

### *Treatment of cuttings*

- Use a clean sharp machete in preparing cuttings.
- Dip cuttings in fungicidal and insecticidal solution for 5-7minutes.
- Allow to dry.

### *Advantages of treatment*

1. Disinfectant effect
2. Protectant effect
3. Accelerated sprouting, rooting
4. Longer storage life.
5. Yields will increase by more than 25%.



**Planting** - Cassava cuttings may be planted vertically, at an angle or horizontally. Place at least two-thirds of the cutting below ground. This will facilitate good root development and prevent cuttings from drying out rapidly in case of prolonged drought. Allow for 12,000 plants/ha (4,840 plants/ac) by placing cuttings 0.9m X 0.9m (3ft X 3 ft) across the field on the prepared ridges.

**Time of planting** - Plant to coincide with the rainy season if no irrigation is available.

**Weed Control** - Newly planted cuttings grows slowly and is vulnerable to weed competition. Weeds can reduce competition by up to 50%. Weeds must be controlled in the first 3-4 months after planting. Weeds may be controlled by hand weeding and herbicides.

**Fertilizer** - Fertilizer application is optional. Do not follow one crop of cassava after another. This is an important consideration from a nutritional as well as for pest control. Must be applied after two straight seasons.

**Signs of maturity** - Uniform leaf fall, leaves become pale green from dark green and the thin outer layer of the tubers is easily removed.

**Contact us:**  
Data Bank & Evaluation Division  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Hope Gardens  
Kingston 6  
Jamaica W.I.

Phone: 876-927-1731-50  
E-mail: [dbed@moa.gov.jm](mailto:dbed@moa.gov.jm)  
July 2008



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
DATA BANK AND EVALUATION DIVISION

## The Jamaican Cassava



[www.moa.gov.jm](http://www.moa.gov.jm)

## Overview

The Jamaican cassava is most popularly known for its by-product bammy, is also called yucca, tapioca, and manioc.



Caribbean Tainos, the first inhabitants of Jamaica used it as a staple part of their diet..

The Jamaican  
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originated in Brazil and Paraguay and continues to do well in tropical and sub-tropical areas of the world.

It is a robust crop that can tolerate drought and grows in low-nutrient soils with pH ranging from 4.0 to 8.0. It is most productive in full sunlight and is, an important safeguard against food shortages. It can be stored in the ground for between 8-36 months depending on the varieties. Harvesting can therefore be staggered until market, processing or other conditions are favourable.

Cassava starch is used as a binding agent in the production of paper and textile and as MSG, a food flavouring agent, it has the highest rate of carbon dioxide assimilation into sucrose and is a potential bio-energy crop together with sugar cane.

## General

**Family:** Euphorbiaceous or Spurge

**Specie:** Manihot Esculenta

**Types:** Bitter and Sweet

**Leaves:** Store proteins and vitamins A and B.

**Roots:** Major source of Carbohydrate.

**Potential yield:** 70 t/ha.

**World Average yield:** 8.8 t/ha.

**Jamaican average yield:** 9-18 t/ha.

### 'Best' Practices for improving Cassava productivity

#### *Improved Varieties:*

Select varieties that are consistently high producers, matures in 9-12 months and are tolerant to major pest and diseases.



#### *Land preparation:*

Till soil to a depth of 30 cm (1ft), then harrow. Construct ridges to height of 30–60 cm (1ft – 2ft). Where drainage is a problem due to clayey soil, use higher mounds. Design ridges along the contour of the land to reduce soil loss and leaching.



#### Planting material selection and treatment,:

##### *Selection*

Always seek to select cuttings (seed) from ;

- Plants that are high yielding and free of diseases.
- Mature plants 8-12 months old .
- Stem portion that are not too young or too old. ( Too old plants are often lignified with less food reserves for root and shoot development while too young are susceptible to attack by soil borne pathogens, sucking insects and also rapid dehydration).
- Stems that will give cuttings of 20 cm (8ins) each in length with 4-6 nodes.