

Sweetpotato variety trial

Sweetpotatoes have increased in popularity in recent years. Production for the Kentucky is estimated at about 200 acres which is an 18% increase from 2009. Current recommendations are limited to a few select varieties which although being excellent yielding may not suit everyone. As part of a S. SARE on farm research grant we are trialing a number of sweetpotato varieties here in Lexington and in West Liberty, KY. The varieties being trialed are profiled below.



Beauregard: Very high yielding variety with red/orange skin and moist orange flesh. Very easy to grow though can get excessively large if not harvested on time. Matures in 90-95 days in Central Kentucky.



Covington: Very uniform, high quality sweetpotato with red/orange skin and moist orange flesh. Extremely vigorous vines. Matures in 110 days in Central Kentucky. Lower yields than Beauregard. Primary variety grown in North Carolina



Hernandez: Uniform, popular variety. Orange/red skin with deeper orange flesh. Sizes up uniformly and matures in about 100 days. Photo credit: North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission.



O'Henry: Large, high yielding white fleshed variety. This variety was a mutation of Beauregard with a similar shape. Generally yields slightly less than Beauregard and matures a few days later. Best white variety.



Porto Rican: Older variety still popular. More tapered with a pale skin and pale orange flesh. Purple foliage, some use it in hanging baskets. (*yes it is spelled correctly*). Matures in about 110 days in Central Kentucky. Photo credit: North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission.



Japanese: A purple skinned, white fleshed variety. A little drier and slightly less sweet than others. Some use this variety for chipping.

Georgia Jet: Matures in about 95-100 days. Red/orange skin with deep orange flesh. Older, but still very popular variety. High yields, but surpassed by Beauregard.

Centennial: Matures in 90-95 days copper skin with deep orange flesh. High yielding and stores well.

Jewell: Similar to Centennial, matures in 90-95 days with a copper skin and deep orange flesh.

Nancy Hall: Very old light brown skin with white flesh variety still preferred by many as the flesh is very moist and sweet. Matures in approximately 100 days.

Vardaman: A yellow skinned orange fleshed variety with a bushier type growth habit and may be a better choice for home gardens if space is limited. Matures in about 95 days and is a heavy yielder.