

Sweet Potato

Convolvulaceae Morning Glory Family

Ipomoea batatas

Herbaceous Perennial Vine



History

Native to Central and South America

Cultivated in Peru 8000 BC

In Caribbean by 2500 BC

Travelled to Polynesia by 1000 AD

Reported by Columbus on his 4th invasion of the Caribbean

Introduced to China 1700s now China is #1 producer



Propagation

Seldom from seed, flowers sporadically

Slips/cuttings, 6 – 10” long

**Terminal cuttings best, nodal cuttings 1 – 6
nodes can be used**

Actively growing insect-free vines

Clean material virus/disease-free



Growing

Banks or beds

1 ft between plants

3 – 5 ft between rows

2 – 4 nodes below ground

Tuberous storage root

Supply ample water first month to establish good roots

Fertilizer 5-10-15

Weed control

Preemergent herbicide Post emergent grass herbicide





Sweet Potato Variety Trials



Red Skin White/Cream Flesh



Brown Skin

Orange Flesh

White Flesh



White Skin White Flesh

White Skin Purple Flesh



Harvest

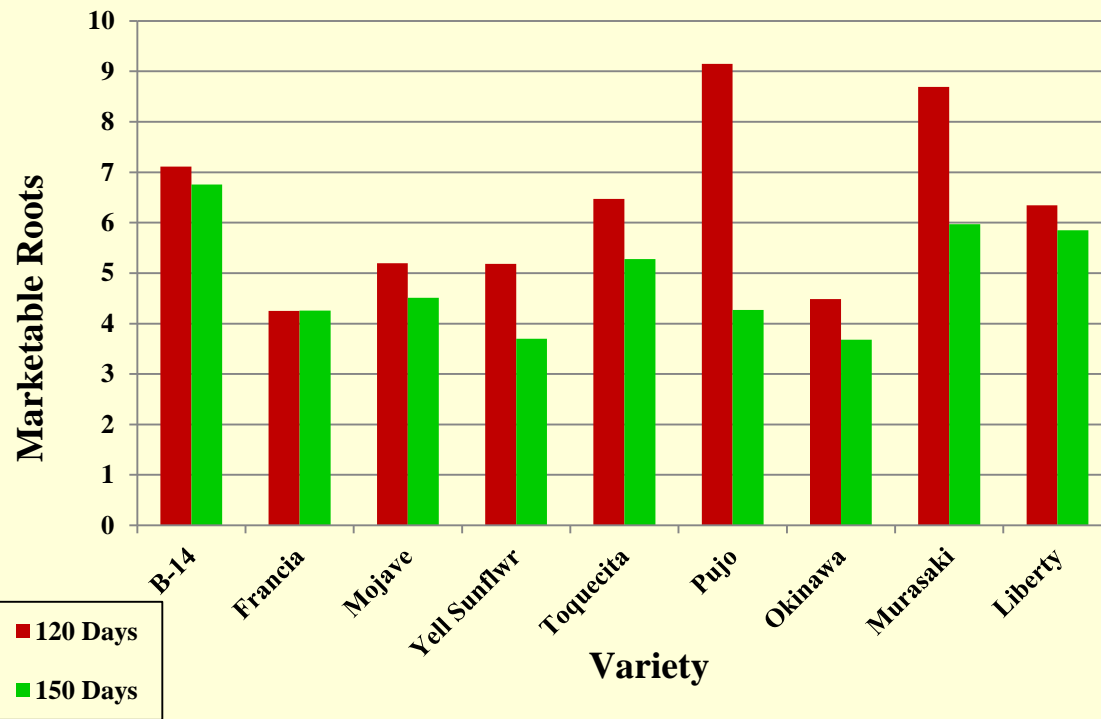
120 - 150 days Sweeter with Age but more weevil damage

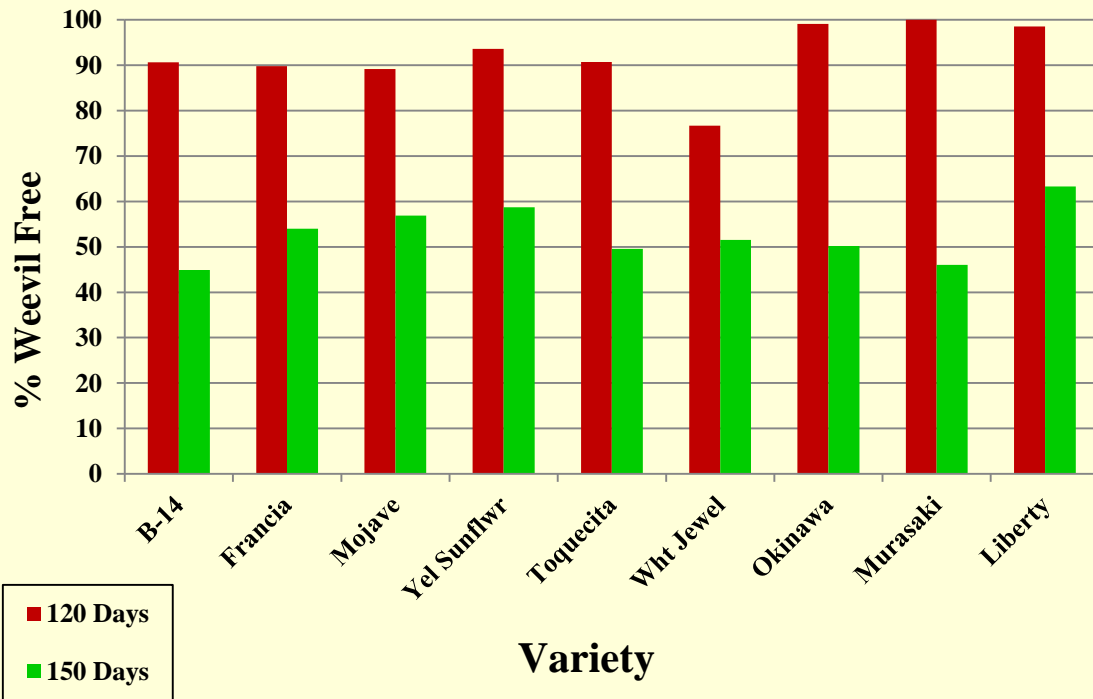
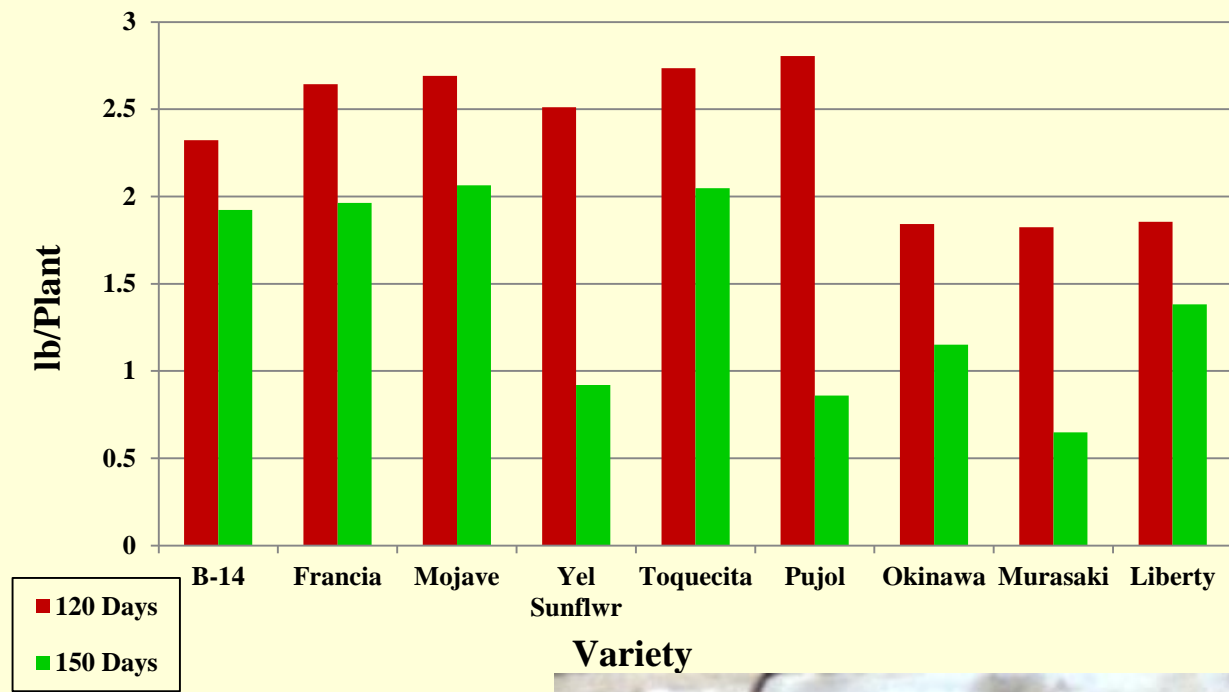
Fork don't stab the potatoes

Plow Cultivator

Root Harvester







Pests

Weevils

White Fly

Iguana

Leafminer

Mealy bug

Rats & Mice

Viruses



