

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR HAYMAN SWEET POTATOES

Best Management Practices (BMP's) are a set of practices that results in the highest quality product with the lowest level of inputs, thus reducing the total impact on the environment. Words often associated with BMP's in farming are: stable, low input, proactive, monitoring, evaluation, balanced.

Practices that make up a best Management Plan:

-Having a well thought out farm plan.

-Considering the following practices in your farm plan:

- usage of cover crops for nitrogen management
- use of buffers to control water run off
- use of chemical insect controls
- use of disease management devices and software
- mapping of fields for soil types
- winter plowing to control nematodes

-Including the following practices in your farm plan:

- testing the soil to ensure the right nutrients are there
- rotating crops
- ensuring that chemical insect controls are specific to the crop and life-stage of the insect. Also, ensuring that the methods used do not affect beneficial insects too greatly.
- crop rotation to interrupt pest life cycles

-Additional Practices for Growing Haymans may include:

- controlling scurf by spraying Captan over the seed roots in the plant bed to prevent root rot, and cutting the sprouts above the sand they are planted in (rather than pulling them) to prevent scurf
- rotation to a non-tuberous crop to reduce populations of common pathogens
- wireworm control through irrigation during dry periods, and use of Seven or Difulitan if populations get high
- chisel plowing to counteract the effects of soil compaction
- practice good seed selection to prevent the breed from becoming "Run down" again

-Harvest and Storage practices

- reducing skinning by handling as little as possible
- wearing cotton gloves to cushion the potatoes while harvesting and packing
- curing the potatoes at 80-90 degrees and 80% relative humidity
- store the potatoes at 50-60 degrees and 85-90% relative humidity
- sell them by the end of March
- packaging should allow the potatoes to respire or they will rot

## **SOURCES FOR HAYMAN RELATED INFORMATION:**

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