

## Culture Advice

## Ipomoea batata

### Sweet potato

<b>Description:</b>	Ipomoea is a tropical bindweed species with cylindrical tubers growing in the soil; it is edible when cooked. It is ideal in summer combinations as a structured, trailing and creeping plant and for mixed tub, balcony and hanging basket arrangements. Very vigorous growth especially in warm weather and full sunlight.
<b>Potting:</b>	11 to 13 cm pot, calendar weeks 8 to 12. Hanging baskets 25 cm, calendar weeks 5 to 10
<b>Substrate:</b>	Permeable, loose potting compost with clay portion and perlite; pH approx. 5.5 to 6
<b>Fertilization:</b>	High; apply a balanced liquid, complete fertilizer (0.15 to 0.3 %) once or twice a week
<b>Temperature:</b>	Needs warmth! Growth stops at under 16 °C; tolerates higher temperatures easily. Best cultivation results at 18 to 20 °C.
<b>Light:</b>	Cultivate in full light, no shadow.
<b>Flowering:</b>	Does not flower under (our) local conditions; purely decorative foliage plant.
<b>Growth regulators:</b>	Strong growth is desired in most cases; if not, apply Regalis 0.25 % or Caramba 0.1 to 0.2 %
<b>Pinching:</b>	Pinch 1 to 2 weeks after potting, or immediately in case of suitable young plant sizes. But if branching is unsatisfactory, further lopping or shaping here and there is recommended to get a better plant build-up.
<b>Diseases and pest:</b>	Spider mite, plant lice; take hygienic precautions.
<b>Consumer tip:</b>	Above all in warm regions, very vigorous and lush if provided with sufficient water and nutrients. The tubers growing underground may become very big in autumn; though said to be edible when cooked but we advise against consumption (possible residues of pesticides!).

Water balance is of importance; keep the plants constantly moist; temporary dryness of the bale may lead to leaf yellowing and wilt.