



**vineland**  
RESEARCH & INNOVATION CENTRE

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# RootSmart™... Better Roots, Better Trees, Better Profits

Officially launched at Landscape Ontario Congress January 9, 2018, RootSmart™ is a proven solution for root girdling, a costly problem for the horticulture industry.

RootSmart™ is an innovative wall-less, bottomless propagation system that promotes an ideal root structure by preventing root girdling at the propagation stage.

It was developed through a partnership between Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (Vineland) and A.M.A. Plastics Ltd. (A.M.A.) to help growers increase their profitability by producing healthier trees.

"RootSmart™ was co-designed with growers, for growers," said Darby McGrath, PhD, Vineland's Research Scientist. "After five years consulting with industry leaders and studying the effects of existing propagation trays, we designed a product that solves the problem of root girdling using proven science. We are thrilled to see it come to life with support and leadership from the A.M.A. team."

Fruit, nut and ornamental tree growers can benefit in a number of ways when using RootSmart™.

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Official launch of RootSmart™ at Landscape Ontario Congress (January 9, 2018).



# RootSmart™... Better Roots, Better Trees, Better Profits

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From reduced tree mortality rate and increased transplant success to improved crop uniformity, shorter crop cycles and reduced labour costs, growers can produce healthier, more beautiful trees.



The innovative RootSmart™ propagation tray .

"RootSmart™ is the game-changer our industry has been waiting for, and we are proud to bring it to market in partnership with Vineland Research and Innovation Centre," said Rick Bradt, Co-owner and Managing Director of A.M.A.

A.M.A. holds the exclusive production and marketing licence to RootSmart™, and it is now available to growers across North America.

Learn more at [rootsmart.com](http://rootsmart.com).

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(A version of this news release was distributed January 9, 2018).

## New Greening the Canadian Landscape Website

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre has developed a new website based on its research findings to improve tree longevity in challenging locations. [Greeningcanadianlandscape.ca](http://Greeningcanadianlandscape.ca) offers a soil remediation calculator and tree species selector to ensure successful tree plantings, even on difficult sites. By considering key factors influencing tree survival including soil quality and health and selecting proper tree species, healthier trees can be grown for more resilient and greener landscapes.



[Greeningcanadianlandscape.ca](http://Greeningcanadianlandscape.ca) helps improve tree survival in challenging urban environments.



# New Sweet Potato Variety Adapted to Canada's Growing Season



**Vineland's new sweet potato variety features vibrant orange flesh.**

Canadians consume on average 1.5 kilograms of sweet potatoes every year and about 4,000 acres are needed to meet this demand.

In partnership with Louisiana State University, Vineland has been testing varieties of sweet potato suited to Canada's climate. One variety has come out on top and is set for growers' fields in 2019.

"Canadian growers have been typically cultivating Covington, a sweet potato variety commonly grown in the U.S.," said Valerio Primomo, PhD, Vineland's Research Scientist, Vegetable Breeding. "But it requires a long growing season - elusive in Canada - to develop its deep orange colour and avoid chilling injury."

Vineland's new high-yielding variety is adapted to thrive in Canada's climate, maturing well in a short growing season of 118 to 122 days.

The sweet potato is also preferred by consumers in taste tests over leading varieties. It exhibits a red skin with vibrant orange colour flesh, a trait consumers look for according to researchers at Vineland.

"Colour is the most important attribute in sweet potatoes," said Amy Bowen, PhD, Vineland's Research Director, Consumer Insights. "The majority of consumers are expecting that bright orange, uniform colour."

Looking to license, propagate, grow or sell this sweet new variety? Please contact:

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(Excerpts of this story can be found in [Vineland's 2017-2018 Innovation Report](#)).



**Locally-adapted and set for 2019 release.**



# Canadian Shield™ Rose Returns to Inspire Gardeners in 2018

The snow is still falling in many parts of Canada but green thumbs everywhere are already planning what to grow in their gardens this summer.

The hugely popular Canadian Shield™ rose from Vineland's 49th Parallel Collection, developed at Vineland Research and Innovation Centre (Vineland), will be available again in 2018 to take root from coast to coast.

Canadian Shield™ debuted in limited quantities in 2017, in time for Canada's 150th birthday celebrations, and this made-in-Canada rose hasn't disappeared now that the party is over.

Canadian Shield™ is a low-maintenance, versatile garden and landscape rose that promises plenty of full red flowers and glossy green foliage throughout the growing season.



Canadian Shield™ as part of Vineland's 49th Parallel Collection.



Vineland's 49th Parallel Collection.

The rose is a repeat bloomer, making it a majestic beauty all season, and just as its name suggests, it's a hardy flower that can stand up to winter and resist disease from St. John's, N.L. to Victoria, B.C.

Vineland's 49th Parallel Collection stems from Canada's national rose program at Vineland in partnership with the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association. Canadian Shield™ is the first rose released in the collection and was named Canada Blooms' 2017 Plant of the Year.

## Coming soon in the collection

- Chinook Sunrise™ in 2019
- Aurora Borealis™ in 2021

You can find more information at [49throses.com](http://49throses.com)

(A version of this news release was published in the Canada Blooms 2018 newsletter).