

A black and white photograph showing three wooden crates filled with harvested sweet potatoes. The crates are arranged in a row, with the closest one in the foreground and two more behind it. The sweet potatoes are piled high in each crate. The background shows a field of harvested sweet potatoes and some trees in the distance.

Sweetpotato!



Don R. La Bonte

School of Plant, Environmental, and Soil Sciences
Louisiana State University AgCenter

Goals....



Production practices



Breeding program – ABC's



Trends



Varieties





















.4 ha/unit/day









Harvest....



Two row harvester

.8 ha/day – 10-12 people



Two and four row *bulk* harvester

two row 2 ha/day -11-12 people

four row 5 ha /day – 22 people



Bulk potato harvesters

~5 ha/day – 2 drivers + 6 people











Store at 16° C

















**20-25 workers can harvest
8 ha per day**



Cure 29-30° C at 85% humidity 5-7 days

Store at 16° C at 85% humidity



A black and white photograph showing several wooden crates filled with sweetpotatoes. The crates are arranged in a row, with the one in the foreground being the most prominent. The sweetpotatoes are piled high in the crates, showing their characteristic elongated, tuberous shape. The background is a field of sweetpotatoes, with more plants visible in the distance. The overall scene suggests a harvest or storage area for sweetpotatoes.

Sweetpotato Breeding at LSU AgCenter



Grower concerns

Weed control – few herbicides

Diseases

- post-harvest – Rhizopus soft rot
- concern over nematodes growing

Labor

- cost and availability – tougher skin

Insects –

banded cucumber beetle, grubs

Yield – quality and tonnage!

Overview: breeding prg.

- Developing true seed from nurseries
- Greenhouse culture and selection
- Field evaluations and disease screens

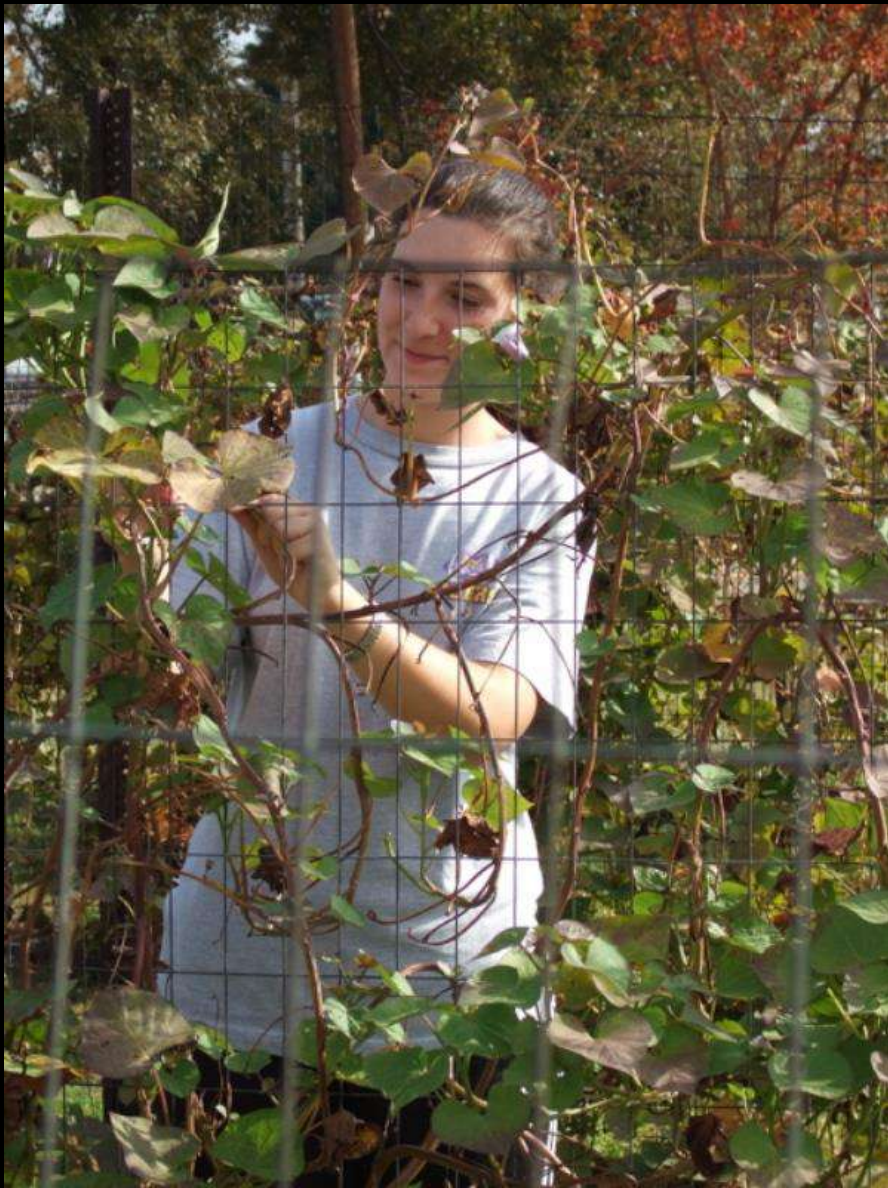


Nurseries...

- a.) **Elite parents** (2 nurseries) – new varieties
- b.) **Insect resistance** – weevil screening
- c.) **Purple flesh** – dye industry and fresh market
- d.) **Early varieties**
- e.) **Disease resistance:** guava root knot, black rot, rhizopus soft rot







30,000



Sweet Potato Research Station



LOUISIANA
AGRICULTURAL
EXPERIMENT STATION
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL CENTER















Streptomyces Soil Rot

(*Streptomyces ipomoeae*)



Resistant

Susceptible









Year two...

~200 put into storage!

~175 saved after storage

3 test plots

















Year three...

~14-16 saved!

~7 on farm plots

-disease screening

fusarium wilt

southern rkn

soil rot

bacterial soft rot

rhizopus soft rot

storage pathogens









Breeding Cultivar development and evaluation

✓ Third year evaluations - *advanced*

Disease

Yield

Culinary

2-3 selections after – third year!

Trends...

Production – since 2002 – doubled – ha drop now!

Export – doubled since 2008, was 25% of NC crop (declining!)

Consumption – doubled since 2005



Trends...

Exclusivity – retailers and producers want something no one else sells

Producers – increase in specialty types

Japanese – purple skin/white

Purple flesh

White flesh

Red Skin – “Vermillion”

Trends...

California – always 10 years ahead

15% Japanese (purple skin/white flesh)

10% Sweets (white flesh)

40% Orange flesh

35% Reds





ORGANIC
RESPONSIBLY GROWN
A.V. THOMAS PRODUCE
CALIFORNIA
**GARNET
SWEET
POTATOES**
2.69
per pound

ORGANIC
RESPONSIBLY GROWN
A.V. THOMAS PRODUCE
CALIFORNIA
**HANNAH
SWEET
POTATO**
2.69
per pound

ORGANIC
RESPONSIBLY GROWN
A.V. THOMAS PRODUCE
CALIFORNIA
**JAPANESE
SWEET
POTATOES**
2.69
per pound

HEAD-ORGANICS
A BOUT FLOWERS
A BOUT FLOWERS

ORGANIC
RESPONSIBLY GROWN
A.V. THOMAS PRODUCE
CALIFORNIA
**WEL SWEET
POTATOES**
2.69
per pound

ORGANIC
RESPONSIBLY GROWN
A.V. THOMAS
CALIFORNIA
**PURPLE
SWEET
POTATO**
2.69
per pound



clearance

SWT POTATO
1.29

United States

SWT POTATO
1.29

United States

POTATO
.99

Product of
USA

SWT POTATO
.99

WIC

Product of
USA

Trends...

50%+ of sweetpotatoes are now in specialty bags and wraps

MURASAKI
Sweet Potatoes
FLUFFY & SWEET WITH
A HINT OF CHESTNUT
FLAVOR!
FROM USA

\$3⁹⁹
3 LB

FOOD. SUPER EASY.
IN 'SWEETS'
IN LOUISIANA.
minutes in bag and serve

Black Gold

FOOD. SUPER EASY.
IN 'SWEETS'
IN LOUISIANA.
or 8 minutes in bag and serve



3.97

Ruby Potatoes,

- Vitamin C and potassium
- firm, no cuts, bruises

8.4

2.00 LBS
\$2.68

\$2.68

Bagged Sweet Potatoes

- Vitamins A, C & fiber







Simply Perfect

Sweet

Steamers

Ready to Microwave

Simply Perfect

Sweet

Steamers

Ready to Microwave

READY IN
8
MIN



SWEET PEEPER
IPOMOEA BATATA

Wash before use

PRODUCED AND
PACKED BY
Koppert Cress BV
De Poel 1,
2681 MB Monster,
The Netherlands

Produce from Holland
GGN/GLN: 4049929463028

 KOPPERTCRESS.COM

 8 711547 167874

20 PCS

max. 16°C
min. 12°C !











Bellevue





Orleans





Bonita



Murasaki



18-100 LF

LA18-100
LSU
Ag Center

2097

Walther Farms



Deshotel

Deshotel Farm



Fontenot

Fontenot

LA 18-100

	LA 18-100	Orleans
Location	U.S.#1	U.S.#1
Fontenot-LA	29	16
Garber-LA	23	17
Deshotel-LA	23(54)	29(20)
Mathews-AR	16(32)	20(9)
Rhinewalt-MS	52(9)	37(5)
Walther-SC	51(24)	37(4)
Average (Mt/ha)	32	26

LA18-100

- **Consistent high yield and excellent shape – EARLY**
- **Beauregard look**
- **Good flesh color and flavor**
- **GRKN susceptible and resistant - Southern RKN**
- **Fusarium wilt –intermediate-resistant**
- **Stores well and good sprouting**



19-111

Deshotel

Deshotel



Walther

Walther Farms

