

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

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

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Flower Image

### Botanical Description

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#### 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

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#### 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

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#### 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

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#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** No

**Heat Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** No

**Salt Tolerance:** Moderate

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate

**Light Requirements:** Part, Shade

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#### Management

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** Yes

**Edible Parts:**

**Pests:** Thrips, Whitefly, Aphids

**Plant Propagations:** Cutting, Stolons

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