

Soil analysis should be done before fertilizer application.

8. Weed Control

- Hand weed or hoeing
- Coil the vines around the mound while weeding kumala
- Chemical control should be minimised in kumala cultivation

9. Disease Control

Kumala Scab:

- Plant resistant or tolerant varieties such as Talei and Vulatolu.
- Field rouging – remove infected plants from the field
- Control sap sucking insects as they are vectors for virus diseases

10. Insect Control

Leaf Miner:

Spray Dibrom at 15ml/15L of water.

Kumala Weevils

- use clean uninfested planting material
- Crop rotation
- Hill up tubers.
- Use of pheromones to attract the male weevils
- After harvesting, remove completely kumala debris from the area

11. Harvesting

- 16 – 20 weeks from planting
- Most kumala matures 3 – 5 months

after planting

- Remove the vines about 20cm above the ground
- Use fork to dig arounds the mounds, ensure you do not injure the tubers
- Use your hands to pull the vines and the tubers out of the soil
- For mechanised planting , you can use the potato harvester to harvest kumala

12. Yield

15 to 20 tonnes/ha

13. Food Value

Dietary fibre, potassium, vitamin C. A good source of Vitamin A, Iron, Thiamin. Contains Sodium & Minerals.



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Ministry of Agriculture

Growing
KUMALA
for Cash



Farmer's Leaflet 2015

1. Recommended Varieties:

- Kabara
- Honiara
- Vulatolu
- Talei
- Carrot
- Papua
- Bua



2. Planting Variety

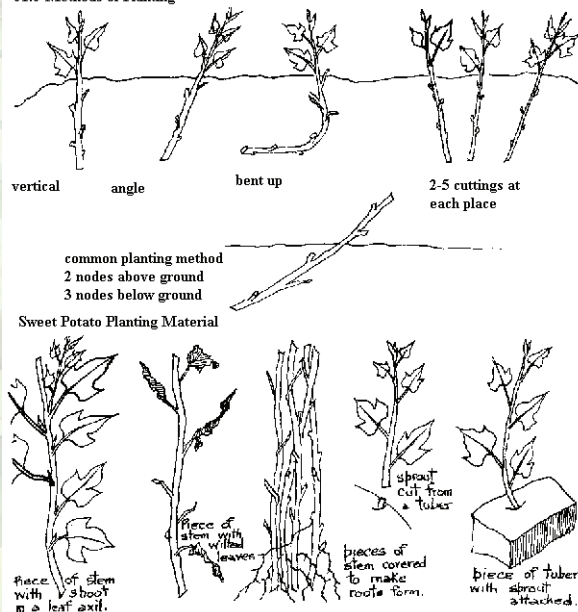
Kumala can be grown all year round.

- It is preferred to grow short nodes and erect varieties in the wet zones.
- Spreading types varieties is best on the dry zones, while some erect with short nodes performed very well in dry conditions.

3. Method of Planting

Kumala can be planted using the following methods:

61.6 Methods of Planting



4. Spacing

Traditional varieties:

Between rows: 0.8m

Plants within rows: 0.4m

Mechanize:

Between rows: 1m

Plants within rows: 0.3m

Length of vine:

40cm with at least 4 – 6 nodes

5. Seed Rate

Traditional: 31, 251 mounds/ha

Mechanize: 33, 334 plants/ha

6. Land Preparation

- Poultry manure or any forms of

organic matter to be added to the soil

1 week before planting

- Kumala requires sandy loam soil as the best soil type for planting
- Does not require high fertile soil

Mechanized:

- 2 x Ploughing
- 2 x Discing



- 1 x Harrowing
- 1 x Ridging

Traditional:

- Dig mounds about 30cm or more
- Soil should be loose, friable
- Mounds should be ready 1 – 2 days before planting

7. Fertilizer

Single Super 200kg/ha at planting.

Urea: 100kg/ha at 6 weeks after planting.

Kumala requires less Nitrogen to avoid excessive vegetative growth that might lead to poor tuber formation