyrifos	dazomet	metham-sodium	methy bromide + chlorpicrin	Pre-plant
Withholding period (days)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	7	7	7	7	7	7	14	84	91	.	.	.	.
Alternaria leaf spots						✓	✓					✓					✓	✓		✓		
Aphids (including green peach)				✓								✓								✓		
Bacterial diseases																						
Bacterial soft rot												✓										
Bugs																						
Caterpillars												✓										
Crickets																						
Cutworms		✓																				
Fungal diseases	✓																					
Fusarium																						
Jassids—leafhoppers																						
Leaf diseases or spots																						
Nematodes																						
Phytophthora soil fungus																						
Postharvest rots																						
Pythium																						
Rutherglen bug																						
Sclerotium diseases																						
Silverleaf whitefly																						
Spider mites																						
Soil fungi																						
Soil pests																						
Sweetpotato leafminer																						
Sweetpotato weevil																						
Thrips																						
Twospotted mite																						
Wingless grasshoppers																						
Wireworm																						

✓ Indicates that at least one of the trade products is registered for that use. Check the label before use.

# Chemical application rates

NOTE: Rates listed are a guide only. Individual products may vary within the range given. Check the label before use.

From *Infopest 2.5* as at November 2000



## Active constituent and trade names for fungicides

Active constituent: Trade names	Chemical action	Chemical group	Fungicide group
<b>calcium hypochlorite:</b> Hypochlor	surface sterilant	inorganic	unspecified
<b>chloropicrin:</b> Chloropicrin	soil fumigant	unspecified	unspecified
<b>copper oxychloride:</b> Copper Fungicide; Copper Oxychloride; Copper Oxy; Copperoxy; Copper-Pro; Coppurite; Oxydul	protectant	inorganic	Y
<b>dazomet:</b> Basamid	soil fumigant	isothiocyanate	unspecified
<b>fenamiphos:</b> Nemacur 400	nematicide	organophosphate	1 B
<b>metham-sodium:</b> Metham; Metham Sodium	soil fumigant	unspecified	1 A
<b>methyl bromide + chloropicrin:</b> Vertafume	soil fumigant	unspecified	8 A

## Active constituent and trade names for insecticides

Active constituent: Trade names	Chemical group	Insecticide resistance group
<b>carbaryl:</b> Bugmaster; Flowable; Carbaryl; Flowable Carbaryl	carbamate	1 A
<b>carbaryl:</b> NRA permit	carbamate	1 A
<b>chlorpyrifos:</b> Bar 500; Chlorfos; Chlorpyrifos; Chlorpyrimax; Cyren; Generifos; Iban; Kensban; Lorsban; Optem; Pest Controller; Pest One; Protector; Pyrinex; Strike-Out; Voodoo	organophosphate	1 B
<b>dazomet:</b> Basamid	isothiocyanate	
<b>diazinon:</b> Diazinon	organophosphate	1 B
<b>dicofol:</b> Kelthane; Miti-Fol	organochlorine	2 B
<b>dimethoate:</b> Dimethoate; Dimethomax; Perfekthion; Rogor; Romethoate; Saboteur	organophosphate	1 B
<b>endosulfan:</b> Endosan; Endosulfan; Thiodan	organochlorine	2 A
<b>fenamiphos:</b> Nemacur 400	organophosphate	1 B
<b>garlic + chilli + pyrethrins + piperonyl butoxide:</b> Beat-A-Bug concentrate	pyrethroid	3 A
<b>imidacloprid:</b> Confidor	neo-nicotinoid	4 A
<b>lime sulfur:</b> Lime Sulfur	inorganic	unspecified
<b>phorate:</b> (NRA permit) Phorate; Thimet; Umet	organophosphate	1 B
<b>potassium salts:</b> Natrasoap; Neemtech		unspecified
<b>propargite:</b> Omite	organosulfur	14 A
<b>sulfur:</b> Brysulf; Flosul; Flowable Sulphur; Sulfolac; Sulphur; Wettable Sulphur	inorganic	Group Y fungicide