# Sweet Potato

## When to Plant Slips in Container or Outdoors:
Late May

## Container Size for Container Gardening:
Use a 13 gallon container that is approximately 18-24 inches wide and 18 inches deep

## Ground Spacing for In-Ground Gardening:
10-18 inches of space between plants

| **Hours of Sunlight:** | 12+ per day |
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| **Amount of Water:** | 15 cups per week |
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## Harvest:

**Days Until Harvest: 42 days, or once plant has dried in fall**
Dig up sweet potatoes in early October before a hard frost or before the soil temperature drops below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Brush off soil from sweet potatoes and cure in a room close to 85 degrees Fahrenheit with little sunlight for about a week. Store in a dark, humid room around 60 degrees Fahrenheit for several months. Wash potatoes before eating.

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The information provided in this card is not exact for every growing experience and was designed for Champaign, Illinois in Zone 5b. You should read your seed packet or consult your local Extension agent for questions specific to your growing conditions.

**Planting:**

Plant sweet potatoes at the end of May or early June when the soil is about 60 degrees Fahrenheit. Plant sweet potato slips 3 inches deep and 10-18 inches apart or one slip per 18- or 24-inch wide by 18-inch deep container.

**Care:**

Keep the area around the plant free of weeds. Use a liquid fertilizer 4 weeks after growing begins. Give plants a little water every 3-4 days, either from rain or faucet, trying to maintain about 15 cups of water per week. Water plants in the morning, if possible, since plants produce nutrients during the day and need water to do this. When selecting your plants be sure to get varieties that are for food production instead of for landscaping.

**Pests & Disease:**

Sweet potatoes do not usually have major insect problems. Many diseases can be managed by providing fertilizer and water regularly, having good airflow without overcrowded plants, and keeping water off of the leaves.

**This card was produced in part by University of Illinois Extension.**