

Free Workshops

Did you know? KCCG offers 40+ free gardening and cooking workshops each year. With topics ranging from an introduction to vegetable gardening to tips and tricks for pest management and cooking demonstrations with fresh garden produce, we welcome everyone from beginner gardeners to seasoned pros.

See the schedule and register at:
kccg.org/workshops

Online Resources

KCCG's website offers guide sheets on a wealth of gardening topics, including watering, fertilizing, pest management and more!

Find them at
kccg.org/gardening-guidesheets

Our vast library of online videos can help you with most anything including planting, maintenance, harvesting, and cooking.

Find them at
kccg.org/how-to-videos

Together We Grow

KCCG provides seeds, plants, resources and education that help more than 42,000 households to grow more than 1.5 million pounds of healthy food each year.



@KansasCityCommunityGardens



@kccommunitygardens



www.kccg.org



816.931.3877



contact@kccg.org



6917 Kensington Ave
Kansas City, MO 64132

Volunteer

Volunteers help to fill seed packs, start transplants, build raised garden beds, and more! We have opportunities for everyone.

To join the fun, visit
www.kccg.org/volunteer

Growing Sweet Potatoes



KCCG
KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY GARDENS

KCCG's Varieties

Beauregard - 90-100 days

Deep-orange flesh that keeps well in storage. It seems to have fewer problems with white grubs than some varieties and also resists cracking. Make sure that plants get plenty of sun to develop the maximum flavor and sweetness. Resistant to fusarium wilt and soil rot.

Georgia Jets - 90 - 100 days

A spectacular variety with extremely fast growth and extra-high yields. Jets have deep orange inside color with moist flesh and marvelous taste. The outside skin is pinkish red color.

Covington - 100 days

The Covington has an excellent yield of uniformly shaped potatoes with a rose colored skin. The flesh is sweet and slightly darker than a Beauregard.

Planting:

Plant mid May to mid June.

KCCG sweet potato slips are planted in small pots with 12 plants per pot. This helps the slips to continue growing and keeps the roots moist. If you are not going to plant your slips right away, keep them in the pot in a sunny location and make sure to water daily to keep the soil moist.

Planting (continued):

Loosen the soil where your sweet potatoes will grow with a tiller, garden fork or hoe. Raised beds are ideal for planting sweet potatoes. Dig holes 8" deep. The holes do not need to be very wide. Space your holes 12-18" apart.

Sweet potatoes will be smaller if you plant them closer. If you want a lot of smaller sweet potatoes, plant 12" apart, if you want less sweet potatoes that are larger in size, give them more room.

Carefully tip the slips out of the pot and shake off the extra potting soil.

Gently pull apart the slips. Set one slip into each hole. Make sure all the roots are covered with soil. Plant all the way up to the first leaves.

Fill the hole in with loose soil around the slip. Water your plants right away. Make sure to water deeply.

Care:

Mulch your sweet potatoes with straw to keep the soil cool, retain soil moisture, and prevent weeds.

You do not need to clip off the vines as they grow. If they grow out of the designated area, just pick them up and redirect them back into your sweet potato area.

Sweet potato vines are a favorite snack for deer and rabbits. If you live in an area with a large deer population, you may need to cover the area with row cover or a cage until vines are large.

Harvest & Storage:

Harvest sweet potatoes when the ground is dry. Stop watering for 1-2 weeks before you harvest to prepare for a warm, dry harvest. Optimal harvesting time is usually between mid-September to early October, before the first frost.

Remove vines from your sweet potato bed by pulling or cutting near the plants roots. Next, using a garden fork, dig about 12" out from the center of the plant. Pry up the ground around your sweet potato plants and then use your hands to pull out the sweet potatoes. You can lightly brush the dirt off of the sweet potato. Even if the sweet potato is muddy, do not wash it off as this will cause sweet potatoes to spoil quickly.

Set aside any sweet potatoes that were punctured or snapped in half during harvesting. These should be used first as they will not store well. Put all undamaged sweet potatoes into a basket or box with ventilation and bring indoors for drying and storage. Store at room temperatures (60-75 degrees). Sweet potatoes will keep the longest with minimal disturbance - try not to move them around too much in their storage container.