



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.

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

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