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Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) as a Quick Creeping Cover for Oil Palm Chippings and Residues at Replanting

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*The rhinoceros beetle has emerged as a serious threat to the oil palm industry since the prohibition of burning as a measure of air pollution control in the estates beginning from the 1990's. Several types of approach are being tried out to control this pest. One such method is the submerging of palm chipping and debris in water inside constructed scupper drains. This method has helped in suppressing the breeding of this beetle. To further enhance and bring to almost total control the Oryctes breeding, sweet potato covers are planted on the top un-submerged layer of chipped palms and debris. The sweet potato (*Ipomoea batatas*) is a herbaceous perennial vine bearing alternate heart-shaped or palmately lobed leaves and medium-sized sympetalous flowers. They are mostly propagated by stem or root cuttings.*

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