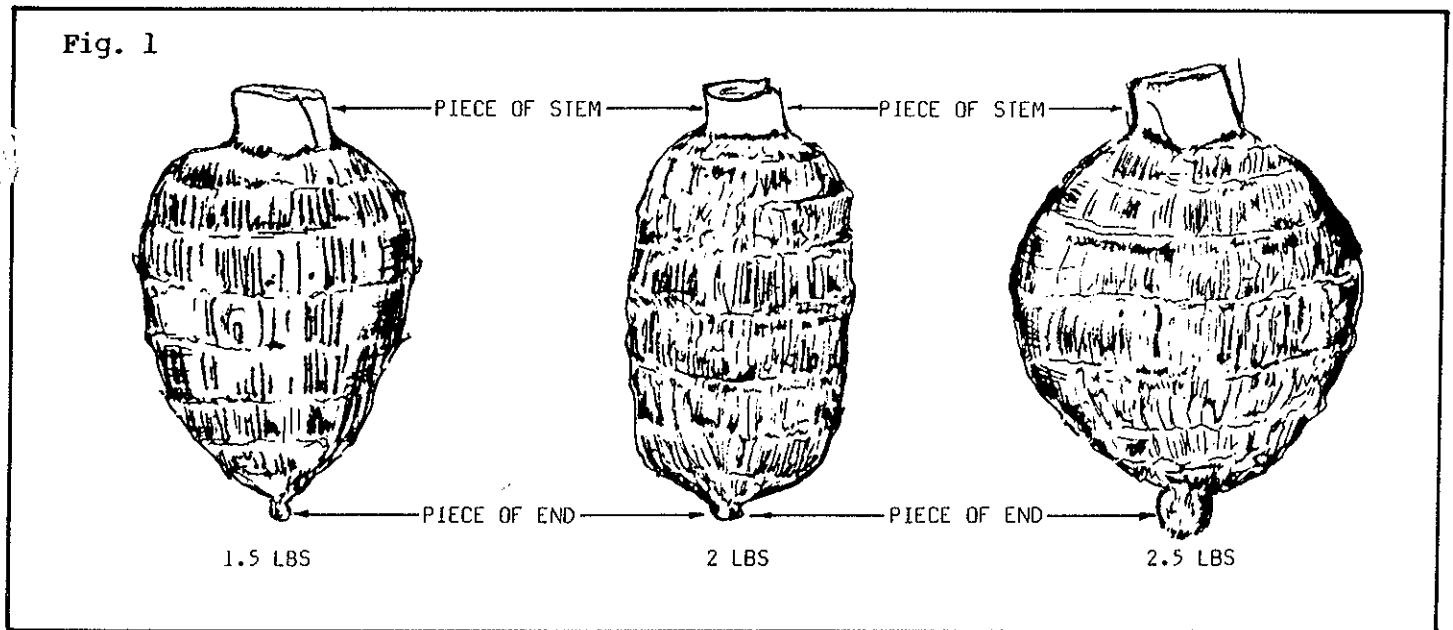


## POST-HARVEST TREATMENT OF DASHEEN TO ENSURE 4 WEEKS SHELF LIFE

by  
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Select these shapes and sizes of dasheen for export.

## PREPARING FOR THE HARVEST DAY

- Arrange the harvest so that the dasheen corms can be treated with fungicide on the same day within **4 hours** of digging up.
  
- Bags, crates, transport and labour should all be in place.
  
- Persons taking out the crop should know to avoid damaging the corms with the fork or lifter. When moving corms they should be treated gently - not thrown about.
  
- Make sure there is clean, running water at the crating place. Also needed are:
  - \* the fungicide, Ridomil mbc 60WP
  
  - \* Containers such as buckets or troughs in which the dasheen corms can be washed and dipped.
  
- Workers should wear protective clothing - rubber gloves and plastic aprons.

## TREATMENT OF THE HARVESTED DASHEEN

- Wash dasheen corms thoroughly in clean running water to remove all soil, roots and dead tissues. Use a medium soft brush or rag from an 'onion' bag.
- Corms for the export market should be selected in the field immediately after harvest. They should be round or oblong and over 1.5 to 2 lb (750g) in weight. Discard all damaged, rotted, abnormally shaped and small corms.
- Cut off the "tail" end of the corm leaving a 1/4 inch (6mm) piece on the corm. Cut the top to leave a 1 inch (25mm) long "stalk" attached to the dasheen corm.
- Dip corms for 2 - 3 seconds in a solution of 1/2 oz (14g) of Ridomil mbc 60WP in 6 galls. (28 litres) of water. Mix well with a wooden stick. Use the dip solution until the level drops too low or the mixture becomes discoloured whichever comes first.
- After dipping, place corms in crates to air dry in shade.
- Pack in 30-40 lb (15-20 kg) containers for shipment. If carton boxes or crates are used they can be lined with plastic to retain moisture released from the corms and keep them fresh: dehydration (loss of too much water from the corms) is then prevented.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER, PLEASE - *Only the best for export!***

- Do not include badly shaped corms
- Treat within **4 hours** after harvest
- Mix only a small quantity of the fungicide solution at a time
- Corms can be eaten **1 week** after treatment