

Ipomoea batatas

(Sweet Potato, Brazilian arrowroot)

"Ipomoea" comes from the Greek words ipos, which means "bind weed" and homoios which means "resembling". When this is put together to form "Ipomoea" the direct translation is "resembling bindweed". This name makes sense because the sweet potato has a twining habit, much like the bindweed. The species name "batatas" was originally the Taino name for sweet potato.

Ipomoea batatas is a perennial climber growing up to 3 meters at a fast rate. This is one of those rare plants that are grown as a tasty vegetable and a pretty ornamental. Sweet potato vine is a vigorous, herbaceous, trailing vine, is native to Central America and the Pacific Islands. It offers sweet edible tubers and leaves and attractive foliage.

The leaves are heart-shaped or deeply lobed the colors vary from chartreuse, to bronze or purple and can be variegated. The funnel-shaped flowers can be pale rosy purple or white. They appear when days are long and growing conditions favorable.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

French Name: patates douces
Plant Type: Vine
Origin: South America
Heat Zones: 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
Hardiness Zones: 9, 10, 11
Uses: Border Plant, Container, Edible, Ground cover
Size/Shape
Growth Rate: Fast
Tree Shape: Weeping
Height at Maturity: 1.5 to 3 m
Spread at Maturity: 1 to 1.5 meters
Time to Ultimate Height: 1 to 2 Years

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Flower Image

Botanical Description

Foliage

Leaf Arrangement: Alternate

Leaf Venation: Pinnate

Leaf Persistence: Deciduous

Leaf Type: Simple

Leaf Blade: 5 - 10 cm

Leaf Shape: Cordate

Leaf Margins: Entire

Leaf Textures: Coarse

Leaf Scent: No Fragrance

Color(growing season): Green, Red

Color(changing season): Green, Red

Flower

Flower Showiness: True

Flower Size Range: 7 - 10

Flower Type: Solitary

Flower Sexuality: Monoecious (Bisexual)

Flower Scent: No Fragrance

Flower Color: White

Seasons: Summer

Fruit

Fruit Type: Berry

Fruit Showiness: False

Fruit Size Range: 1.5 - 3

Fruit Colors: Blue, Black

Seasons: Summer

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Leaf Image

Horticulture Management

Tolerance

Frost Tolerant: No

Heat Tolerant: Yes

Drought Tolerant: No

Salt Tolerance: Moderate

Requirements

Soil Requirements: Loam, Sand

Soil Ph Requirements: Neutral

Water Requirements: Moderate

Light Requirements: Part, Shade

Management

Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases: Yes

Edible Parts:

Pests: Thrips, Whitefly, Aphids

Plant Propagations: Cutting, Stolons

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