tense illumination, much stronger nitrite solutions (2.0%) must be employed for protection during the lighting period. This concentration of nitrite accelerates oxidation of sulfhydryl groups present.

Whereas added nitrite protects the cured meat pigment from oxidation in the presence of protein sulfhydryl groups, it accelerates oxidation in their absence. This is true in meats such as bologna, which originally gave a negative nitroprusside test, as well as in meats in which the free sulfhydryl groups have been removed by exposure to high concentrations of nitrite for several days or to iodoacetic acid for a few minutes. Under these conditions, nitrite causes greater fading than the limiting value

produced by long exposure to light or by treatment with an oxidizing agent (ferricyanide). This is interpreted to mean that the nitrite attacks the porphyrin ring as well as oxidizing the heme iron.

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## SWEET POTATO DEHYDRATION

# **Effects of Conditions of Storage of Raw Materials on Chemical Properties of Dehydrated Products**

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The changes in chemical composition of raw sweet potatoes during storage at  $50^{\circ}$ ,  $60^{\circ}$ , and 70 $^{\circ}$  to 75 $^{\circ}$  F. and the properties of the derived dehydrated products indicate that a storage temperature of 60 $^\circ$  F, is superior for maintenance of raw materials. The sugar content of sweet potatoes stored at 50° F. increased more than that of potatoes stored at  $60^{\circ}$  or  $70^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$  F. The shrinkage (loss in fresh weight) of materials stored at  $70^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$  F. is much greater than that of materials stored at  $50^{\circ}$  and  $60^{\circ}$  F. Sweet potatoes of the Unit I Porto Rico variety stored at  $60^\circ$  F. for not more than 4 to 6 months yield dehydrated products having a bright yellow-orange color, a carotene content of 225 to 250 p.p.m., an ascorbic acid content of 35 to 40 mg. per 100 grams, and a rehydration of about 100%.

 $\mathbf{S}_{ ext{than 22 states and are one of the}}^{ ext{weet potatoes are grown in more}}$ leading vegetable crops in the United States, with a production in 1953 of about 30,000,000 bushels, concentrated principally in the lower Atlantic and south central states (24). Sweet potatoes are an acceptable and nutritious food having a carotene content of 4 to 7 mg. %, an ascorbic acid content of 17 to 33 mg. %, and a high caloric value (7).

During World War II large quantities of dehydrated foods were procured and used by the Armed Services. Dehydrated sweet potatoes made an important contribution to this supply. However, in 1946 commercial production of dehydrated sweet potatoes for food ceased, because of termination of procurement by the Armed Services and the lack of interest in the product by the civilian market.

In 1951 interest in the possible reactivation of the sweet potato dehydration industry developed. The lack of scientific data to guide in drafting specifications and activating the industry was indicated by the Quartermaster Food and Container Institute for the Armed Forces. One phase of the problem was to determine the effects of temperature and time of storage of sweet potatoes on their properties and on the properties of derived dehydrated products. Changes in the properties of sweet potatoes during storage under different conditions have been reported by numerous investigators (1, 4-6, 8, 11-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27). Wagley investigated the effect of storage of sweet potatoes in relation to canning and observed that changes in chemical composition resulted in loss of texture, development of off-flavors and from the canner's standpoint, economic losses (25). Hopkins and Phillips reported that, after harvesting, a marked and regular change in the amount of sugars in sweet potatoes occurs (10). When the potatoes were cured and then stored at different constant temperatures,

the content of sugars increased at 50° and 55° F. but decreased at 60°, 65°, and 70° F., indicating that a critical temperature range exists for the storage of sweet potatoes.

The purpose of this investigation was. therefore, to extend these studies and to determine the effects of storage of raw materials on their shrinkage, moisture, and contents of carotene, ascorbic acid, and sugars; on the color. contents of carotene and ascorbic acid, and rehydration characteristics of derived dehyrated products; and on the losses of raw materials during processing.

#### Methods

Moisture. A 2-gram ground sample, passing through 20-mesh screen but held on 40-mesh screen, was weighed into tared, dry, aluminum weighing dishes (approximately 2 inches in diameter and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in depth) with tightly fitting covers. The dishes, with cocked lids,

Table I.	Analyses of Samples of Unit I Porto Rico Sweet Potatoes Harvested
	and Stored during 1952–53 Season

Storage of Raw Materials, Months	Shrinkage (Los in Fresh Wt.), %	s Dry Wt. (Fresh Wt. at Sampling), %		Ascorbic Acid (Dry Basis), Mg./100 G.	Sugars (Dry Basis), %
0 days (fresh) 10 days (cured) 50° F.	2	29 30	224	71 70	15 16
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	3 3 4 4	31 28 29 29	230 252 235 206	50 53 52 40	22 31 31 37
	4 6 8	26 27 31	225 240 185	24 32 15	38 42 45
60°F. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	7 8 10 10 10 12 13	28 29 30 30 29 29 29	264 253 228 189 196 229 225	64 77 55 63 67 56	19 21 20 22 22 24 27
70-75° F. 1 2 3 4 5 6	13 10 13 14 17 19	31 28 29 29 31 29	203 233 208 199 151 179	59 61 64 67 56 59	18 18 18 22 23 23
70-75° F. for 2 months, then 60 F. 1 2 3 4 5	° 10 11 10 13 14	31 29 29 31 30	233 227 190 193 211	62 59 57 54 55	21 17 22 24 25

Table II.	Effect o	f Conditions	of Storage	of Raw	Materials Harvested in
19	952 on l	Properties of	Freshly De	hydrated	Sweet Potatoes

Storage of Raw Materials, Months	Moisture, %	Carotene (Dry Basis), P.P.M.	Ascorbic Acid (Dry Basis), Mg./100 G.	Extracta 390 mµ	ble Color 420 mµ	Rehydration (Drained Wt./Solids)
0 days (fresh) 10 days (cured) 50° F.	6.6 6.1	203 229	45 	0.115 0.237	0.050 0.115	3.76 3.66
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	5.7 6.2 4.6 6.4 8.4 5.5 6.7	217 260 218 224 252 243 297	33 43 41 32 31 30	$\begin{array}{c} 0.141 \\ 0.561 \\ 0.345 \\ 0.277 \\ 0.590 \\ 0.605 \\ 0.620 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.073 \\ 0.278 \\ 0.175 \\ 0.160 \\ 0.295 \\ 0.325 \\ 0.310 \end{array}$	4.00 3.89 3.87 4.12 4.04 4.63 4.18
60° F. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	6.0 5.9 4.8 6.6 7.6 5.3 6.4	226 264 206 182 226 260 267	30 42 41 31 30 29	0.285 0.228 0.205 0.275 0.355 0.400 0.395	$\begin{array}{c} 0.145\\ 0.115\\ 0.107\\ 0.150\\ 0.180\\ 0.220\\ 0.200 \end{array}$	3.74 3.81 3.96 3.98 4.07 4.09 3.98
70-75° F. 1 2 3 4 5 6	5.7 5.8 3.9 6.4 6.6 5.2	252 254 205 187 197 171	24 36 40 35 31	0.323 0.258 0.345 0.237 0.345 0.345	0.163 0.129 0.180 0.130 0.177 0.180	3.78 3.83 3.91 4.29 4.02 4.09
70-75° F. for 2 months, then 60° F. 1 2 3 4 5	4.8 6.1 7.4 5.3 6.1	175 204 218 181 203	35 39 33 35 30	$\begin{array}{c} 0.237 \\ 0.312 \\ 0.312 \\ 0.305 \\ 0.315 \end{array}$	0.125 0.166 0.162 0.160 0.152	4.00 3.93 3.91 3.96 3.93

were placed in a vacuum oven, and the samples were dried for 6 hours at  $70^{\circ}$  C. at a pressure of less than 100 mm. The dishes were covered and allowed to cool in a desiccator before weighing. The percentage of moisture in the original sample was calculated (78).

Ascorbic Acid. The visual titration method based on the reduction of 2,6dichlorophenolindophenol by an acid solution of ascorbic acid was used (3). A 50-gram sample of dehydrated sweet potatoes was steeped under nitrogen for 15 minutes in a blender with 100 grams of 3% metaphosphoric acid. Then 150 grams of 6% metaphosphoric acid were added, and the mixture was blended until a homogeneous slurry was obtained. Thirty grams of the slurry were quantitatively transferred to a 100-ml. volumetric flask. Twenty milliliters of acetone were added to eliminate the effect of sulfite used during dehydration. Then the sample was diluted to 100 ml. with 3% metaphosphoric acid. The solution was clarified by centrifugation, and an aliquot titrated with 0.025% 2,6-dichlorophenolindophenol solution to a pink end point which persisted for 15 seconds. The dye solution was standardized each day by titrating against a freshly prepared ascorbic acid standard. In analyzing raw sweet potatoes, the initial slurry was composed of 150 grams of sample and 150 grams of 6% metaphosphoric acid. The content of ascorbic acid was reported as milligrams per 100 grams.

Carotene. The carotene was extracted from 2 grams of ground dehydrated sweet potatoes (or 5 grams of raw sweet potatoes) which had been saturated with water at 60° to 70° C., by means of 150 ml. of a foaming mixture, containing about 4 volumes of alcohol and 3 volumes of petroleum ether, in a blender for about 5 minutes. The residue was allowed to settle, and the supernatant liquid was decanted. Sufficient water was added to the liquid to adjust the concentration of alcohol to about 80%, and after the layers separated the alcohol was drawn off. The residue and alcohol solution were successively extracted with three additional 30-ml. portions of petroleum ether. Then all of the alcohol was removed from the petroleum ether solution by washing six to seven times with 100-ml. portions of water. The petroleum ether solution was concentrated to about 30 ml. by vacuum. A column of calcium diphosphate (about 9 cm. in length and 2.2 cm. in diameter with a small quantity of anhydrous sodium sulfate on top) was saturated with petroleum ether; then the solution containing the pigments was drawn through the column, followed by a wash of petroleum ether. The filtrate, containing the carotene which was separated from the other pigments on the column, was added to a volumetric flask

and brought to volume. The concentration of carotene—i.e., absorbance of the solution at 436 mµ—was determined and reported as parts per million of  $\beta$ -carotene in the original sample (2).

Sulfite. The sulfite content of the dehydrated product was determined by the method of Mosier and Williams as modified by Thompson and Toy (27). The sulfur dioxide was liberated from a 25-gram sample of product, ground to pass through a 20-mesh screen, by refluxing it with hydrochloric acid in an atmosphere of nitrogen. The sulfur dioxide was collected in 3% hydrogen peroxide solution, adjusted to pH 4 by means of 0.1N sodium hydroxide, and the resulting solution was titrated with 0.01N sodium hydroxide to pH 6. The sulfite was reported as parts per million.

Peroxidase Activity. A 15-gram sample of diced, blanched sweet potatoes was boiled in 150 ml. of distilled water for 5 minutes and then cooled to about 80° F. Gum guaiac in alcoholic solution (1.5 ml. of 2.5%) and hydrogen peroxide (1.5 ml. of 1%) were added to the sample. Five milliliters of gum guaiac solution and 5 ml. of hydrogen peroxide solution were added to a 50gram, unboiled sample. The mixtures were allowed to stand for 15 minutes, and any blue coloration in the liquid of the 50-gram sample in excess of that of the boiled control indicated the presence of peroxidase (18).

Dehydration Test. About 50 pounds of sweet potatoes per dehydration test were washed, heated in water for 30 to 40 minutes at 130° to 135° F., and then dumped into a rotary lye peeler. The peeling conditions were as follows: lye concentration, 20 to 22%; temperature, 210° to 220° F.; time, 6 minutes. From the peeler the sweet potatoes were dropped into a rotary, spray water washer, where the lye and peelings were removed in 1 to 1.5 minutes. The peeled and washed potatoes were moved to a trimmer who manually cut off the ends and scar tissue. The potatoes were diced to 3/8-inch cubes directly onto the drying trays, until loaded to 1.5 pounds per square foot, and then blanched for 6 minutes in flowing atmospheric steam to a negative peroxidase test. The blanched potatoes were sulfited by spraying them for 2 minutes with a solution containing 2.1 parts of sodium sulfite and 0.7 part of sodium bisulfite per 1000 parts of water. The sweet potatoes were dehydrated in a cabinet dryer with approximately the following cycle: (1) 200° F. (dry bulb), 120° F. (wet bulb), for 3 hours; (2) 160° F. (dry bulb), 100° F. (wet bulb), for 1.5 hours, yielding a product having a moisture content of about 5%. The dehydration conditions outlined are typical of those yielding a satisfactory product. The products were stored in sealed, standard enamel cans in an atmosphere of nitrogen.

Table III.	Effect of Conditions of Storage of Raw Materials and of	
	Dehydrated Products	

	Storage Conditions of Dehydrated Products								
		—10° F		Condition	75° F.	yaralea r	1000013	100° F.	
Storage of Raw	9	18	27	9	18	27	9	18	27
Materials, Months	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks	weeks
0 days (fresh)	0.12	спе 0.12	0.13	xtractabl 0,14	0,15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.18
10 days (cured)	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.27	0.27	0.29	0.31
50°F. 1	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.14	0,15	0.16	0.17	0.18	0.18
2 3	0.52 0.34	0.54 0.34	0.56 0.36	0.57 0.33	0.63 0.36	0.72 0.40	0.62 0.39	0.70 0.42	0.77 0.44
4 5	0.38 0.47	0.42 0.70	0.39 0.68	0.41 0.56	$0.48 \\ 0.81$	0.56 0.84	0.44 0.63	0.54 0.90	$0.62 \\ 0.99$
6	0.55	0.66	0.68	0.66	0.69	0.83	0.73	0.82	0.96
7	0.62	0.80	• • •	0.68	0.84		0.78	0.99	• • •
60° F. 1	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.28	0.35	0.27	0.31	0.32	0.29
2 3	0.22 0.22	0.25 0.21	0.27 0.20	0.24 0.22	0.21 0.20	0.32	0.24 0.22	0.32 0.22	0.32 0.25
4	0.26	0.31	0.30	0.33	0.37	0.33	0.35	0.34	0.39
5 6	0.33 0.38	0.39 0.37	0.39 0.41	0.36 0.38	0.44 0.44	0.44 0.46	0.44 0.46	0.50 0.52	0.52 0.53
7	0.37	0.48	0.45	0.41	0.52	0.53	0.47	0.72	0.71
70–75° F.	0.31	0.36	0.27	0.35	0.40	0 22	0.38	0.35	0.35
1 2	0.25	0.29	0.27 0.29	0.35 0.27	$\begin{array}{c} 0.40 \\ 0.28 \end{array}$	0.32 0.38	0.27	0.35	0.37
3 4	$\begin{array}{c} 0.31 \\ 0.25 \end{array}$	0.33 0.28	0.32 0.26	0.32 0.28	0.35 0.32	0.39 0.34	0.34 0.31	$\begin{array}{c} 0.37 \\ 0.36 \end{array}$	0.43 0.38
5 6	0.29 0.36	$0.34 \\ 0.36$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.36 \\ 0.37 \end{array}$	0.36 0.38	$0.36 \\ 0.41$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.41\\ 0.42 \end{array}$	0.32 0.42	$\begin{array}{c} 0.41 \\ 0.48 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.27 \\ 0.46 \end{array}$
$70-75^{\circ}$ F. for 2	0.00	0100	0.07	0.00	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.10	01.00
months, then 60	0								
F. 1	0.23	0.23	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.28	0.26	0.27	0.30
2 3	$\begin{array}{c} 0.23 \\ 0.32 \end{array}$	0.28 0.33	0.25 0.33	0.24 0.32	0.30 0.35	0.31 0.42	0.28 0.34	0. <b>33</b> 0.40	0.36 0.46
4	0.30	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.39	0.41	0.41	0.44
		Effe	ect on C	arotene	Content	b			
0 days (fresh) 10 days (cured)	183 212	143 190	177 204	183 210	149 169	146 208	177 206	149 167	121 175
50 ° F. 1	266	177	221	224	181	209	224	182	218
2	205	248	226	224	206	211	212	195	212
3 4	212 280	255 244	240 282	226 244	252 230	227 241	229 258	246 230	212 226
4 5 6	288 244	271 260	273 252	295 265	249 253	263 244	288 246	228 225	278 200
7	250	260		233	250		230	250	
60° F.	244	••••	<b>.</b>		4.07	<b>a</b> a (			0.2.4
1 2	244 216	203 253	241 223	232 199	197 205	236 210	228 192	207 193	231 201
2 3 4 5 6	211 251	236 223	218 241	214 218	239 198	183 233	208 254	224 191	198 230
5	248 257	232 265	249 261	265 249	223 248	240 231	253 225	224 240	239 210
7	216	238	237	249 230	248 230	212	225	240	196
70–75° F.									
1 2	225 199	231 241	227 215	214 204	$\frac{198}{200}$	207 210	193 196	169 201	201 202
	231 234	245 208	226 227	214 235	255 209	202 193	213 242	247 209	201 183
5	221	198	197	226	182	197	216	188	199
6	155	193	176	167	196	164	177	178	164
70-75° F. for 2 months, then 60 F.	0								
1 2 3	200 251	195 224	215 240	194 250	211 206	182 221	190 230	211 217	180 196
3	238	214	230	229	216	237	234	214	207
4 5	195 181	205 185	177 186	178 186	190 191	$\frac{170}{180}$	167 175	$\frac{188}{181}$	181 175
a Absorbance of	evtract	mean	red at 3	100 m	volues	determi	ned at i	120 m	indianta

<sup>a</sup> Absorbance of extracts measured at 390 m $\mu$ ; values determined at 420 m $\mu$  indicate similar trends.

<sup>b</sup> Reported as p.p.m. (dry basis).

Extractable Color. The degree of nonenzymatic browning, as defined by Hendel, Bailey, and Taylor (9), was determined by measuring the absorbances at 390 and 420 m $\mu$  of aqueous, buffered, alcoholic extracts of the dehydrated products. A 10-gram ground sample, passing through 40-mesh screen, was thoroughly shaken for 1 hour with an extracting solvent composed of 75 ml. of ethyl alcohol (95%), 55 ml. of water, and 20 ml. of 0.5M phosphate buffer (pH 4.5). The mixture was allowed to settle for 10 minutes, and then the supernatant was decanted. An aliquot of the supernatant was clarified by centrifugation at 16,000 relative gravities for 15 minutes, and examined spectrophotometrically.

**Rehydration.** The rehydration properties of the dehydrated products were determined, as follows: sixty grams of diced, dried product were weighed into

a 500-ml. flask; 240 grams of distilled water were added, and then the product was allowed to soak for 15 minutes: the mixture was brought to a boil in 10 to 15 minutes, under a reflux condenser to prevent loss of water; then the product was allowed to simmer for 30 minutes, and the rehydrated product and excess water were poured into a Büchner funnel and allowed to drain for 2 minutes. A drained weight was determined, and the volume of excess water and the dissolved solids which it contained were measured. The moisture contents of the drained, reconstituted product and of the original raw stock were compared.

Sugar. Sugars were determined by heating an aqueous extract of the products with alkaline ferricyanide (16). The decrease in the initial yellow color is directly proportional to the quantity of sugar present and was measured quantitatively with a photoelectric colorimeter.

Table IV. Effect of Conditions of Storage of Raw Materials and of Dehydrated Products

			, Storage	Conditio	ns of Deh	ydrated P	roducts		
	-10° F.			75° F.			100° F.		
Storage of Raw Materials, Months	9 weeks	18 weeks	27 weeks	9 weeks	18 weeks	27 weeks	9 weeks	18 weeks	27 weeks
		Effect	on Asco	orbic Ac	id Conte	ent <sup>a</sup>			
0 days (fresh) 50°F.	49	53	42	51	49	39	40	40	33
2 4	47 36	42 34	25 34	42 34	32 32	27 22	34 22	29 26	23 19
6	25	26	21	25	22	20	20	19	16
60°F. 2	43 34	41 30	30	40	28 21	28 23	34 27	24 21	21 21
4 6	34 28	30	33 29	37 25	25	23	24	22	19
70–7 <b>5</b> °F.									
2 4 6	43 34 27	38 31 27	32 33 26	37 35 27	29 26 22	29 23 20	33 30 20	22 21 23	27 19 17
70-75° F. for 2 months, then 60 F.		21	20	21	22	20	20	23	17
1. 2 4	33 30	33 30	35 28	34 27	24 24	25 23	28 22	17 19	20 17
		Effect	on Reh	vdratior	n Proper	ties⁵			
10 days (cured) 50° F.	4.13	3.63	3.82	3.58	3.62	3.67	3.69	3.67	3.60
1 3	3.98 3.75	3.98 3.95	3.88 4.00	4.00 3.91	4.12 3.98	3.93 4.05	3.95 3.84	3.98 3.98	4.05 3.89
5 7	4.14	4.18 4.16	4.07 •••	3.84 4.09	4.09 4.09	4.00	3.96 4.07	4.13 4.16	 
60°F. 1	3.89	3.78	3.87	3.73	3.93	3.91	3.89	3.95	3.93
3 5 7	3.78 3.93 4.14	3.91 3.98 4.04	3.78 4.02 4.11	4.00 3.93 4.09	3.91 4.07 4.00	3.84 3.93 4.04	3.87 4.00 4.07	3.87 3.98 4.20	3.93 3.91 4.02
70-75°F.		,							
1 3 5	3.74 3.91 4.07	3.76 4.14 4.16	3.89 3.96 4.07	3.93 4.04 4.11	3.57 4.02 4.09	3.93 4.00 4.02	3.93 4.04 4.09	$3.78 \\ 4.00 \\ 4.05$	3.84 4.09 4.05
70-75° F. for 2 months, then 60		1.10	1.07	1.11	1.07	1.02	1.07	1.05	1.00
F. 1 3 5	3.84 4.11 3.98	3.63 4.04 3.91	3.89 4.09 3.98	3.86 3.89 3.98	3.95 4.02 3.93	3.98 3.98 4.00	3.86 4.02 3.98	3.82 4.09 4.02	3,91 4,02 3,96
<sup>a</sup> Reported as m	ng./100 g	, (dry ba		5.70			5.70		2.70

<sup>b</sup> Reported as drained wt./solids.

The results were compared with a standard curve relating sugar concentrations to the colorimeter readings.

**Shrinkage.** The losses in weight of about one half crate of sweet potatoes (25 pounds) during the indicated conditions of storage were determined periodically. Shrinkage was calculated by dividing the observed loss in weight by the initial weight of the sweet potatoes when placed in storage.

## **Materials**

The investigations were conducted during the 1951-52 and 1952-53 seasons on sweet potatoes of the Unit I Porto Rico variety grown in Louisiana. The potatoes were harvested about November 1, cured for 10 days at 85° F. and 80 to 85% relative humidity, and then placed in storage at the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station. Samples were shipped (approximately 3 hours' traveling time) periodically to the Southern Regional Research Laboratory for processing. The analyses of potatoes during the two seasons were substantially in agreement. The analytical data for the raw materials harvested in 1952 are given in Table I

Shrinkage (loss in fresh weight) increases with increasing temperature and time of storage; the percentage of dry weight is about constant; the carotene content is more stable at a storage temperature of  $60^{\circ}$  F.; the ascorbic acid content decreases at a storage temperature of  $50^{\circ}$  F. but is relatively stable at  $60^{\circ}$  and  $70^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$  F.; and the sugar content increases to a much greater value at  $50^{\circ}$  F. than at  $60^{\circ}$  or  $70^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$  F.

### Results

Properties of Freshly Dehydrated Sweet Potatoes. The effects of conditions of storage of raw materials harvested in 1952 on the properties of freshly dehydrated sweet potatoes are shown in Table II. The carotene contents of products prepared from sweet potatoes stored for 1 to 7 months at 50° or 60° F. are relatively constant and higher than the carotene contents of products stored at 70° to 75° F.; comparing data from Tables I and II, the amount of carotene was not materially reduced by dehydration; although the retention of ascorbic acid in the raw sweet potatoes was dependent on time and temperature of storage, the dehydrated products contained about the same amounts of ascorbic acid; storage of raw materials at 50° F. resulted in an increase in the extractable color of derived products as compared with products stored at 60° or  $70^{\circ}$  to  $75^{\circ}$  F.; and the rehydration of the products was apparently independent of the conditions of storage of the raw materials.

Extractable Color of Dehydrated

Products. The effects of conditions of storage of the dehydrated products on their extractable colors are shown in Table III. In general, there was very little change in the color of the dehydrated products packaged in nitrogen and stored at  $-10^\circ$ , 75°, and 100° F. for 0 to 27 weeks, except in the case of products derived from raw sweet potatoes which had been stored at 50° F. These products tended to increase in extractable color with increasing time in and temperature of storage.

Carotene of Dehydrated Products. The effects of conditions of storage on the carotene contents of the dehydrated products are shown in Table III. The carotene was relatively stable, as the products were packaged in an atmosphere of nitrogen. However, there is a measurable decrease in carotene with increasing time in and temperature of storage.

Ascorbic Acid of Dehydrated Products. The effects of conditions of storage on the ascorbic acid contents of the dehydrated products are shown in Table IV. The content of ascorbic acid decreased with increasing time in and temperature of storage.

Rehydration of Dehydrated Products. The effects of conditions of storage on the rehydration properties of dehydrated products are also shown in Table IV. These properties are apparently independent of the conditions of storage of either the raw materials or the dehydrated products.

Processing Materials Balance. The data presented in Table V are of economic significance in the production of dehydrated sweet potatoes. The quantity of raw material is given on an "as is" basis at the time of withdrawal from storage or on an "original basis" allowing for shrinkage during storage, required to produce a unit quantity of dehydrated product.

Data on organoleptic evaluation of products are being reported separately.

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Table V. Effect of Conditions of Storage of Raw Materials on Processing Materials Balance

Storage of Raw Materials,	Raw Materials,	Peel Loss	Trim Loss	Raw Material/Dehydrated Product, Lb./Lb.		
Months	<i>L</i> Ь.	(Raw), %	(Raw), %	Original raw	As is raw	
0 days (fresh)	44.8	22	7	5.3	5.3	
10 days (cured) 50° F.	45.5	22	6	5.0	4.9	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	45.6	29	5	7.0	6.8	
2	48.0	28	3	6.3	6.1	
3	46.8	30	6	6.7	6.4	
4	45.4	31	4	6.5	6.2	
5	44.0	29	9	7.0	6.8	
6	44.1	30	3	7.6	7.1	
	45.9	35	10	12.8	11.8	
60°F.						
1	44.9	26	5	6.5	6.1	
2	44.0	23	4	5.7	5.2	
2 3 4 5 6 7	38,8	22	4	6.0	5.4 5.7	
4	41.8	27	6	6.4	5.7	
5	40.8	26	6	6.5	5.8	
6	41.0	27	2 6	7.2	6.3	
7	44.9	31	6	8.3	7.2	
70–75° F.						
1	37.9	24	4	6.1	5.3	
2	44.1	27	3	7.1	6.4	
3	38.8	29	8	7.8	6.8	
2 3 4 5	36.3	26	8	6.6	5.7	
	31.8	27	10	7.2	6.0	
6	37.8	28	4	7.8	6.3	
70-75° F. for 2 months, then 60° F.						
1	41.1	27	7	6.1	5,5	
	43.2	29	4	6.6	5.9	
2 3 4 5	40.8	26	6	6.5	5.8	
4	37.4	25	2	6.6	5.8	
5	43.2	30	7	7.8	6.8	

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