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## 'Carolina Nugget' Sweet Potato

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'Carolina Nugget' (Fig. 1) is a moist sweet potato developed at N.C. State Univ. in 1954. In 1957 and 1958, it was tested throughout North Carolina in regional tests as the experimental clone NC 172. Although it never has been released officially as a cultivar, it has been grown for commercial use in several southern states under many different names (e.g., Red Nugget, Carolina Nugget, Golden Nugget). The formal release and naming of this sweet potato cultivar should alleviate the confusion that has occurred when growers market or buy plant material.

### Origin

'Carolina Nugget' is the result of a cross made in 1954 between HM-36 (a selection developed in Meridian, Miss.) and the Louisiana cultivar Lakan.

### Description

'Carolina Nugget' has distinctive foliage and root characteristics. Its deeply cut leaves are dark green with a purplish tinge. The foliage is bunchy and sparse, but it grows

vigorously. Roots of 'Carolina Nugget' are short and blocky with rosy skin and medium orange flesh. Streaks of anthocyanin usually appear in the flesh near the exterior of the roots. This purple pigmentation is not highly visible after cooking; the roots have acceptable commercial table quality.

### Performance

Yield tests were conducted in 1983, and the production of total marketable and U.S. No. 1 roots by 'Carolina Nugget' was not

significantly different from the cultivars Cordner, Jewel, Centennial, Travis, and Eureka. 'Carolina Nugget', however, produces more sprouts than 'Jewel' or 'Centennial'. Growers report that they prefer 'Carolina Nugget' to other cultivars because of increased yields and superior root shape in the heavy soils where it now is grown. Growers also believe that 'Carolina Nugget' needs less curing to store well than other cultivars grown in the same areas. There are, however, no statistical data available to substantiate these reports. Roots remain sound in storage for up to 6 months.

Results of 1983 tests at the USDA Vegetable Laboratory in Charleston, S.C., indicate that 'Carolina Nugget' is more resistant to fusarium wilt (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *batatas*) and southern root knot (*Meloidogyne incognita*) than 'Centennial'. It is comparable in resistance to 'Jewel'.

### Availability

A limited amount of seed roots are available from Alabama Crop Improvement Association, Auburn, AL 36830.



Fig. 1. Roots of 'Carolina Nugget' sweet potatoes.

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