

Sweetpotato On Farm Demonstration Study

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Introduction:

USDA-ARS, Southern Insect Management Research Unit initiated on farm demonstration plots in 2014 to illustrate the importance of applying a nematicide to suppress nematode populations, a preplant incorporated insecticide to control soil insects attacking the developing sweetpotato roots and a solid weed control program in Mississippi sweetpotato production. Three Mississippi Delta locations were selected: Alcorn State University Research Farm, Mound Bayou, MS; Sanders Farm, Mound Bayou, MS; and Morris Farm, Mound Bayou, MS.

Materials and Methods:

Beauregard 14 slips were transplanted in mid June 2014 on 40" rows with a 12" spacing. Nine treatments were applied roughly three weeks prior to transplanting and included: Lorsban/K-Pam/Herbicide, Belay/K-Pam/Herbicide, K-Pam/Herbicide, Lorsban/Herbicide, Belay/Herbicide, Lorsban/No Herbicide, Belay/No Herbicide, K-Pam/No Herbicide and No Insecticide/No Herbicide. The herbicide program used in this study included Valor two weeks prior to transplanting, Command/Dual immediately following transplanting and Select as needed for grass control. Insect sampling was performed by the sweep net technique with 100 sweeps at intervals of 25 per treatment replication. All locations will be harvested at approximately 100 days. Insect damage, quality, and yield will be recorded and reported.



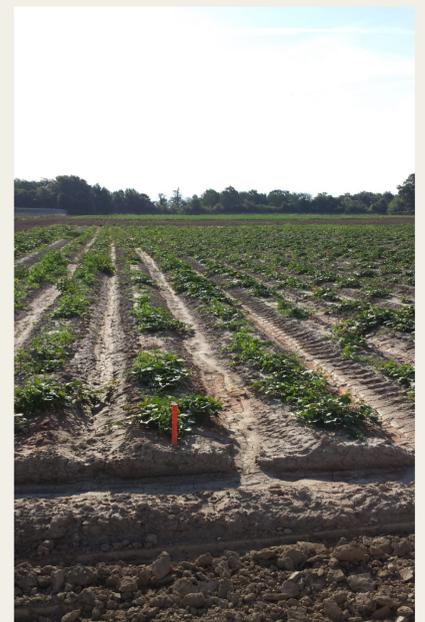
Sweep Net Insect Sampling



Visual Insect Sampling



No Herbicide Treatment Plot



Herbicide Treatment Plot

Summary:

This study is in progress during this season and the results will be collected, analyzed and reported. All three locations in the study are illustrating the benefit of a good herbicide program in Mississippi sweetpotato production. The sweetpotato season in Mississippi is late due to weather patterns in the spring and early summer but the plants are beginning to extend vines and starting to develop harvestable roots. Sweep net and visual insect sampling has begun and will be recorded and analyzed by treatments.

Reference:

Picha, D., L. Adams, S. Meyers. 2014. National Sweetpotato Collaborators Group Progress Report, 2013. www.sweetpotatoes.org

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