COCOYAM

Peter A. Y. Ampim and Dania Rivera-Ocasio

CULTIVATION

PERIOD
Plant immediately after last frost

PROPAGATION
Establish by vegetative propagation as seed formation is very rare. The central corm is the most commonly propagation material. They develop quicker so they should be planted separately. Cut pieces of the corm of 57-113 g. (2 to 4 oz.). Treat the cuts with lime and leave 4 to 8 hours to dry. Ground should be ploughed and raked, and mounds or ridges formed. Planting depth is 6 to 7 cm. (2.4-2.8 in). Planting distance is 0.9 to 1.3 m. (3-4.4 ft.) between rows and 40-60 cm. (15.7-23.6 in.) between plants. Cormels or mini corms can also be used for propagation.

GROWING CONDITIONS

CARING FOR THE GROWING PLANT
Water and weed control are critical for the first six months. Fertilize first month and five months after planting and control insects as necessary. In the long term, rotate with other crops to minimize disease occurrence.

DAYS TO MATURITY
It takes about nine to 11 months to mature.

FAMILY
Araceae

BOTANICAL NAME
Xanthosoma sagittifolium (L.) Schott.

COMMON NAMES
Tannia, New cocoyam, Tanier, Yautia, Malanga, Makabo, Amankani
**AREAS COMMONLY CULTIVATED**
South America, the Caribbean, West Africa, and tropical Asia

**PLANT DESCRIPTION**
Herbaceous perennial that has an edible corm or main underground stem. It can be 1.3 to 2.5 meters tall.

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**REPORTED HEALTH BENEFITS**
Supports cardiovascular, immune system, skin, digestive, and dental health. Prevents cancer and bone loss.

**REFERENCES**


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