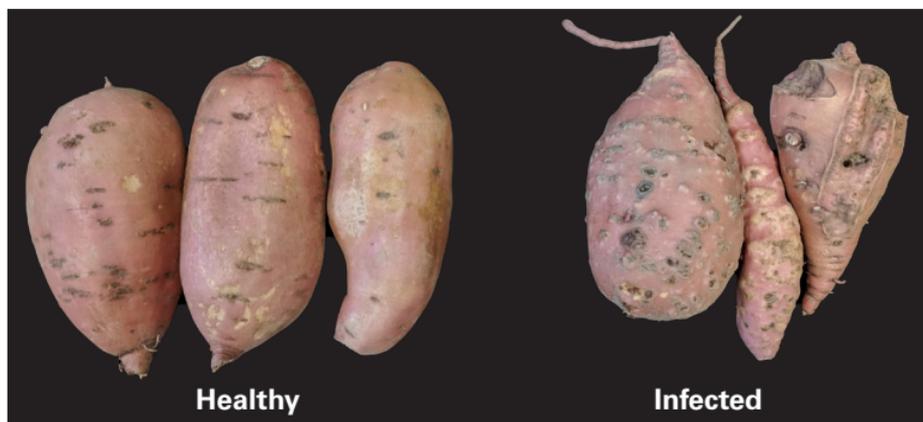




## Guava Root-Knot Nematode (GRKN)

Refers to microscopic worms in the soil that can infect sweet potatoes and form knots or galls on the roots. GRKN is a major threat to the N.C. sweet potato industry - **you can make a difference!**



### Packer/Shipper Resources Available

NC State Extension has partnered with the N.C. Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) and the N.C. SweetPotato Commission to help packer/shippers train employees in the timely and accurate identification of GRKN-infected sweet potatoes.

Description	How to Use	Language(s)
Good/Bad Potato Photo Badge (retractable)	Worn like a name tag	English, Spanish
Poster (24" x 36")	Break room, restroom stalls, sort/pack areas (e.g. walls or rails)	English, Spanish
Poster (11" x 17")	Break room, restroom stalls, message board, near time clock	English, Spanish
Line Signage Decal/Magnet (8" x 3" or 17" x 11")	On or near sort/pack equipment; On or near handwashing stations/mirror	English, Spanish

To request your free materials, visit [go.ncsu.edu/GRKN-Resources](http://go.ncsu.edu/GRKN-Resources).

## Best Practices And Expectations

- > Packing/shipping operations are responsible for identifying GRKN-infected sweet potatoes that enter their facility, and should inform producers if a lot from their farm tests positive for GRKN
- > Check the cull pile at least once per hour for potential GRKN-infected sweet potatoes
- > Inspect one packed box per pallet for potential GRKN-infected sweet potatoes before shipping
- > Review, distribute and use the materials provided by NC State Extension and NCDA&CS
- > Train employees on detection of GRKN infection and monitor for vigilance among line workers

## What To Do When GRKN Symptoms Are Reported



**“SCRC”**

**Stop · Contact · Remove · Call**

**STOP**

Stop the packing line immediately if potatoes with GRKN symptoms are found on the line

**CONTACT**

Contact your supervisor to report finding of GRKN symptoms and initiate response

**REMOVE**

Remove **entire lot** of suspected GRKN-infected sweet potatoes from the packing line - isolate in secure location until inspection

*“Lot” = specific field(s) at the farm where the sweet potatoes were harvested*

**CALL**

Call NCDA&CS to arrange quick inspection of suspected sweet potato lot - find your regional specialist at [go.ncsu.edu/NCDA-PlantSpecialist](https://go.ncsu.edu/NCDA-PlantSpecialist)

- > The inspection will determine if further testing is needed or if the suspected lot can be approved on-site