

# Tips to Grow Sweet Potato in Delaware



*The sweet potato (*Ipomea batatas*) is a dicotyledonous plant that belongs to the bindweed or morning glory family, convolvulaceae.*

- Use light, sandy soil, but heavy clay is also tolerable.
- Warm up the soil in June to grow sweet potatoes in the North (Zones 3 to 5).
- Take a rooted slip of vine, and plant it gently in a pot of amended soil as early as you can with your extended-season space.
- Keep the pot in a warmed area, either a greenhouse or under individual covers (mini-greenhouse) in a sunny spot.
- Side-dress the sweet potato plants 3 to 4 weeks after transplanting with 5-10-10 fertilizer.
- Weed the sweet potato beds regularly, starting 2 weeks after planting.
- Avoid deep digging with a hoe or other tool that disturbs the delicate feeder roots.
- Water regularly, especially during mid-summer.



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