



1811 2nd ST SW
289-6068

7955 18th Ave NW
289-0022

www.sargentsgardens.com

SWEET POTATO VINE INFORMATION

The growing season for sweet potatoes is about 120 days for tuber development and maturity. Many ornamental sweet potato vines fail to develop tubers at all in Minnesota. If you suspect that your plant was mature enough to develop tubers, let the plant experience a light frost, which will kill the top growth. A hard freeze may kill the plant completely.

All sweet potato tubers have thin, delicate skin that bruises easily. Decay-causing bacteria and fungi infect these bruises rapidly. Preventing injuries is the most important part of preserving your tubers. Remove each tuber from the pot or garden carefully, then cut the top growth so only an inch remains. Gently brush off excess soil and dry the tuber for about a week in a cool, dry spot in your basement. Once it's dry, pack the tuber in dry peat moss and continue to keep it cool and dry.

In early March plant the tuber in good potting soil, and place it in a well-lit window. Be careful not to over-water at this stage or it will rot. In a few weeks you should see new growth develop. Another option is growing sweet potato vines in a sunny window all winter, treating them as you would indoor ivy. You could also root cuttings before frost, then grow them as houseplants until frost danger has passed next spring, when you can put them safely outdoors again.