

Production requirements & costs for 1 ha of Sweet Potatoes (1 hectare - 2.47 acres)

Spacing: 1.0 - 1.5 m between the rows and 250 - 600 mm within the row, depending on variety and location.

Soils: Sweet potatoes can be grown on most soil types but do much better on sandier soil.

Sweet potatoes do not like to be waterlogged so plant on ridges or mounds. This will also make it easier for lifting when ready.

Planting date: Plant out as early as possible after danger of frost is past. Crop requires 120 frost free days to maturity. It does not like cold or wet conditions. Undamaged sweet potatoes can be stored from 4 - 6 months in a temperature of 12 - 15 C or if the soil is **very dry** they can be left in the lands until required. Being fairly drought tolerant it can be grown in the drier parts of the country.

Vines, 300 - 400 mm sections, which are free of disease/ virus are used for the propagation of a new crop.

Fertilizer requirements		Product	Rate/ha	Nitrogen	Phosphate	Potash	Sulphur	Comments	Rate/ha	Cost/tonne	Cost / ha
Base dressing	Compound C	5:15:12 11S 0.1B	300	15	45	36	33	All at planting	0.3		
Top Dressing	AN	AN (34.5% N)	100	35				Within 3 - 4 weeks	0.1		
OR		Totals		50	45	36	33				
Base dressing	Compound L	4:17:11 8.5S 0.25B	300	12	51	33	26	All at planting	0.3		
Top Dressing	AN	AN (34.5% N)	100	35				Within 3 - 4 weeks	0.1		
		Totals		47	51	33	26				

Too much nitrogen applied too early can lead to excessive vegetative growth. Preferably select a fertilizer that contains Boron.

Herbicides and Pesticides

Seedbeds for slips: First fumigate the site before planting out roots, close together but not touching. 400 kg to get enough slips for 1 ha land.

Problem	Product	Application rate	Application / comments	Rate for 100 sq m	Pack Size	Cost per Pack	Total Cost
Eelworm	Basamid granules	50 g per sq m	Evenly broadcast over bed and incorporate to 150 mm depth and cover with plastic sheet for 10 - 14 days.	5 kg	1, 5, & 20 kg	\$13/kg	
	EDB Tech	275 ml/100 m row	Tine application in rows 380 mm apart.	725 ml	20 lt	\$380/20 lt	
Lands				For 1 ha			
Eelworm	EDB Tech	125 ml / 100 m row	Or 3ml / planting station OR good rotations.	11 lt	20 lt	\$380/20 lt	
Grasses	Agil 100 EC	30 ml/15 lt knapsack	Post emergent on grasses only.	0.5 lt	1, 5, & 20 lt	\$22/lt	
Leaf eaters	Carbaryl 85 WP	300 g /15 lt knapsack	Full cover spray. Add 5% molasses	0.5 kg	0.25, 0.5, 1 & 5 kg	\$10/kg	
Weevils	Can do a lot of damage mainly in heavier soils.		Best control is hygiene and good rotations.				
			Destroy any residual plants after harvesting.				

NOTES: 17 x 15 lt knapsack/ha will deliver +/- 250 lt/ha spray mix.

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS, ALWAYS READ AND UNDERSTAND THE LABELS.
THIS IS NOT AN ORDER**