

# How to grow Yam at Home

Beyond its significance as a source of sustenance, yam farming plays a pivotal role in generating both food and income for farmers in various parts of the world.

The process of yam farming encompasses several key stages:

## 1. Land Preparation

Initiate by meticulously clearing the land, expunging weeds, rocks, and any other debris that might impede growth. Construct ridges or heaps on the prepared area to facilitate drainage and prevent waterlogging. This step should be executed a few weeks prior to planting, allowing the soil ample time to settle and stabilize.

## 2. Sprouting and Planting

Procure sprouted yams or prepare your own by segmenting yams into smaller portions and placing them in a warm and humid environment. Over the span of a few weeks, sprouts will emerge. Proceed to plant these yam sprouts or slips in the previously fashioned ridges or heaps, ensuring even spacing. As you cover them with soil, leave the tip of each sprout exposed.

## 3. Watering and Fertilization

Maintain a consistent watering regimen for your yams, particularly during dry periods. Concurrently, enrich the soil with fertilizer, employing an NPK mixture with a ratio of 40:60:50 kilograms per hectare.

## 4. Staking and Weeding

As the yam vines flourish, they require support to avert toppling over. Employ stakes or trellises to provide the necessary reinforcement. Regular weeding is crucial to curtail

weed competition for vital nutrients and water resources.

## **5. Harvesting**

When the yam leaves display a yellowing and withering pattern, it's indicative of readiness for harvest. Skillfully employ a digging fork to gently unearth the yams from the soil. Allow the yams to bask in the sun for several days to dry before embarking on the storage phase.

Yam farming embodies a holistic cycle encompassing land preparation, planting, diligent care through watering and fertilization, and vigilant upkeep with staking and weeding. The ultimate reward arrives during the harvest when matured yams are collected, their leaves indicating their ripeness. These harvested yams should be cautiously air-dried for a brief