

CASSAVA

Yuca, Manioc, Tapioca

Manihot esculenta

Euphorbiaceae



History

Originated in Brazil and Paraguay

Pollen in Mexico ~6,600 BC

Maya cultivation 600 AD

Grown in the Caribbean when Columbus invaded

3rd largest source of carbohydrates in the tropics

The bread of the tropics

Main food source for over 500M people

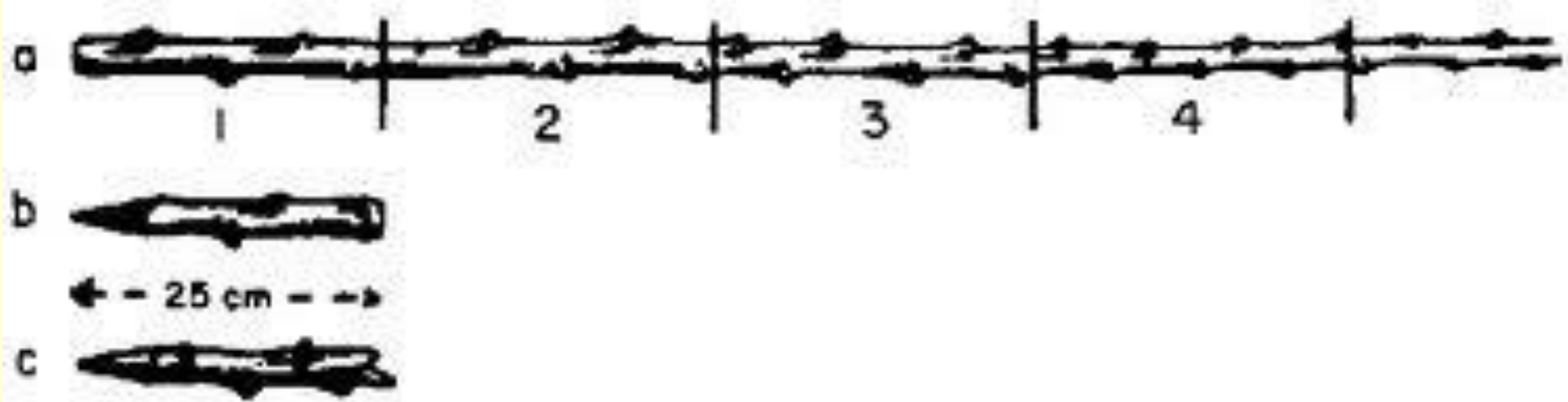
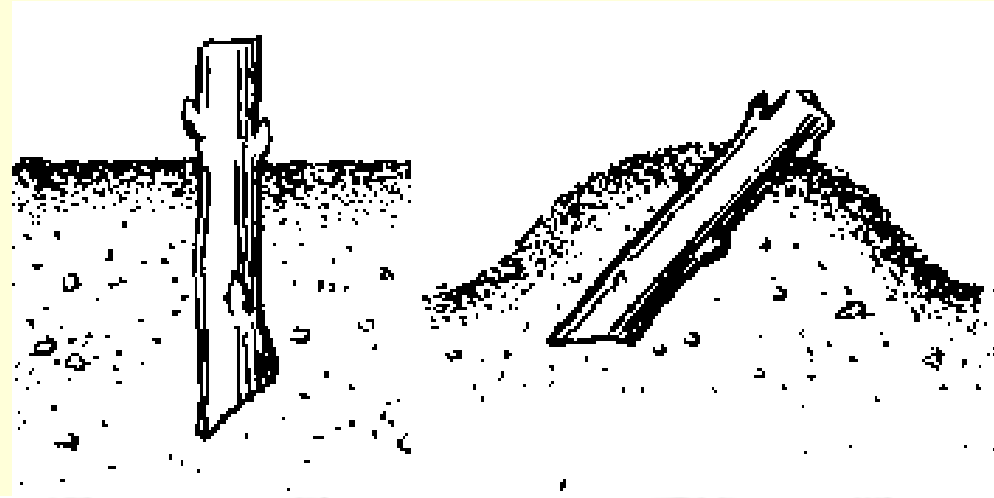
Contains cyanide



Propagation

Rarely by seed

- Sticks 6 - 10"
- Mature wood not green
- Cure 1 day before planting
- Two types 'Bitter' & 'Sweet'



Growing

- Loose banks or raised beds
- Bury 1/3 to 1/2 length
- Spacing 2ft by 4ft
- Water to establish
- Withstands drought
- Productive on poor soils
- Balanced fertilizer
- Limited varieties (USDA limits import of sticks)



Harvest

- Leaves
- Roots 180 – 360 days
- Harvest as needed but before it gets woody
- Storage roots can be over 2ft long
- Limit root damage
- Use within 48 hrs
- Control exposure to air
- Wax or submerge in water



P
R
O
C
E
S
S



Processing cont.



Pests

Viruses

White fly

Spider mites

Mealy bug

Worms



Cassava Mosaic Disease



Cassava Brown Streak Disease



