

# Illusion Midnight Lace Potato Vine



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While Sweet Potatoes all come from the same parent material out of Southeast Asia, there is a big difference between the Sweet Potato you buy in the store and the tubers produced by the Sweet Caroline and the Illusion plants. Commercial sweet potatoes have been bred for over 100 years selecting for those with the best sugar to starch content (hence the name SWEET Potato), the ornamental have been bred to produce good leaves and no tubers, though they do form, they are composed of almost pure starch and no sugar; making them a poor choice for eating. So yes you can eat the tubers, but don't expect anyone to come back for seconds!

## *Ipomea batatas 'Illusion Midnight Lace'*

- **Use:** Great in combinations, window boxes, hanging baskets and landscapes. They are great additions to combination planters, but they can sometimes overwhelm less vigorous plants. If you are like us you can let your combination plants duke it out Darwinian style, however, if you prefer to keep a more balanced look to your combination planters, you can cut back or remove stems at any time. Ipomoeas also make great annual groundcovers in the landscape. They love the heat and humidity (growing up to 36" a week in the Deep South), cooler temperatures and low humidity cause them to stay more compact.
- **Exposure/Soil:** Plants thrive in full sun or partial shade with consistent moisture. Use slow release fertilizer two times a year. Water regularly, when top 3 in. of soil is dry. Will not tolerate below 45 degrees.
- **Growth:** Super fast grower trails only 3" tall and unlimited outward growth.
- **Hardiness:** **Zone 9-10** ; Annual in this zone unless you dig up the potatoes and store them in the garage over winter.
- **Foliage:** Dark black leaves in sun with a lacy texture.
- **Flower:** Not very noticeable flowers.

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