

# NC Certified Sweetpotato Seed Producers

Most varieties in North Carolina are certified using the standards for Micropropagated Virus-Indexed (VI) Sweetpotato Seed. These standards include field inspections that sample and record the incidence of Sweetpotato Feathery Mottle Virus (SPFMV) and other diseases. The seed production cycle begins with ELITE plants, which are directly derived from virus-indexed plants, and continues through two field generations (G1 and G2).

Class	SPFMV standards, Field Inspection
ELITE	None allowed
G1	up to 1% for VI G1 > 1% - 25% for G1.
G2	up to 5% for VI G2 >5% - 25% for G2

## SWEETPOTATO VARIETY DESCRIPTIONS

**BEAUREGARD** was released by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. The leaves are green and mainly heart shaped. Vines and petioles are green with light purple at the apex of the petiole and at leaf axis. The roots have a rose-colored skin and orange flesh. The roots do not become round in heavier soils or elongated in lighter soils. The variety is resistant to white grub and Streptomyces soil rot and is susceptible to root-knot nematode. It stores well. It normally matures in 105 - 110 days. There are currently three clones of this variety being certified (B94-14, B94-24, & B73)

**BONITA** demonstrates superior disease resistance to southern root-knot nematode, and exhibits a brighter white flesh and a drier flesh compared to 'O'Henry'. It also demonstrates high yield characteristics in comparison to 'O'Henry' and has a mid to late growing season. 'Bonita' exhibited superior flesh color, smoother root surface, and a drier, sweeter flesh. 'Bonita' storage roots have a tan skin with a pink cast at harvest, pink fades to tan after storage. The white flesh is more consistent with less color variation in comparison to 'O'Henry' which has an orange cast. Sucrose content in 'Bonita' is double that of 'O'Henry' and makes for a slightly sweet flavor; total sugars are similar, but slightly higher for 'Bonita'.

**CAROLINA RUBY** was released by the North Carolina Agricultural Research Service. The leaves are heart shaped and green. Vines and petioles are green with light purple at the apex of the petiole. Roots are a bright red color, with very smooth skin, flesh is deep orange, and roots are fusiform and somewhat blocky. It has high levels of resistance to Fusarium wilt, moderate resistance to soil rot but is susceptible to root-knot nematode. It is an excellent plant producer. It stores well with few rots and little weight loss in storage. It normally matures in 95 - 100 days.

**COVINGTON** is a variety released by North Carolina Agricultural Research Service in 2005. The leaves are green and range from heart-shaped to slightly lobed. The roots are rose colored with an orange flesh. Shapes are blocky to fusiform with good size uniformity. The clone is resistant to Fusarium wilt and moderately resistant to Streptomyces soil rot (pox) and the southern root-knot nematode. Sprout production is moderate but about 10 days later than Beauregard. Harvest is 105-115 days after planting.

**DIANE** is typically a deep red to Burgandy skin color at harvest, smooth, with few /shallow lenticles and eyes. Color frequently fades in storage, becoming more rose-copper after a few months, but nonetheless usually staying redder than Beauregard. Root shape is typically long-fusiform with an orange to deep orange flesh color, consistent throughout, with little to no yellow cortical ring nor yellow speckling. The leaf color is green and the petioles, including new growth. The leaves are parted to deeply lobed, with 5 points typical. The stems are thick, typically 1/4" diameter, and more robust than all other commercial varieties.

**EVANGELINE**- Was released by the LSU Ag Center. It is disease resistant to southern root knot nematode. The plant produces few oversize roots, but a majority U.S. No. 1 grade roots. The roots are orange fleshed and orange skinned. They contain an abundance of sucrose and are great for baking and microwaving.

**HERNANDEZ** was released by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. Leaves are cordate to slightly lobed with purplish veins. Vines and petioles are purple at the base and at the junction with the leaf axis. It has moderately long purple stems. Roots are fusiform, lightly grooved and red skinned. Resistance to Fusarium wilt and root-knot nematode is intermediate. It is moderately resistant to Streptomyces soil rot. It normally matures in 120 - 125 days.

**MURASAKI** was developed by the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment State to provide a specialty-type, white-flesh variety. It has good culinary characteristics and does not require any additional baking time in comparison to dessert-type cultivars. The leaves are light to dark green with an obtuse or emarginated leaf apex and cordate leaf base. The roots are elliptical, and are characterized by their white flesh, high dry matter, and purple skin. Murasaki is resistant to southern root-knot nematode and Fusarium root rot, but tests also show that it does not perform well if planted late. Good yields are normally harvested in approximately 90-100 days.

**O'HENRY** is a white-skinned, cream-fleshed variant of Beauregard. The leaves are green and mainly heart shaped. Vines and petioles are green with light purple at the apex of the petiole and at leaf axis. Its maturity and disease resistance is the same as Beauregard. Eating quality is similar to Beauregard, though the flesh is a little drier, but not as dry as some of the old white varieties.



