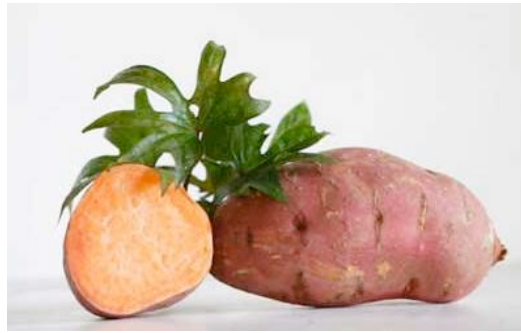


GROWING SWEET POTATOES



Two Dog Organic Nursery is offering 2 varieties of Certified Organic Sweet Potato seedlings this year: Bradshaw and Beauregard. We've grown these plants from Certified Organic "slips" purchased from one of our Certified Organic growers. Slips are the leafy vines that grow out of the eyes of a sweet potato. Unlike regular spuds, we do not plant the sweet potato itself, but instead plant the rooted slips. Slips grow from a sweet potato suspended in a glass of water and are carefully harvested and then rooted in seedling mix. Once the slips begin to root, they are ready to plant out.

Sweet Potatoes love heat, so if possible, cover your bed with black plastic and plant the seedlings into the soil through Xs cut in the plastic. Rather than "hilling" sweet potatoes (like you do regular spuds) the seedlings are planted 10-18" apart on mounded-up rows that are 8-12" high. Rows should be 3' apart to allow for sprawling vines. Transplant in the evening and water well; keep the soil moist for the next few days and then back off watering to sparing.

Soil should drain well; add lots of compost to insure drainage and for extra nutrients. Plant the slips 2-3" deep, and side dress with a shovelful of compost for better yields and larger sweet potatoes. They do not require fertilization.

Sweet Potatoes will be ready to harvest in 90-110 days. You can reach into the hillside and harvest carefully. Be sure not to bruise or damage the potatoes as this can cause them to spoil. And DO NOT wash them until after curing.

Once harvested the roots are alive and require sufficient oxygen to survive, even in storage. Sweet Potatoes must be "cured" in a single layer, in an 85 degree room with relatively high humidity for about a week to 10 days. Curing promotes the healing of any cuts or bruises and protects the roots from disease and excessive shrinking while starches are being converted to sugars and other flavor components. Sweet Potatoes are not "sweet" until this process concludes.

Store your sweet potatoes at 55 to 60 degrees with 85% relative humidity. The estimated yield is one pound of potatoes per plant. Enjoy!!