

## FOUNDATION SWEETPOTATO SEED PROGRAM

Loyd W. Berry, Mark W. Shankle, and Jeff L. Main

Pontotoc Ridge-Flatwoods Branch Experiment Station; North Mississippi Research & Extension Center,  
Mississippi State University, Pontotoc, MS 38863

**ABSTRACT:** The foundation sweetpotato seed stock program for the state of Mississippi is maintained at the Pontotoc Experiment Station. The goal of the program is to maintain high quality seed stock that is genetically pure, disease and insect free for Mississippi's sweetpotato producers. A total of 2400 bushels of sweetpotato seed was produced on 11 acres in 2003. All the seed was sold in the spring of 2004. A total of 1550 bushels of sweetpotato seed was produced on 6 acres in 2004. All the B-63 foundation seed will be used to bed for research in 2005. It is expected that all seed potatoes left will be sold in the spring of 2005.

One thousand five hundred plants, grown from meristem cuttings (1000 B-63 Beauregard, and 500 B-14 Beauregard), were obtained from Louisiana State University in November 2003, and transplanted into a foundation seed production certified greenhouse. The plants were transplanted into screened beds within a sealed greenhouse and cuttings were made to increase plant numbers throughout the winter and spring of 2004. The first cuttings were planted in the field in April 2004. 1.3 acres were planted from these cuttings. With the cuttings grown in the greenhouse and those vines cut from these 1.3 acres, the remainder of the 6 acres was planted for 2004.

**CITATION:** L.W. Berry, M.W. Shankle, and J.L. Main, 2005. Foundation sweetpotato seed program. Annual Report 2004 of the North Mississippi Research & Extension Center, Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Experiment Station. Information Bulletin 419:42.

**KEY WORDS:** Sweetpotato, *Ipomoea batatas*, storage roots, foundation seed, sweetpotato breeding, vegetable crops, and horticultural crops.

**Table 1.** Foundation sweetpotato seed stock production and sales 1995 – 2004

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>PRODUCED</b>	<b>SOLD</b>
	40 lb bushels	40 lb bushels
1995	2505	2320
1996	3650	3075
1997	2490	1981
1998	4500	3300
1999	4200	3655
2000	1240	0780
2001	2800	2750
2002	2500	2505

2003	2375		2300
2004	1550	Projected	1050

---