

STORABILITY OF YAM TUBERS HARVESTED AT DIFFERENT MATURITIES

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Abstract

Yam (*Dioscorea alata*) setts were planted in polyethylene bags and harvested 7, 8, and 9 months after half-maximum emergence. Tubers were cured and then stored under ambient conditions. Mean tuber weight increased with maturity from 0.512 to 0.811 kg. Percentage of dry matter content of the tubers increased during storage. After 1-2 months of storage under ambient conditions, cumulative weight loss was highest in tubers harvested at 7 months after planting (MAP) and least in those harvested at 9 MAP. Daily weight loss across all root maturities ranged from 0.073%-0.089%. Tubers at the three levels of maturity started sprouting in February-March the following year. The mean number of days to sprouting was 116.1, 93.0, and 60.5 days for tubers harvested at 7, 8, and 9 MAP, respectively. Respiration rate was low with slight increases noted at the break of dormancy. Percentage of total sugars increased with storage, while starch and protein levels decreased.

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