

**Boniato:** Is also commonly called Cuban sweet potato. In many of the Central American countries, it is called “camote.” Currently, Miami-Dade County is the largest producer of boniato in Florida. In south Florida boniato is planted year-round. The average growing season is 150 days. In Miami-Dade County, close to 5000 acres of boniato is cultivated annually. There are two commercial varieties of boniato in production in South Florida. They are ‘Picadia’, usually grown in the fall and winter and ‘Campeon” which is grown in the summer and fall. Boniato is not as high yielding as regular sweet potato varieties. In Miami-Dade County, the average yield is 5-6 tons/acre. More information about the production of boniato is available at the website <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/MV030> and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/files/CV/CV28600.pdf>.



A field of boniato in Homestead, Florida



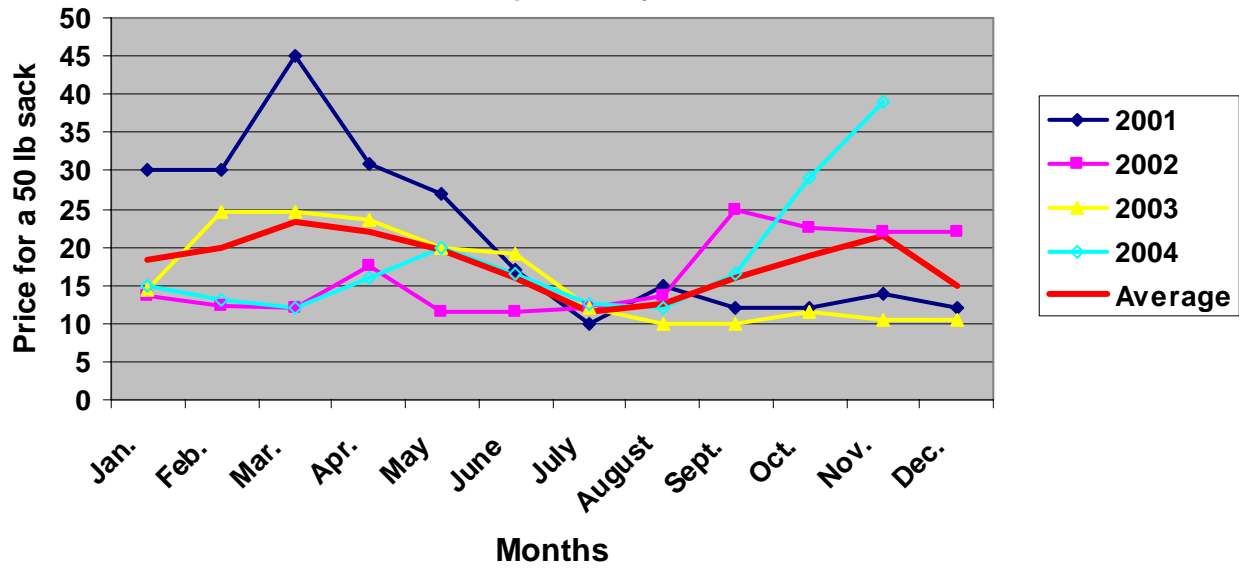
Boniato plants



Boniato

**Market:** Boniato is an ethnic product and it is consumed as the regular potato by Cubans and other Caribbeans living in the United States. Boniato is packed in 50 lbs sacks. Figure 1 shows the monthly New York terminal market wholesale prices for boniato for four years (2001-04), and also the average of these four years. These prices are based on the daily USDA Market News Reports. Each monthly price was calculated using the average daily prices on the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Based on the four-year average, the prices of boniato was over \$15.00/50 lb sack with the exception of July-September, when prices were below \$15.00. The fluctuation in price for the same month in different years, as presented in Figure 1, is caused by production factors which influence the availability of boniato in the marketplace.

Figure 1. Monthly wholesale prices for a 50 lb sack of boniato at the New York terminal market reported by USDA Market News, 2001- 2004.



Additional Information on boniato can be found in the following websites:

[http://www.cubanfoodmarket.com/palma/boniato\\_dumplings.htm](http://www.cubanfoodmarket.com/palma/boniato_dumplings.htm)

<http://www.infoagro.com/hortalizas/batata.htm> (Spanish)

[http://www.brookstropicals.com/pages/r\\_boniato.html](http://www.brookstropicals.com/pages/r_boniato.html)