

Multiplication from small tubers

- When using tubers, plant at a spacing of 5-10cm and 5cm depth.
- Mulch with a plastic sheet to promote sprouting and retain moisture and temperature.
- If the shoots are too many from a tuber, thin to a few.
- Cut and transplant in the main field when they reach a length of 30cm.



Healthy vines for high yields



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KARI information brochure series / 33 /2008

Ksh. 20

Rapid multiplication of sweet potato vines



Introduction

Sweet potato is a major food and cash crop in many parts of Kenya but production is limited by lack of planting materials. This is caused by vines drying up during the dry periods and production of very few vines by some varieties. Rapid sweet potato multiplication technique provides adequate and timely planting material through conservation during dry periods. The technique also reduces diseases and pest transmission.

Sweet potato nursery

Prepare and manage sweet potato seedbed nursery same way as tomato or cabbage nursery. This should be one month before planting time or any time that planting material is needed. If soils are poor add manure and fertilizer to promote growth.

Material preparation

Selection of the mother plant

Mother plants should be vigorous healthy plants or small healthy tubers with the desired characteristics.



Selecting vines in the field

Vine miniset preparation

- Cut the selected 30cm sweet potato vine into single or two node cuttings with a leaf.
- Dip the small cuttings in a copper based fungicide for 30 minutes for disease transmission prevention and plant in nursery bed.



Cutting mini sets

Planting the vine miniset in the nursery bed

- Make holes with a pencil thick stick to plant the miniset.
- If nursery is for preservation, space holes at 5x3cm. or 1x1 cm if transplanting will be after one month.
- Plant the vine minisets with one node in the soil.



Planting in nursery

- Cover nursery with plastic sheet or grass mulch and remove when 80% sprouting is achieved.



Nursery bed with shade

- Transplant the vine minisets to the main field after one month when the weather is cool.