Abstract
The objective of this study was to determine the cultivation cycle of yacon in order to maximize the fructooligosaccharides content in the tuberous roots. Samples of tuberous roots were homogenized in ethanol 80%, then boiled in hot water and stored at -18°C. Sugars were extracted and total fructans, reducing sugars and fresh weigh were determine. The carbohydrates were qualified in 7, 8, 9 and 10 months after sowed by liquid chromatography (HPAEC). The results showed that the highest content of total fructose (91.84 mg/g fresh matter) and fructo-oligosaccharides were obtained in 8 months after sowed. The highest content of reducing sugars was obtained in these organs in 9 months and then the content of these decreased. © 2003 Altaga. All rights reserved.

Keywords
Polymnia sonchifolia, yacon, fructo-oligosaccharides, cultivation cycle