

**Students On Stage**

Waccamaw Elementary School students participate in the theatrical production of "Nicholas Nickleby" on Nov. 2, presented by the Connecticut-based theatrical company the Hampstead Players, which tours the southeastern and southwestern United States. Pictured (from left) are David Whalley, actor; Terry Chestnut, assistant principal; Amanda Bland, sixth-grade student; Matthew Wright, fifth-grade student; and Sean Quinn, actor.

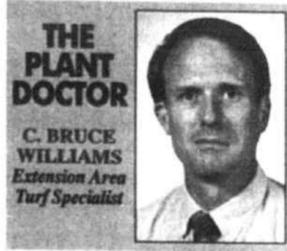


**Calabash Acres Yard Chosen**

The home of Thomas and Marge Stockner, 1136 Charlotte Ave., was named November "Yard of the Month" in Calabash Acres. Their well-groomed lawn features a variety of flowers and shrubs; the backyard faces a fishing pond.

**You Can Cure Sweet Potatoes At Home**

Nothing smells better or whets the appetite more than the aroma of baking sweet potatoes on a cool autumn evening. A slice of corn bread, a bowl of steamed collards, and a baked sweet potato is a healthy and delicious meal. The sweet potato is truly a fine food, although often maligned by those not knowing all of its' outstanding qualities.



er fruit or vegetable. Sweet potatoes store best at a temperature of 55 degrees and a relative humidity of 50 to 70 percent. A pantry or basement will usually provide satisfactory conditions, but a bare earth root cellar is best. Roots should be disturbed as little as possible, since handling increases the spread of soft rot and other storage diseases. Do not allow your cured sweet potatoes to freeze.

Native to the tropical Americas, the sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) root has found a secure place in the economy and culture of North Carolina. The sweet potato is a member of the morning glory family (*Convolvulaceae*), a relationship that is quite obvious when the viny habit of the plant and the morning-glory-like flower are observed. North Carolina grows more sweet potatoes than nearly any other state.

basement or outbuildings. Once sweet potato roots have developed a tough outer skin, they can be gently transferred to an open basket and stored for winter.

For additional information on variety selection, growing and storage of sweet potatoes, check with your county Cooperative Extension Service or send me a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Send your gardening questions or comments to the Plant Doctor, Box 109, Bolivia NC 28422.

Optimum storage for sweet potatoes is different from nearly any other

Some of our northern neighbors refer to the sweet potato as the yam, but this is incorrect. Yams are a different species of plant that are typically grown in the tropics. There is no comparison in eating quality—yams are quite dry and starchy in comparison with the sweet potato. For serious sweet potato lovers, here are a few tips to make those complex carbohydrate-filled roots better eating.

Sweet potato harvest starts in late September and continues up until frost. Special care must be taken when digging sweet potatoes to avoid damaging the tender outer skin. Broken or bruised potatoes are especially susceptible to soft rot when stored improperly.

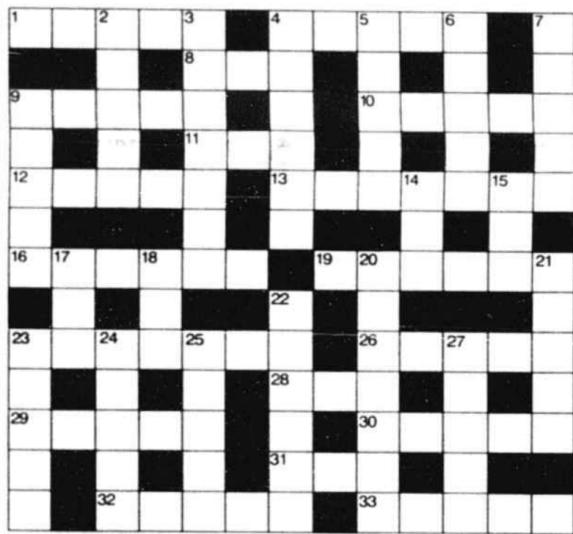
Long-term storage of sweet potatoes requires that the roots be cured. In large commercial operations, special barns are constructed which allow the temperature and humidity to be closely regulated. A temperature of 80 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit and a humidity of 85 percent is near optimum for curing. Roots remain in the curing barn until they develop a tough, leathery outer skin.

Properly cured sweet potatoes have higher sugar content, store for a longer period of time and can be shipped with minimal loss. Curing sweet potatoes will also allow the root to heal any damaged areas received during harvest.

The curing of sweet potatoes can easily be accomplished by the home gardener with a little extra care. Sweet potatoes cure best when spread out on newspaper in a area that allows good air circulation. Separate and spread out freshly harvested potatoes and prohibit them from touching each other. Depending on the conditions, natural curing will normally occur in two to live weeks.

Periodically check and remove any roots showing signs of rot. Areas that can be suitable for curing sweet potatoes include the attic,

**WEEKLY CROSSWORD**



**CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Drive away
- 4. Combat
- 8. Meat flavoring
- 9. Nude
- 10. Stay
- 11. Viscous
- 12. Cargo boat
- 13. Remnant
- 16. Exit
- 19. Circus jesters
- 23. Stranded
- 26. Glitter
- 28. Trot
- 29. Diffident
- 30. Following
- 31. Droop
- 32. Entertain
- 33. Mistake

**CLUES DOWN**

- 2. Card game
- 3. Boarders
- 4. Pursue
- 5. Lordly
- 6. Clan
- 7. Perfume
- 9. Illustrious
- 14. Cow noise
- 15. Convent sister
- 17. Silence
- 18. Self esteem
- 20. Traveler's bags
- 21. Sully
- 22. Rearrange
- 23. Caper
- 24. Send
- 25. Excessive
- 27. Change

(Answers are on Page 7-C)

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