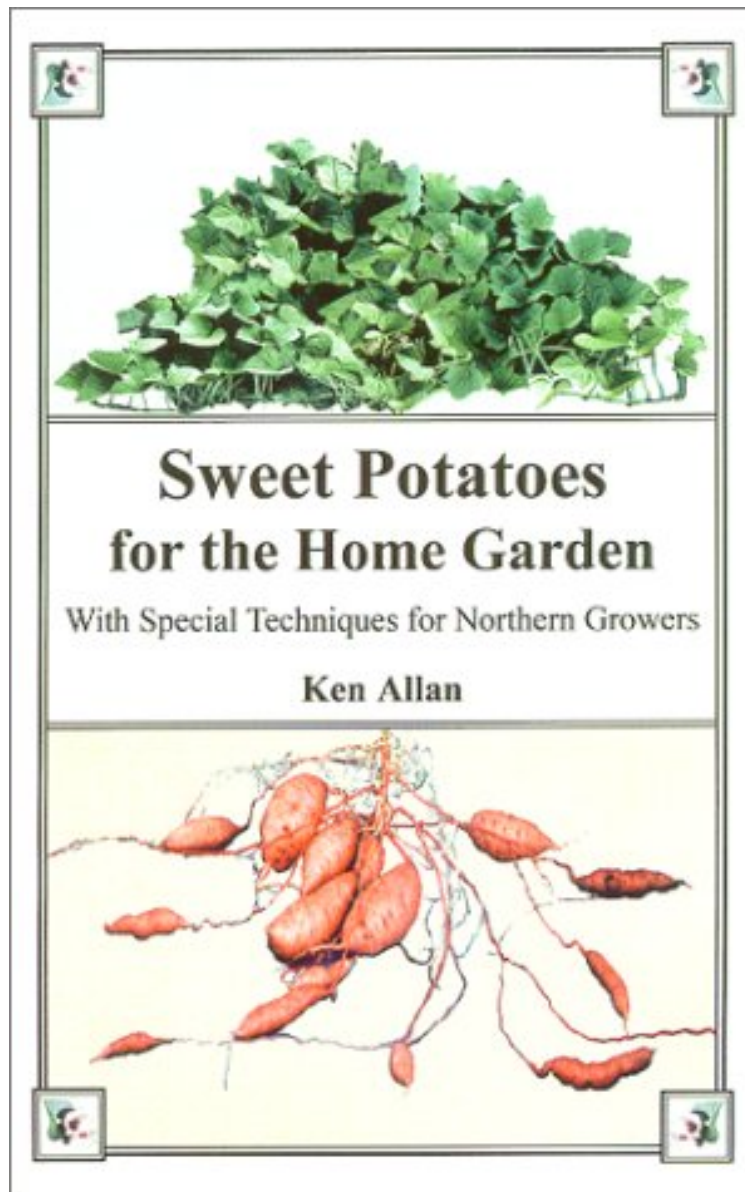


(Library ebook) Sweet Potatoes for the Home Garden

## Sweet Potatoes for the Home Garden

*Ken Allan*

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**Ken Allan : Sweet Potatoes for the Home Garden** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sweet Potatoes for the Home Garden:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. One StarBy CustomerWhy is this paper back book \$500?

The sweet potato (also spelled 'sweetpotato') is an eccentric vegetable requiring different treatment than any other root crop grown by home gardeners. Half of this book deals with growing, curing and storing the sweet potato. The rest is a

leisurely tour through the history, science and lore of the sweet potato.

One could view this book as the sweet potato book "for the rest of us"--meaning backyard and small growers, as opposed to large commercial growers and academic scientists... There are chapters on sweet potato history, hardiness, propagation, siting, planting, pests, cultivars, harvesting and post-harvest care, breeding and recipes. There is also an inspiring chapter on George Washington Carver, whom Ken calls the "patron saint of sweet potatoes." And there are long lists of references from the scientific literature. The bottom line is that anyone trying to grow sweet potatoes above the Mason-Dixon Line needs this book, and any small-scale sweet potato grower in the South will find much useful information and entertainment in the book. -- HortIdeas, March 1998, 15[3]Sweet Potatoes is interesting and informative, personal and in some part humorous, and it is well structured and easy to use. Unlike many gardening books, Ken Allan's not only tells you how to grow the crop but tells you why to grow it that way. This is what I've been needing for the past few years that I've been growing sweet potatoes. Now I know why my yields have been so low. Now I know why the sweet potatoes don't always keep. Now I know why I have to keep begging Garrett Pittenger for slips every year. I encourage anyone who is [or wants to be] growing sweet potatoes to read and heed this book. -- Seeds of Diversity Magazine, May 1998, 11[2]From the AuthorThe sweet potato demands that it be treated differently than any other garden vegetable. But if you are willing to be accommodating, sweet potatoes are not difficult to grow. After harvest, if you do right by them, they maintain superb quality in storage for eight months to a year. And despite their tropical origin, sweet potatoes can be grown just about anywhere that one can ripen tomatoes. This book tells you what you need to know to grow a year's supply of the sweetest, tastiest and most nutritious root crop. Some vegetables taste the same whether you buy them or grow your own (I am unable to tell the difference between cauliflower from the supermarket and from my own garden). There are many vegetables, however, that are clearly superior when grown in the home garden. The reasons for this tend to be specific to the vegetable: tomato varieties which are best for flavour are not grown commercially; cantaloupes have to be vine ripened for melting fruity flavour; harvest timing is critical for peas; minimum time from the garden to the table is very important for corn and for new potatoes; sweet potatoes are mistreated by the retail system. Home gardeners who grow their own sweet potatoes have it within their power to do right everything that the professionals are currently doing wrong. The difference this makes in quality and flavour is amazing.About the AuthorKen Allan has a one acre garden near Kingston, Ontario where he grows a year's supply of peas, corn, green soybeans, popcorn, tomatoes, basil, peppers, kidney beans, onions, carrots, potatoes and sweet potatoes. For fresh eating, in season, he also grows green beans, watermelons, canteloupes and cucumbers. Raised on a farm, Ken had little apparent interest in gardening until he had been away from all things agricultural for 15 years. When he began gardening, 25 years ago, he jumped in with both feet. Since then, he has started a small seed business and created the Garden Research Exchange to put amateur garden experimenters in touch with each other (the result has been five issues of Vegetable Garden Research over a period of 9 years). In addition to gardening and writing about it, he has worked as an engineer, teacher, bookseller, cab driver and lab technician.