

### 1. Best varieties for export

- Tausala ni Samoa (Main export variety)
- Samoa
- Kurokece
- Vavai
- Dalo ni Toga
- Wararasa
- Maleka Dina
- Vulaono

### 2. Planting time

- Main season crop – July to January.
- Off-season crop – March to June.
- Planting all year round is possible in the wet zones.
- Regular monthly planting (phase planting will maintain consistent supply).
- Tausala ni Samoa is susceptible to dry seasons. Samoa Hybrid, Samoa, Wararasa can withstand dry conditions.

### 3. Where to grow

- Avoid steep slopes (of more than 15°).
- Flat to gentle slopes are best for dalo.
- Soil must be fairly deep (15 cm or more) and must be well drained.
- Alluvial soils of the river valleys in the wet and intermediate zones are most fertile and rich in organic matter.

### 4. Preparing the land

- Loosen the soil by digging with fork or by ploughing and harrowing.
- On the flat land, use bullocks or tractor and allow excess water to drain away.
- Dalo will not grow well in stagnant water as this will encourage corm rot.

### 5. How to plant

- Plant spacing: 1.0m x 1.0m on hill slopes and 1.0 x 0.6m on flat lands to produce large corms and higher yields.
- In wetter areas spacing may be closer.
- Make a hole 9 to 12 inches deep (30cm) with a stick, fork or posthole spade.
- Plant the sucker by placing it in the bottom of the hole and press firmly with loose soil.
- Planting in rows makes it easier to weed, fertilize and hoe.

### 6. Planting material

- In areas infested with Papuana beetle:-
- Use clean planting material
- Dip planting material in Diazinon mixture for 20 minutes to kill the eggs.
- Use large and healthy suckers (5cm in diameter).
- Suckers established faster and grow vigorously to form canopy. This reduces weed growth.

### 7. Fertilizing

- All Fiji soils contain less nitrogen.
- Apply 45g Urea (46%N) per plant in 3 split doses after planting.
- 15g after 5 weeks
- 15g after 5 weeks
- 15g after 5 weeks
  
- Apply Super Phosphate 25kg (P)/ha and Muriate of Potash 100kg (K)/ha at planting
- Or
- NPK mixture at 200kg/ha at planting and urea 100kg/ha at 10 weeks after planting.

### 8. Weed Control

- Dalo crop must be kept weed free in the first 4 months.

- Control weeds manually by weeding; apply Gramoxone at 15ml in 14 litres of water. Avoid spraying the dalo plants. Use a spray shield and spray close to the weeds.
- Good land preparation will effectively reduce emergence.

### 9. Diseases and Pests

- Wilting of plants may be due to corm rot in severe water logged soils. Dig deep drains to remove excess and stagnant water.
- Brown leaf spot are of minor economic importance
- Plant hoppers, white fly and cut worms often attack dalo leaves and stems in humid areas.
- Dalo beetles feed on dalo corms making large holes which reduce their value and can result in corm rot and the complete loss of the corm.

#### Control by spraying with:

- Malathion, 20ml/14L of water (against)  
Or
  - Orthene, 25g/14L of water.  
Or
  - Attack, 40ml/20L of water.
- For taro beetle control apply around the plants at planting and after 3 months from planting with:
- Confidor, 1.5ml/L of water.
  - Bifenthrin, 2.5ml/L of water.
  - Suncloprid, 2.5ml/L of water.



## 10. Harvesting

- Most local varieties mature and are ready for harvest at 10 to 12 months old.
- Shelf life for dalo corm is around 2 to 3 weeks.
- Avoid damaging corms by digging deeply with stick and gentle pulling.
- Optimum yield, 20 to 25 tonnes/ha.

## 11. Gross Margin

- \$5070.60 per hectare



For more information contact: Ministry of Agriculture, Private Mail, Raiwaqa.  
Phone: (+679) 338 4233 Fax (+679) 338 7157 / Website: [www.agriculture.gov.fj](http://www.agriculture.gov.fj)  
Facebook: Ministry of Agriculture Fiji Twitter: Fiji Agriculture  
Email: [agrihelp@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:agrihelp@govnet.gov.fj)



Ministry of Agriculture



*Grow*  
**DALO**  
*for Export*