

**CHARACTERIZING THE YIELD COMPONENTS OF SWEET POTATO
(*IPOMOEA BATATAS*)**

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Abstract

Advanced clones of *Ipomoea batatas* were evaluated jointly with two commercial cultivars in Cañete Valley, the principal centre for commercial sweet potato production on the coast of Peru. Total fresh and dry weights, numbers of storage and non-storage roots, and fresh and dry wts of the foliage and leaf area were measured at 32, 53, 77, 102, 125, and 151 days after planting. Fresh and dry wts of the storage roots increased throughout the growing period ($B = 8.44$ g/day for the early maturing clones), but the number of commercial-size storage roots did not change. Maximum leaf area index for the clones varied from 1.5 to 4.5; the relative growth rate and net assimilation rate declined with time for all clones. Bulking rate varied with the clone and its yield. Higher yielding clones had a greater crop growth rate, LAI, harvest index, and foliage-to-storage root ratio. Histologically, all storage roots showed a similar general arrangement.

Note: This manuscript was incomplete (copies of the figures were mislaid)