Root production and quality attributes of sweetpotato genotypes in Brasília-DF, Brazil, during two cropping seasons

Raphael Augusto de Castro e Melo, Geovani Bernardo Amaro, Giovani Olegário da Silva, Francisco Herbeth Costa dos Santos, Larissa Pereira de Castro Vendrame

Embrapa Hortaliças, Brasília, DF.. E-mail: raphael.melo@embrapa.br

Resumo

O conhecimento da adaptação de genótipos de batata-doce a ambientes e da eficiência de seu processo de produção em diversos sistemas de cultivo são essenciais para que genótipos com melhor desempenho sejam conhecidos. Assim, objetivou-se avaliar genótipos de batata-doce quanto à produção de raízes e atributos de qualidade em duas épocas Brasília-DF, Brasil. Avaliou-se nove genótipos de batata-doce: BRS Amélia, Beauregard, Brazlândia Branca, Brazlândia Rosada, Brazlândia Roxa, BRS Cuia, Princesa, BRS Rubissol e um genótipo local em delineamento de blocos casualizados, com quatro repetições. Estimou-se características relacionadas a produção de raízes, características de qualidade e danos causador por insetos. O genótipo Brazlândia Rosada se destacou em relação a produção de raízes (66,03 t ha^{-1} e 31,58 t ha^{-1} para o primeiro e o segundo experimentos, respectivamente) e também apresentou um bom índice de formato de raízes (2,00). Não há grande variabilidade genética entre os genótipos para o índice de danos por insetos, sendo que BRS Amelia e BRS Cuia possuem características de formato menos desejáveis. Nenhuma variabilidade genética foi encontrada entre os genótipos referente a danos causados por insetos. Os genótipos BRS Amélia e BRS Cuia apresentaram o índice de formato de raízes menos desejado. Nas condições deste estudo, em relação aos caracteres avaliados, o genótipo Brazlândia Rosada apresentou resultados superiores em termos de produção de raízes e índice de forma.
Palavras-chave: *Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam; produtividade; danos por insetos; índice de formato de raízes.

Produção e atributos de qualidade de raízes de genótipos de batata-doce em Brasília-DF, Brasil, durante duas safras

Abstract

The understanding of the adaptation of sweet potato genotypes to environments and the efficiency of its production process in diverse growing systems are essential for best performance genotypes to be known. Thus, the aim of this study was to evaluate sweet potato genotypes for root production and quality attributes in two cropping seasons in Brasília-DF, Brazil. Nine genotypesn were evaluated: BRS Amélia, Beauregard, Brazlândia Branca, Brazlândia Rosada, Brazlândia Roxa, BRS Cuia, Princesa, BRS Rubissol and a local control were grown in a complete randomized blocks design with four replications. Characteristics related to root yield, quality and pest(insects) damage were evaluated. The genotype Brazlândia Rosada stands out in relation to root yield (66.03 t ha^{-1} and 31.58 t ha^{-1} for first and second experiments, respectively) and also presented a good root shape index (2.00). There is no great genetic variability among genotypes for insect damage index, with genotypes BRS Amelia and BRS Cuia preseting less desirable shape characteristics. No genetic variability was found among genotypes for insect damage. Genotypes BRS Amélia and BRS Cuia presented the least desired root shape index. Under the conditions of this study regarding the characters evaluated, genotype Brazlândia Rosada presented superior results in terms of roots production and shape index.
Keywords: *Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam; yield; insect damage; root shape index.

Introduction

Sweetpotato [*Ipomoea batatas* L. (Lam.)] is among the world's most important, versatile and underexploited food crops, with a production of 112.8 million tons (Mt) (FAOSTAT 2018). Playing an important role in the developing countries, Brazil harvested 741.203 thousand metric tons (Kt) in an area of 53.024 thousand hectares (Kha) with an average yield of 13.998 t ha^{-1} in 2018 (IBGE, 2019).

Although twenty-nine (29) genotypes are registered in the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (BRASIL, 2019), most farmers grow unimproved genotypes, commonly adopted without a previous evaluation, that tend to result in low yields, presenting inferior characteristics that are not desired by the local market. Moreover, these genotypes cannot express their full genetic potential due to continuous propagation of the same planting material, leading to systematic accumulation of diseases and degeneration, mainly with viruses, in addition to conditions of low fertility soils and inadequate production systems (FERNANDES 2013; CARMONA *et al.* 2015; SILVA *et al.* 2015; AMARO *et al.* 2017; AMARO *et al.* 2019).

Selected genotypes adapted to a specific environment condition and to different growing systems are essential, in addition to the use of technologies that can improve the effectiveness of production processes. Thus, besides the correct management of planting material and use of healthy slips/vines, and high yield genotypes that are resistant to insect damages, roots with an appearance suited to market demands are also necessary (AZEVEDO *et al.* 2014; MASSAROTO *et al.* 2014; SILVA *et al.* 2015). These genotypes can reach values of yield superior to 30 t ha^{-1} in cycles of crop growing of four to five months (ANDRADE JÚNIOR *et al.* 2009; ANDRADE JÚNIOR *et al.* 2012; AMARO *et al.* 2019).

In this perspective, the present work aimed to evaluate root production and quality attributes of sweetpotato genotypes in Brasília-DF, Brazil in a commercial field area located in Núcleo Rural Tabatinga, Brasília-DF, Brazil, in two subsequent cropping seasons.

Material and Methods

Two experiments were conducted in subsequent years in a commercial production area located at Núcleo Rural Tabatinga, Brasilia-DF, Brazil, (15°45'36.62"S and 47°35'12.12" W). The first experiment was conducted from December 18, 2013 to May 28, 2014 and the second experiment was conducted from December 10, 2014 to June 10, 2015. Soil was classified as a Typic Haplustox (Distrophic Red Latosol), showing the following chemical proprieties: pH (H$_2$O) = 5,9; H^{+++}Al^{+++}= 1,8 cmolc dm-^{3}; Ca^{++}= 6,2 cmolc dm^{-3}; Mg^{++}= 2,9 cmolc dm^{-3}; P (Mehlich) = 62,1 mg dm^{-3}; K^{+}= 0,164 cmolc dm^{-3}; Organic matter = 46,6 g dm^{-3}. To stablish both experiments, 600 kg ha^{-1} of 04-30-16 fertilizer were banded preplant and a posterior sprinkler irrigation schedule followed a weekly application of 20 mm, during the days without rainfall. Means of accumulated rainfall were collected by an automatic local weather station, with values of 1050 mm and 1180 mm for first and second experiment, respectively. After plowing and disking the soil to set bed rows 0.6 m apart, slips/vines were transplanted 0.4 m apart, at a depth of 3 inches with 4 plant nodes bared in the soil, leaving 3 leaves and nodes above the ground. Weed control was realized 21 days after transplantation (DAT) manually.

After 150 days, for both experiments, roots were harvested and evaluated for total root number (TRN); commercial root number (CRN); total root mass (TRM) in t ha^{-1}; commercial root mass (CRM) in t ha^{-1}; average commercial root mass (ACRM) = ratio between CFM and CRN and the percentage of CRN in relation to TRN (%CRN/TRN). Roots mass were weighted by an electronic scale and the ones considered commercially suited presented ≥ 10 cm length and ≥ 5 cm diameter, with no tortuosity, cracks or prominent veins (Silva *et al.*, 2012). Roots shape (SI) and insect damage (ID) indexes were evaluated on a scale of 1 to 5 according to Peixoto *et al.* (1999) and Azevedo *et al.* (2014). For insects damage (ID), visual scores correspond to 1 – free of insect damage; 2 – few damages; 3 – damages that harm commercial aspects; 4 – damages that make most roots aspects unsuited to commercialization; 5 – damages that make all roots unacceptable to commercialization. For shape index, visual scores corresponded to 1 - regular fusiform without veins or cracks; 2 - slightly disuniform with the presence of veins; 3 - disuniform, with large veins and cracks; 4 - very disuniform, with the presence of large veins and cracks; 5 - out of commercial standards, with very irregular shape, large veins and cracks (MASSAROTO *et al.*, 2014).

A complete randomized blocks design with four replications was used to evaluate eight

Embrapa sweet potato genotypes (BRS Amélia, Beauregard, Brazlândia Branca, Brazlândia Rosada, Brazlândia Roxa, BRS Cuia, Princesa, BRS Rubissol) and a local variety used as control. Indexed planting material (vines/slips) was multiplied in a greenhouse and the process of virus elimination and testing followed the methods described by Fernandes (2013). Plots were formed by 24 plants.

Data were tested for normal distribution by Lilliefors test and submitted to analysis of individual and combined variance for the two periods of experiments, and cluster means were compared by Scott-Knott grouping test at 5%. All statistical analyses were performed using GENES software (CRUZ, 2006).

Results and Discussion

The analysis of variance showed that there was an interaction between genotypes and experiments periods for total root number and commercial root mass. Thus, the results were discussed separately for both periods – 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 (Table 1). For commercial root mass (CRM), the percentage of CRN in relation to TRN (%CRN/ TRN), roots shape index (SI) and insect damage (ID) there was no interaction and the results are presented with the average means for both experiments periods (Table 2).

Table 1. Grouping of nine sweet potato genotypes phenotypic characters. Núcleo Rural Tabatinga Brasília-DF.

First experiment (2013/2014)			
Genotypes	TRN	TRM (t ha^{-1})	CRN	CRM (t ha^{-1})
Beauregard	128.50 a	23.10 b	55.50 b	14.78 c
Brazlândia Branca	147.50 a	39.20 b	74.25 b	28.59 b
Brazlândia Rosada	133.25 a	66.03 a	99.75 a	60.70 a
Brazlândia Roxa	146.25 a	46.65 b	84.25 a	35.55 b
BRS Amélia	105.25 a	31.56 b	54.00 b	24.88 b
BRS Cuia	104.75 a	36.67 b	60.50 b	28.63 b
BRS Rubissol	119.50 a	27.32 b	53.50 b	16.63 c
Princesa	105.50 a	36.73 b	66.25 b	30.78 b
Local variety - control	117.50 a	31.51 b	66.75 b	25.33 b
Means	123.11	37.64	68.30	29.54
CV%	20.72	23.90	19.83	28.00
GCV/PCV	0.43	1.32	1.03	1.54
Second experiment (2014/2015)			
Genotypes	TRN	TRM (t ha^{-1})	CRN	CRM (t ha^{-1})
Beauregard	197.25 b	18.85 b	60.50 b	11.33 b
Brazlândia Branca	180.50 b	24.12 b	67.75 b	16.41 b
Brazlândia Rosada	118.75 c	31.58 a	70.50 b	27.83 a
Brazlândia Roxa	241.00 a	34.80 a	109.75 a	26.14 a
BRS Amélia	161.25 c	28.84 a	66.50 b	21.68 a
BRS Cuia	126.00 c	29.07 a	71.50 b	24.81 a
BRS Rubissol	190.50 b	22.01 b	55.25 b	12.96 b
Princesa	150.00 c	28.94 a	78.50 b	24.02 a
Local variety - control	131.00 c	21.78 b	66.50 b	16.25 b
Means	166.25	26.66	71.86	20.16
CV%	16.40	22.30	21.09	27.19
CVg/CV	1.37	0.72	0.90	0.98

TRN = total number of roots per plot; TRM = total mass of roots (t ha^{-1}) per plot; CRN = commercial root number, meaning roots ≥ 10 cm length and ≥ 5 cm diameter, with no tortuosity, cracks or prominent veins; CRM = commercial root mass (t ha^{-1}). CV (%) = phenotypic coefficient of variation; CVg/CV = ratio between the genotypic and phenotipic coefcient of variation. Means followed by the same letter in the column do not differ using the least significant difference values of ≤ 0.5% by Scott-Knott grouping test.

Table 2. Grouping of nine sweet potato genotypes phenotypic characters. Núcleo Rural Tabatinga. Brasília-DF.

Genotypes	ACRM	%CRN/TRN	SI	ID
Beauregard	176.84 c	61.98 d	1.63 b	1.63 a
Brazlândia Branca	244.19 c	69.57 c	1.88 b	1.75 a
Brazlândia Rosada	384.72 a	89.70 a	2.00 b	1.75 a
Brazlândia Roxa	257.64 c	75.11 b	1.50 b	1.25 a
BRS Amélia	295.04 b	75.32 b	3.25 a	2.00 a
BRS Cuia	318.28 b	82.28 a	3.00 a	1.75 a
BRS Rubissol	208.72 c	59.60 d	1.88 b	1.75 a
Princesa	296.25 b	83.31 a	1.75 b	1.50 a
Variedade local	237.00 c	77.45 b	1.75 b	1.38 a
Means	268.74	74.92	2.07	1.64
CV%	16.17	8.13	30.36	23.11
CVg/CV	1.39	1.58	0.92	0.49

ID = insect damage scores from 1= free of insect damage; 2= little damage; 3= damage that impair the commercial aspect; 4= practically unsuitable for the market; 5= completely unsuitable for commercial purposes. ACRM = average commercial root mass ratio between CRM and %CRN/TRN = percentage of CRN in relation to TRN. CV (%) = phenotypic coefficient of variation; CVg / CV = ratio between the genotypic and phenotipic coefcient of variation. Means followed by the same letter in the column do not differ using the least significant difference values of ≤ 0.5% by Scott-Knott grouping test.

Significant differences were found between genotypes for most variables, by means of F test at 5% of probability (p<0.05), except for total root number (TRN) in the first experiment (Table 1) and insect damage (ID) for both experiments periods (Table 2). For characters related to root production, the coefficient of variation (CV) presented a significant interaction for genotype x growing periods, ranging from 16.40% for TRN to 28% CRM (Table 1). For all other traits, coefcient of variation (CV) was 16.17% for ACRM and 8.13% for %CRN/TRN. Visual scores indexes SI and ID presented values of 30.36% and 23.11%, respectively.

The CV values for sweetpotato phenotypic roots characters in this work showed similar results to the ones found in the literature (BARRETO *et al.* 2011; ANDRADE JÚNIOR *et al.* 201; SILVA *et al.* 2012; AZEVEDO *et al.* 2014; MASSAROTO *et al.* 2014; CARMONA *et al.* 2015; SILVA *et al.* 2015; AMARO *et al.* 2017; AMARO *et al.* 2019). This confirms the information that these traits possess a quantitative inheritance that is strongly influenced by the environment (SILVA *et al.* 2015). Regarding the visual index evaluated using scores, Carmona *et al.* (2015) in their work presented values of 19.28% for SI and 9.05% for ID, showing a better experimental accuracy. As well, Andrade Junior *et al.* (2012) indicated values of 10.30% for SI and 8.50% for ID. Additionally, Azevedo *et al.* (2014) work

shown average values of 19.43% for SI and 20.39% for ID. The aforementioned results indicate that these two traits, especially SI, need to be evaluated warily due to their smaller degree of accuracy.

The relation between the genotypic coefficient of variation (GCV) and phenotypic coefficient of variation (PCV) = (GCV/PCV) was superior to 0.90 for most traits, indicating the importance of genetic variability in comparison to total variation. This proportion was smaller for TRM in 2015 (0.72), mostly due to characters with no significant differences among genotypes (Table 1 and 2). Regarding the CRM means, both periods of the experiments showed values between 20.16 t ha^{-1} to 29.54 t ha^{-1}, outyielding the national and regional averages of 13.24 t ha^{-1} and 14.5 t ha^{-1}, respectively (EMATER-DF 2017; IBGE, 2019). Genotype Brazlândia Rosada, particularly, achieved 60.70 t ha^{-1} in 2014, 1.67 times greater than highest yield average of the Center West region of Brazil with 36.28 t ha^{-1} (IBGE, 2019).

The same genotype also showed a superior TRM value in the first experiment , achieving 66.03 t ha^{-1} in, and a TRN of 118.75 in the second experiment period. As well an ACRM value of 384.72 g and %CRN/ TRN relation value (89.70%) - Tables 1 and 2. Brazlândia Roxa presented a high number of roots, both commercial and total (Table 1), although that

didn't reflect in a larger root mass, probably due to roots of reduced size. For SI, considering roots with regular fusiform form without veins or cracks, genotypes BRS Amélia and BRS Cuia presented higher scores, meaning that their roots were considered less desirable (Table 2). Genotypes BRS Amélia, BRS Cuia, BRS Rubissol, Brazlândia Roxa e Beauregard, also using indexed planting material, were evaluated by Silva *et al.* (2015), obtaining values ranging from 22.43 t ha^{-1} to 32.34 t ha^{-1} for commercial root mass, harvested at 150 DAT, a comparable result to the persent work.

The ACRM values here obtained, with 268.74 g of roots, are also adequate to commercial standards that suggests values between 200 g and 400 g, according to Miranda (1989). Azevedo *et al.* (2000) reported an average mass of roots ranging from 123.3 g to 261.4 g in a six-month cycle. Resende (2000), in a 200 days cycle, observed values ranging from 387.2 to 381,0 g evaluating genotypes Brazlândia Roxa and Princesa, respectively. Andrade Junior *et al.* (2009), in a seven months cycle, obtained values ranging from 182.94 g to 320.95 g, and 199,14 g e 233,84 g for genotypes Princesa and Brazlândia Roxa, respectively. Silva *et al.* (2015) achieved means of 455 g. In the present work ACRM values are within that range for most genotypes, except for Beauregard that produced commercial roots averaging 176.84 g.

It wasn't possible to observe differences among genotypes for ID, by reason of a smaller genetic variance presented by this character. Even though a reduced numeric value was obtained for genotype Brazlândia Roxa (1.25), and this genotype being mentioned as a resistant (RESENDE, 1999). Azevedo *et al.* (2014) evaluated genotypes Brazlândia Rosada and Princesa and also classified them with a good resistance level, especially the genotype Princesa. Peixoto *et al.* (1999) affirmed that Brazlândia Branca and Brazlândia Rosada were susceptible. Barreto *et al.* (2011) considered Brazlândia Branca susceptible, meanwhile Brazlândia Rosada and Brazlândia Roxa were resistant. Massaroto *et al.* (2014) also considered the genotype Brazlândia Roxa as the most resistant.

Conclusions

No notable genetic variability was found among genotypes for insect damage. Genotypes BRS Amélia and BRS Cuia presented the least desired root shape index. As results, under the conditions of this study regarding the characters evaluated, genotype Brazlândia Rosada presented superior results in terms of roots production and shape index.

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