LAND PREPARATION

Limestone should be incorporated into the top 4 in. or spread over the whole cultivation at a rate of 2,500 lbs per acre on clay or Pegasse soils, or 500 lbs per acre on sandy soils. This is necessary because virtually all soils in Guyana are deficient in calcium, and the clay and Pegasse soils are very acidic. This prevents the plant from absorbing nutrients and encourages fungal and bacterial diseases. Organic matter should also be incorporated; within reason, the more the better.

Sweet potato requires good drainage, so the soil should be prepared accordingly and drains provided. Usually, a ridge-and-furrow system is used, with ridges about 3 feet apart.

PLANTING AND SPACING

Slips are normally 8–12 inches long and are planted about 12 inches apart in the row.

IRRIGATION

For any commercial-size plot, sprinkler irrigation from Caribbean Chemicals will dramatically reduce costs.

WEED CONTROL

Carista or Lifeline is non-selective and would kill the crop if it is sprayed over it.They work by eliminating the chlorophyll in the plant, so if enough of the plant is covered by the spray, it would not be able to produce food, and therefore dies. However, if applied Carefully, they will only affect the crop plant if the spray touches it, but it will only affect the chlorophyll on the spot it has touched. They will not cause injury like Paraquat or affect the roots like Glyphosate.

A GUIDE TO SWEET POTATO PRODUCTION



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A SUCCESSFUL SWEET POTATO GUIDE

BEFORE PLANTING

Before planting, slips should be dipped in the following mixture: **Cytoplex** 10 ml/gal (stimulate early growth and recovery) + **Greenstim** 15 ml/gal (reduce transplant stress) + **Nutrient Express** 15 g/gal (improve nutrient uptake and early establishment).

1 WEEK AFTER PLANTING

Bountiful Harvest 30 ml/gal (stimulate root growth and overall plant vigor) + **Agasi** 20 ml/gal (enhance growth, flowering, and stress resistance) + **Nutrient Express** 15 g/gal (improve nutrient availability and early plant development) + **Triazaphos** 15 ml/gal (control sucking and chewing insect pests) + **Shield** 10 ml/gal (protect against root and soil-borne fungal diseases).

AT 7-10 DAYS AND 18-21 DAYS AFTER PLANTING

Spray **Nutrient Express** 20 g/gal (improves nutrient availability and plant vigor) + **Cytokin** 10 ml/gal (flower initiation and improved fruit set) + **Greenstim** 15 ml/gal (reduces stress and supports recovery). Fertilize using **ELIXIR 6–24–12 or 16–27–27** at 275 lb/ac (supplies balanced NPK for strong growth, flowering, and yield development).

AT 28-31 DAYS AFTER PLANTING

Drench **Saeta** 10 g/gal (calcium supply and protection against phytophthora) + **Evergreen** 10 ml/gal (biostimulant to enhance root activity and plant vigor) + **Triazaphos** 15 ml/gal (systemic insect control) + **Carbendazim** 10 ml/gal (fungal disease protection).Spray **Nutrient Express** 20 g/gal (improves nutrient uptake and overall plant performance) + **ZMC Express** 5 g/gal (micronutrient support and stress tolerance). Fertilize with **Elixir 7–21–21 or 12–12–17** at 275 lbs/ac (balanced NPK supply for growth, flowering, and yield development).

AT 48 – 51 DAYS AND 58 – 61 DAYS AFTER PLANTING

Flower Max 9:18:36 30 g/gal (high potassium formulation to enhance flowering, fruit set, and fruit filling) + **Evergreen 10** ml/gal (biostimulant to improve plant vigor and stress tolerance) + **Triazaphos** 15 ml/gal (systemic insect control) + **Carbendazim** 5 ml/gal (fungal disease protection).

AT 78 – 51 DAYS AND 88 – 91 DAYS AFTER PLANTING

Spray **Sugar Express** 30 g/gal (promotes fruit and flower development) + **Saeta** 10 g/gal (provides calcium and protects against phytophthora).

Continue **every 2 weeks** until the end of the crop

