

Yacon

Smallanthus sonchifolius · Daisy family

DIFFICULTY Moderate

TYPE Perennial tuber, grown as annual in cool zones

MATURITY 180–210 days



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular



SOIL PH
6.0–7.0



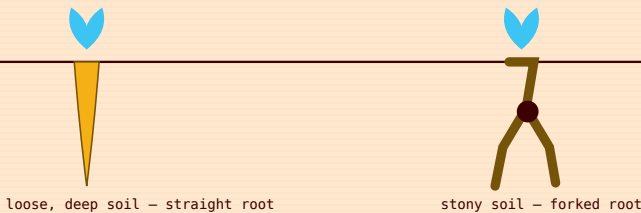
SPACING
60–90cm



DEPTH
5–8cm

01 Sweet, crunchy storage roots

Yacon produces two kinds of underground growth: small rhizomes for replanting near the crown, and large, sweet storage roots further out — dig carefully to find both.



02 Planting

METHOD	Plant divisions/rhizomes with a growing bud.
SOIL	Rich, well-drained, high organic matter.
TIMING	Plant in spring once frost risk has passed.

Planting timing varies significantly by Australian climate zone. Set your zone above (or use the Find My Climate Zone tool) for guidance tailored to your own area.

03 Growing care

- Water regularly through the growing season.
- Feed with compost mid-season.
- Stake tall plants in windy spots — they can reach 2m.
- Leave in the ground until after the first light frost for best sweetness.

04 Problems

- **Slugs and snails** — on new shoots; hand-pick.
- **Frost damage to foliage** — normal, harvest roots after this happens.
- **Poor root size** — nutrient-poor soil; feed generously.
- **Few other pest issues** — a relatively trouble-free crop.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	After the first frost blackens the foliage.
METHOD	Dig carefully — roots grow large and can extend some distance from the crown.
CURING	Leave roots in the sun for a few days after digging to boost sweetness.
STORAGE	Cool, dark spot; keeps for months, sweetening further in storage.
PRESERVING	See Root Cellaring (cool, dark storage without processing) for ways to keep a harvest surplus.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Corn Beans	None major	Not applicable in most home settings — treat similarly to potato rotation.