

Crops - Commercial

Sweet Potatoes

Sweet potatoes can be damaged by soil and foliage feeding insect species throughout the production season. In addition, sweet potato weevils can be a problem in storage. Insect damage results in economic losses, due to yield and overall quality losses.

Root-feeding Insects	
Banded cucumber beetles, Whitefringed beetles, Flea beetle species	Foliar applied insecticides are applied to manage the adult stages of these pests in order to prevent them from laying eggs in the soil. Insecticide applications should be made only when the pests are present in sufficient numbers to warrant control. The threshold for spotted and banded cucumber beetles is 2 beetles/100 sweeps. The threshold for whitefringed beetles is 1 beetle/100 sweeps. See insecticide chart for approved insecticides. Please read and follow all label directions.
Wireworms, White Grubs, Rootworms	These are larvae of click beetles, June bugs, and banded and spotted cucumber beetles, respectively, that tunnel or chew large holes in the developing sweet potato roots. Preplant, soil incorporated insecticides are applied to control the immature stages of these pests that are present in the soil at the time of applications. These chemicals provide a residual control of 4 to 6 weeks. Insecticides labeled for preplant application, include: Lorsban, Mocap, Brigade, Belay and Admire Pro. Please consult the approved list of insecticides labeled for sweet potato in Louisiana included below. <i>Read and follow all label directions.</i>
Sugarcane Beetle	Research is ongoing to identify management strategies for this insect in sweet potato. Damage may be increased in fields bordering pasture or field corn. The adult is the damaging stage of this insect. Damage occurs late in the production season prior to harvest. Soil applications of approved insecticides may reduce damage. Please consult the table on the next page.
Aphids, Flea Beetles, and Whiteflies	Apply Admire Pro to the soil and incorporate to control aphids and whiteflies (vectors of virus diseases). Rates per application range from 4.4-10.5 fl. ounces/acre. Use Platinum 2F (thiamethoxam) applied in-furrow at planting or as a lay-by- shanked application to control aphids, whiteflies, and flea beetles. Recommended rates per application range from 5-8 fl. ounces/acre. Follow mixing directions and read the label carefully.
Foliage feeding loopers, Beet armyworms, other Lepidoptera species	When defoliation reaches 35% or higher apply approved insecticides. Please consult the below table for a list of foliar insecticides and consult the label for specific looper or armyworm species controlled.

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Sweet Potato Weevils – Cultural and Chemical Control Measures	
<p>Sweet potato weevil larvae attack the roots of the sweet potato plant, tunneling through the root as they feed. Sweet potatoes are susceptible to attack by the sweet potato weevil at any time during the growing period as well as in storage.</p> <p>All cultural and sanitation practices for control of the sweet potato weevil should be followed. This includes acquiring weevil-free seed, cutting vines or slips (rather than pulling), destroying all potatoes left in fields, controlling weevils in the seedbed, and destruction of the seedbed when plant production is finished. Also, if infestation is bad, spray fields with approved insecticides (see insecticide chart). Pheromone traps should be placed in fields to help determine weevil population levels. If several weevils are caught per trap per night then foliar spray applications should be made.</p>	
In the Field	<p>Rotate field plantings. Plant the new crop as far away as possible from the plantings of the previous year.</p> <p>Producers in the pink tag production region should follow the regulations set by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, regarding the mandatory spray program for sweet potato weevils. Apply approved insecticides on a 7-10 day spray schedule to all seed beds and production fields to suppress sweet potato weevil populations in the field.</p>
At Harvest	<p>Seed sweet potatoes should be selected at harvest from fields apparently free of sweet potato weevil. Destroy all vines and roots left in the field. If seed potatoes appear to be heavily infested consider purchasing weevil-free seed from a weevil-free area.</p>
In Storage	<p>Remove all old sweet potatoes from the storage area at least one month before storing the new crop. Store only those potatoes that are apparently weevil-free and reasonably clean. Treat potatoes going into storage with 5% Imidan dust (2-4 ounces per bushel) using an applicator approved by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.</p>
In Seedbeds	<p>Locate seedbeds away from sweet potato storage and last season's plantings. Weevils may enter seedbeds from outside sources. To minimize the infestation from invading weevils apply approved insecticides at weekly intervals beginning when plants first emerge (or when the plastic cover is stripped from the seedbed) and continuing as long as the seedbed is used. Almost all weevil eggs in plants stems are found near the soil surface so plants should be cut at least an inch above the soil level. Destroy the seedbed when it is no longer needed.</p>
Warning	<p>Re-entry time for workers entering treated fields should be strictly observed. Be sure to check for this information.</p>

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Labeled Insecticides					
Insect	Insecticide*	Amount Concentrate Per Acre	Pounds Active Ingredient/ Acre	Acres Treated Per Gallon/Lb	Comments
Cucumber beetles, White Grubs, Whitefringed beetle, Wireworms	Bifenthrin**	19.2 fluid ounce	0.30	6.5	Preplant and layby, not to exceed 0.5 pounds AI/acre per year
		3.2-9.6 fluid ounce	0.05-0.15	40-13	
	Mocap EC	5.1-6.9 fluid ounce per 1000 row ft.	3-4	2-1.5	Preplant 12-15 in. band on 42 in. row
	Mocap 15G	20-26 pounds	3-4		preplant 12-15 in. band on 42 in. row
Wireworms Flea beetles	Lorban 4E	0.5 gallon	2	2	Preplant / broadcast
	Lorsban 15G	13.5 pound	2		Preplant / broadcast
Sugarcane beetle, flea beetle, white grubs Wireworm suppression	Belay	9-12 fluid ounce	0.15-1.21	10-9	Preplant and layby
Aphids, whiteflies, flea beetles	Admire Pro	4.4-10.5	0.16-0.38	29-12	Preplant and layby
Aphids, flea beetles	Platinum 2F	5-8 fluid ounce	0.078-0.125	25-16	Preplant and layby
Cucumber beetles, Whitefringed beetles, Flea beetles	Bifenthrin**	2.1-6.4 fluid ounce	0.033-0.10	61-20	foliar
	PennCap M	2-3 pints	0.5-0.75	4-2.5	foliar (FIFRA 24c)
	Imidan 70-W	1.3 pounds (ph 5.5)	0.91		foliar
	Sevin XLR- Plus	1-2 quarts	1-2	4-2	foliar
	Thionex 3EC	0.66 quarts	0.5	6	foliar
	Assail 30 SG	1.5-4 ounce	0.028-0.075	10.5-4	foliar
	Baythroid XL	1.6-2.8 fluid ounce	0.013-0.022	80-46	foliar
	Mustang Max	1.76-4 fluid ounce	0.011-0.025	73-32	foliar
Sweet potato weevil	Leverage	3.5 fluid ounce	-	36	foliar
	PennCap M	2-3 pints	0.5-0.75	4-2.5	foliar (FIFRA 24C)
	Bifenthrin**	2.1-6.4 fluid ounce	0.033-0.10	61-20	foliar
	Imidan 70-W	1.3 pounds (ph 5.5)	0.91		foliar
	Sevin XLR- Plus	1-2 quarts	1-2	4-2	foliar
	Thionex 3EC	0.66 quarts	0.5	6	foliar
	Baythroid XL	1.6-2.8 fluid ounce	0.013-0.022	80-46	foliar
	Imidan Dust 5%	2-4 ounce/bushel			Dust after harvest

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Insect	Insecticide*	Amount Concentrate Per Acre	Pounds Active Ingredient/ Acre	Acres Treated Per Gallon/Lb	Comments
Beet armyworm	Intrepid 2F	6-10 fluid ounce	0.09-0.16	21-12.8	foliar
	Coragen	3.5-5 fluid ounce	0.04-0.06	36-25	foliar
	Spin Tor 2SC	4-6 fluid ounce	0.07-0.09	32-21	foliar
	Rimon 0.83 EC	9-12 fluid ounce	0.06-0.08	14-10.6	foliar
	Mustang Max	3.2-4 fluid ounce	0.02-0.025	40-32	foliar
Cabbage looper	Intrepid 2F	6-10 fluid ounce	0.09-0.16	21-12.8	foliar
Soybean looper	Spin Tor 2SC	4.5-6 fluid ounce	0.06-0.09	32-21	foliar
	Rimon 0.83 EC	9-12 fluid ounce	0.06-0.08	14-10.6	foliar
Cabbage looper	Avant	2.5-6.0 fluid ounce	0.045-0.11	51-21	foliar
	Mustang Max	1.76-4 fluid ounce	0.011-0.025	72-32	foliar
	Baythroid XL	1.6-2.8 fluid ounce	0.013-0.022	80-46	foliar
Aphids	Assail 30 SG	1.5-4 ounce	0.028-0.075	10.5-4	foliar
*Note incorporation instructions and methods of application for preplant and layby insecticides.					
*Apply preplant insecticides as close to transplant as possible in accordance with label directions.					
*Please note species listed, preharvest intervals, maximum usage per acre on all labels.					
*Do not exceed 0.5 pound active ingredient bifenthrin per acre/per season.					
** Bifenthrin is labeled as Brigade 2EC, Bifenture and Sniper.					