Sugar Research Australia

VARIETY GUIDE 2019/2020

Central Region

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to help growers in the Central canegrowing region with their agronomic considerations when selecting new varieties to plant and trial on their farms. The information comes from the best available data of regional variety performance and disease ratings. ***The information in the tables will help you understand:***

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OTHER REGIONS?

You can find all the regional variety guides on the SRA website ***sugarresearch.com.au***

(Cover page) *SRA Technician Mikayla Bowman part of the team harvesting an SRA variety trial in the Central Region.*

SRA acknowledges the assistance of Central Region Productivity Services Organisations in producing this publication.

NEW & RECENT VARIETIES AVAILABLE IN THE CENTRAL REGION

New Variety Recommendation and Release Process

Regional Variety Committees (RVC) have replaced Variety Approval Committees (VAC) in line with changes to Queensland biosecurity legislation. With membership drawn from growers, millers and productivity service groups specific to the region, the RVCs will continue to be responsible for variety release decisions. SRA supports these groups with secretariat support and the provision of technical information to assist the committee making decisions on particular varieties.

RVCs are composed of voting and non-voting members to ensure transparency in the decision making process.

The Central RVC (Sugarcane Biosecurity Zone 3) voting membership consists of one grower representative from Proserpine, Mackay and Plane Creek. A voting representative from Wilmar and Mackay Sugar also sit on the RVC. The Central RVC requires a majority vote for progression of a variety through the breeding program and a unanimous vote for the release of a variety.

If you would like more information on new variety release and regional variety committees, please visit the SRA website: ***sugarresearch.com.au/growers-and-millers/varieties/regional-variety-committees/***

Presented below are the results of trials conducted in the Central region. Yield (TCH) and CCS for each new variety are compared with the trial results of various standard varieties.

Variety: SRA22		***Parentage:*** *QS91-7179 x CP72-2086* **/** ***Summary:*** *Equal tonnes cane; higher CCS*								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	**CROP CLASS**	**YIELD (TCH)**				**CCS**				**# OF HARVESTS**
		SRA22	**Q208ϕ**	**Q238ϕ**	**KQ228ϕ**	**SRA22**	**Q208ϕ**	**Q238ϕ**	**KQ228ϕ**	
(2013 series FATs): 2014	Plant	84	78	85	78	16.5	16.2	16.4	15.9	4
2015	1R	97	95	95	89	18.0	17.4	17.6	18.0	4
2016	2R	98	96	94	91	17.1	16.9	16.3	16.9	4
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	75	81	76		17.2	17	16.4		3
2018	1R	86	96	90		17.8	17.2	17		3
Overall performance		**88**	**89**	**88**	*	**17.3**	**16.9**	**16.7**	*	**18**
Available 2020										
Comments:		SRA22 is a variety that is resistant to Pachymetra, smut, and Fiji leaf gall, and intermediate to leaf scald and red rot. It has equal TCH & higher CCS when compared to current commercial cane varieties. *KQ228ϕ was only evaluated in the 2013 series FAT and can only be compared against those particular plant and ratoon crops.								

Variety: SRA21		***Parentage:*** *QC82-663 x Q205ϕ* **/** ***Summary:*** *Equal tonnes cane; equal CCS*								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	**CROP CLASS**	**YIELD (TCH)**				**CCS**				**# OF HARVESTS**
		SRA21	**Q208ϕ**	**Q183ϕ**	**Q238ϕ**	**SRA21**	**Q208ϕ**	**Q183ϕ**	**Q238ϕ**	
(2011 series FATs): 2012	Plant	107	92	101		16.4	16.9	16.1		4
2013	1R	88	92	92		17.9	18.4	18.1		4
2014	2R	83	87	82		17.4	17.9	17.6		4
(2014 series FATs): 2015	Plant	90	95	89	98	17.5	17.4	17.2	17.2	4
2016	1R	101	104	102	98	16.8	16.8	17.0	16.8	4
2017	2R	80	84	80	80	18.5	18.5	18.3	18	4
Overall performance		**92**	**92**	**91**	*	**17.4**	**17.7**	**17.4**	*	**24**
Available 2019										
Comments:		SRA21 is a variety with resistant-intermediate rating for smut and Pachymetra, and is resistant to leaf scald and Fiji leaf gall. It has equal TCH against current commercial cane varieties. CCS is equal to current standards. Preliminary tests suggest good sugar early in the season.								

Variety: SRA13Φ	Parentage: QC88-284 x QC90-289 / Summary: Equal tonnes cane; equal CCS								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)				CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		SRA13Φ	Q208Φ	Q200Φ	Q238Φ	SRA13Φ	Q208Φ	Q200Φ	Q238Φ	
(2012 series FATs): 2013	Plant	93	84	85	88	17.8	17.9	17.5	18.1	3
2014	1R	96	92	86	98	18.0	18.2	17.9	18.2	3
2015	2R	70	72	65	75	18.0	18.1	18.1	17.9	3
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	64	69		64	17.4	17.7		17	4
2018	1R	84	92		86	17.5	17.6		17.4	4
Overall performance		**81**	**82**	*	**82**	**17.7**	**17.9**	*	**17.7**	**17**
Available 2018										
Comments:		SRA13Φ is a variety with intermediate rating for smut, and is resistant to leaf scald and Pachymetra. It has equal TCH against current commercial cane varieties. CCS is equal to current standards. *Q200Φ was only evaluated in the 2012 series FAT and can only be compared against those particular plant and ratoon crops.								

Variety: SRA12Φ	Parentage: Q233Φ x QC90-289 / Summary: Equal tonnes cane; lower CCS								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)				CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		SRA12Φ	Q208Φ	Q183Φ	Q238Φ	SRA12Φ	Q208Φ	Q183Φ	Q238Φ	
(2011 series FATs): 2012	Plant	108	92	101		15.6	16.9	16.1		4
2013	1R	95	91	92		17.4	18.4	18.1		4
2014	2R	86	87	82		17.1	17.9	17.6		4
(2014 series FATs): 2015	Plant	104	96	89	98	15.4	16.9	16.8	16.7	3
2016	1R	94	104	101	96	14.9	16.6	16.8	16.6	3
2017	2R	76	91	86	87	16.7	18.2	18.1	17.7	3
Overall performance		**94**	**93**	**92**	*	**16.3**	**17.5**	**17.2**	*	**21**
Available 2018										
Comments:		SRA12Φ is a variety with intermediate rating for smut, and is resistant to leaf scald and Pachymetra. It has equal TCH & lower CCS when compared to current commercial cane varieties. *Q238Φ was only evaluated in the 2014 series FAT and can only be compared against those particular plant and ratoon crops.								

Variety: SRA9Φ	Parentage: Q107 x H56-752 / Summary: Higher tonnes cane; lower CCS								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)				CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		SRA9Φ	Q208Φ	Q200Φ	KQ228Φ	SRA9Φ	Q208Φ	Q200Φ	KQ228Φ	
(2007 series FATs): 2008	Plant	95	90	84	85	16.0	16.7	16.5	16.7	4
2009	1R	80	80	74	75	15.3	16.0	15.8	16.1	4
2010	2R	100	76	68	70	14.6	14.6	14.8	14.4	2
2011	3R	32	33	30	36	14.8	15.4	15.6	15.4	1
(2009 series FATs): 2010	Plant	74	75	74	69	15.1	15.5	15.8	14.9	3
2011	1R	87	82	81	79	15.1	15.3	15.3	15.4	3
2012	2R	87	84	75	71	17.0	17.3	17.0	17.6	3
Overall performance		**83**	**79**	**75**	**74**	**15.6**	**16.0**	**15.9**	**15.9**	**20**
Available 2017										
Comments:		SRA9Φ is a variety with intermediate-susceptible rating for smut, and is resistant to leaf scald and Pachymetra. It has higher TCH against current commercial cane varieties. CCS is slightly lower than current standards.								

Variety: Q253Φ	Parentage: QN80-3425 x Q209Φ / Summary: Equal tonnes cane; lower CCS								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)				CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		Q253Φ	Q208Φ	Q240Φ	Q238Φ	Q253Φ	Q208Φ	Q240Φ	Q238Φ	
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	68	69	65	64	16.8	17.7	17.6	17	4
2018	1R	94	92	91	86	17.1	17.6	18.0	17.4	4
Overall performance		**81**	**81**	**78**	**75**	**17.0**	**17.7**	**17.8**	**17.2**	**8**
Available 2018										
Comments:		Q253Φ has equal TCH, lower CCS, intermediate for Pachymetra and resistant to smut.								

Variety: Q250Φ	Parentage: QN79-183 x QN89-1043 / Summary: Equal tonnes cane; higher CCS								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)				CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		Q250Φ	Q183Φ	Q208Φ	Q238Φ	Q250Φ	Q183Φ	Q208Φ	Q238Φ	
(2013 series FATs): 2014	Plant	86	88	77	85	17.9	17.2	17.1	17.0	3
2015	1R	91	92	94	94	19.4	18.4	18.1	18.3	3
2016	2R	90	91	96	92	17.5	17.6	17.2	16.5	3
Overall performance		**89**	**90**	**89**	**90**	**18.2**	**17.7**	**17.5**	**17.3**	**9**
Available 2017										
Comments:		Q250Φ has equal TCH, higher CCS when compared to the current standards, resistent to smut and leaf scald, intermediate- susceptible for Pachymetra.								

SRA22

SRA21

SRA13[Φ]

SRA12[Φ]

SRA9[Φ]

Q253[Φ]

Q250[Φ]

For more information on *variety field trials* contact:

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DISEASE RESISTANCE

Disease has the potential to lower the performance of varieties on your farm. This table will help you select varieties that will perform well given the diseases that may be present on your farm. White indicates unknown.

Central Disease Ratings

VARIETY	SMUT	PACHYMETRA	LEAF SCALD	CHLOROTIC STREAK	ORANGE RUST	BROWN RUST	RSD	RED ROT	YELLOW SPOT	FIJI LEAF GALL	MOSAIC
SRA22	R	R	R-I		R	R		I		R	R
SRA21	R-I	R-I	R		R			I		R	I
SRA13ф	I	R	R		R			R-I		R	R
SRA12ф	I	R	R		R			I		I	I
SRA9ф	I-S	R	R		R			R-I		I	R
Q253ф	R	I	R		R	I-S	S	I	S	S	R
Q252ф	I	I	R		R		I-R	R	I	I	R
Q250ф	R	I-S	R		I		I-R	I	R-I	S	R-I
Q249ф	R	I	R		R		S	R-I	R	R	R-I
Q247ф	I	R	R		R		S	R	S	R	R
Q242ф	R-I	R	R	I	R		S	I-R	R	R	R
Q240ф	R	I	R	I-R	R		I-R	R	I	I-S	R
Q238ф	R	R	R	S	R	R	I	R-I	S	R-I	R
Q232ф	R-I	I	R	R	R		I	R-I	R	I	R
KQ228ф	I	I	R	S	R	R	S	R	I	I	R
Q226ф	R	R-I	R		R	I-S	I	R	R	R	R
Q212ф	R	R	R	R	R	I-S	I	R	S	R-I	R
Q209ф*	S	R	R		R	R			R	R-I	R
Q208ф	R-I	I	R	R	R	R	I-R	R	R	I-S	R
Q200ф	I	I	R	I	R	R	I-R	R	R-I	I	R
Q190ф	I	R	R		R	R-I	I-R	R	I-S	R	R
Q183ф	R	R	I	S	R	R	I	I	I-S	R	R
Q177ф*	R	S	R		I	R	I	R-I	R	R-I	R-I
Q171ф*	R	S	R		R	R	I	I		R	S
Q138	S	R	R	R-I	R	R	S	I-S	I	R	I-S
Q135	I	I	R	S	R	R	I-R	S	R	R	S
Q96	R-I	I-S	R-I	R	R	R	S	R	R	S	R
SP80-1816	I-S	R	R		R		I-R		I	R	R

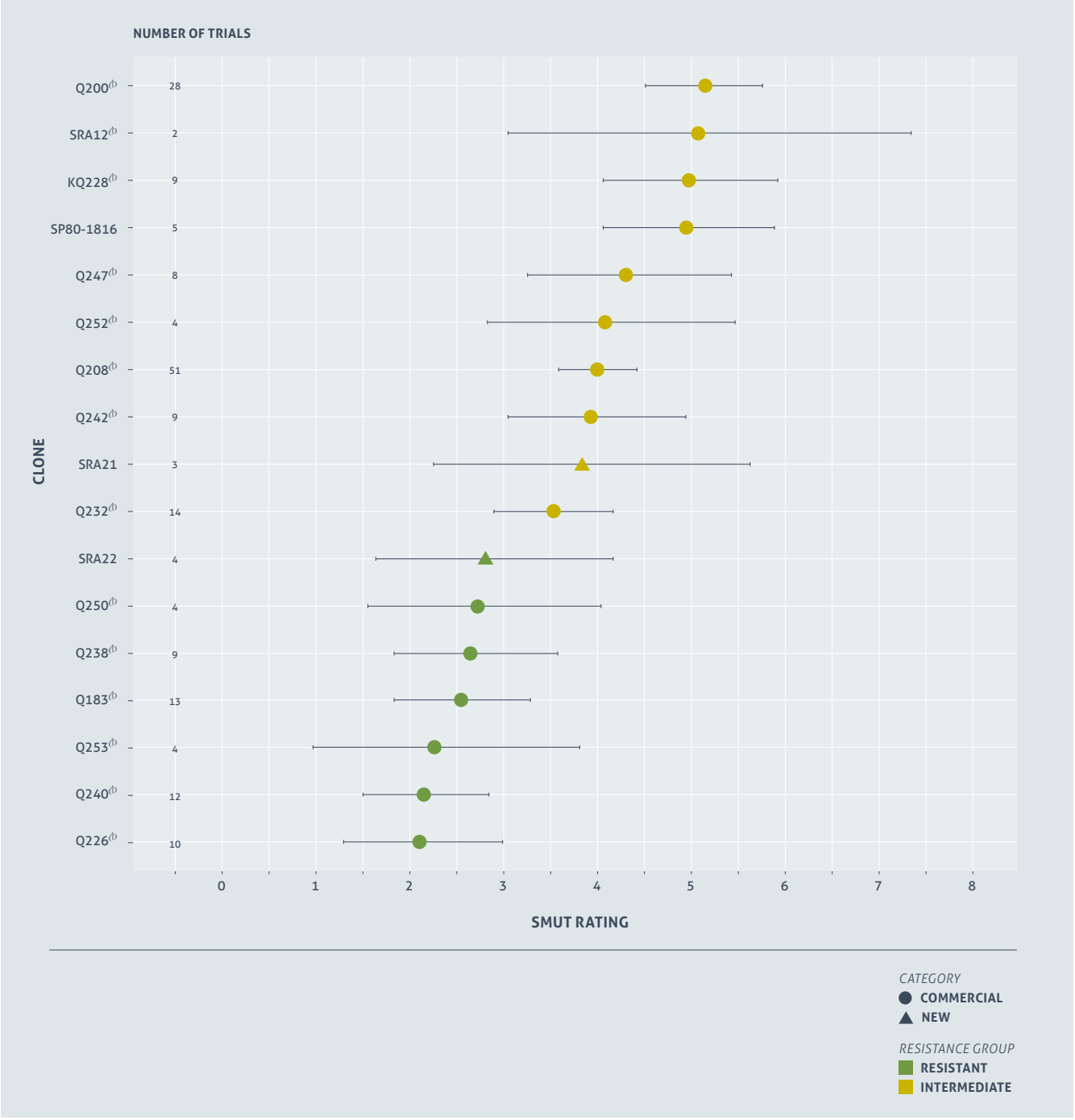
* Ratoon only

Rotation of varieties is important in the management of diseases. Arrange for your local productivity services officer to inspect your farm for disease. The Diseases of Australian Sugarcane Field Guide provides information on diseases including how to identify and manage them. The guide is available on the SRA website **www.sugarresearch.com.au**

- Resistant **(R)**
- Resistant -Intermediate **(R-I)**
- Intermediate **(I)**
- Intermediate- Susceptible **(I-S)**
- Susceptible **(S)**

NEW PRESENTATION FORMAT FOR SMUT RATINGS

Smut resistance ratings are calculated from the incidence and severity of infection compared to standard varieties in inoculated field trials. The graphic includes the rating and the 95% confidence interval for each variety. The confidence interval is influenced by factors such as the number of trials and the uniformity of smut infection. For example the variety Q200$^{\phi}$ has been tested in 28 trials and has a narrow confidence interval from 4.5 to 5.75 while the new variety SRA22 has only been tested in 4 trials and ranges from 1.6 to 4.25 and new variety SRA21 has only been tested in 3 trials and ranges from 2.25 to 5.65. Rating confidence will improve as more data is collected.



HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Select varieties for a harvest plan that can be followed to maintain maximum CCS throughout the year. The charts below indicate early, mid or late sugar varieties.

Central Harvest Management			
VARIETY	EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR
SRA22	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SRA21	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SRA13Φ	Unknown	Unknown	Poor
SRA12Φ	Poor	Average	Average
SRA9Φ	Poor	Average	Good
Q253Φ	Unknown	Good	Poor
Q252Φ	Average	Good	Good
Q250Φ	Good	Good	Average
Q249Φ	Average	Average	Average
Q247Φ	Average	Average	Average
Q242Φ	Average	Average	Average
Q240Φ	Good	Good	Good
SP80-1816	Poor	Good	Good

VARIETY	FAST & RELIABLE GERMINATION	TRASH YIELD	TRASH	LODGING TOLERANCE	TOLERANCE TO WATER-LOGGING	RATOON AFTER EARLY HARVEST	RATOON AFTER LATE HARVEST
SRA22	Good	Average	Free-Average	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SRA21	Reliable	Unknown	Average	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
SRA13Φ	Good	Average	Free-Average	Poor	Unknown	Unknown	Good
SRA12Φ	Slow/Average	High	Average-Tight	Ave-Good	Poor	Unknown	Unknown
SRA9Φ	Good/reliable	Med/High	Average-Tight	Average	Poor	Unknown	Good
Q253Φ	Very good	Good	Free-Average	Average	Unknown	Good	Good
Q252Φ	Good	Unknown	Free	Average	Unknown	Dependent on moisture	Dependent on moisture
Q250Φ	Good	High	Free-Average	Poor	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown

Maximise your profit at harvest:
Selecting varieties for specific sugar maturity profiles, planting and harvesting them for optimal CCS maturity at time of harvest can make a significant difference in the profit your crop can make for you. Making harvest decisions based on in-field maturity maximises profit making decisions.

General
- Good
- Average
- Low
- Poor
- Unknown

Germination
- Reliable
- Good / Reliable
- Very good / Good
- Slow / Average
- Unknown

Trashing
- Free
- Free-Average
- Average
- Average-Tight
- Tight

Trash yield
- High
- Medium / High
- Good
- Average

VARIETY BY HERBICIDE SCREENING TRIALS

Sugarcane varieties can have sensitive responses to herbicides with some being more impacted than others. Data outlining susceptibility can be important to optimise productivity outcomes.

Since 2014, SRA has conducted trials following a two-step process to obtain reliable data for the susceptibility of varieties to herbicide:

- a fully randomised replicated pot trial in year one to shortlist the most susceptible combinations of varieties and herbicides.
- a fully randomised replicated field trial in year two to confirm that the shortlisted combinations have an impact on yield.

In year three, the process stars again with new combinations of newly released varieties and herbicides.

In these trials, products are applied at their maximum label rate (and their minimum water label rate) when plant cane is at four to six leaf stage. Weekly phytotoxicity ratings are conducted in the pot trials using the EWRC (European Weed Research Council) rating scale and the aerial plant dry biomass is measured 10 weeks after spraying. Field trials are conducted on plant cane and yield is measured at harvest using a weigh truck. In all trials, KQ228$^{(l)}$ is used as a reference variety.

A range of factors including environmental conditions and plant health status strongly influence herbicide efficacy on target weeds and sugarcane. The screening trials are intended to identify varieties with sensitivity to particular herbicides, and do not predict the outcome in all situations.

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TABLE 1 Summary of phytotoxicity ratings and symptoms obtained on the reference variety KQ228$^{(l)}$

	2,4-D	METRIBUZIN	AMETRYN+ TRIFLOXY SULFURON	ASULAM	MSMA	2,4-D + IOXYNIL	METOLACHLOR	AMETRYN	FLUMIOXAZIN	AMICARBAZONE
SYMPTOM DESCRIPTION	small white spotty discolorations	slight yellowing of the whole plant	slight yellow blotching	bright yellow blotching	large necrotic lesions	small yellow spotty discolorations	small necrotic lesions	yellowing of the whole plant	large necrotic lesions	small white spotty discolorations
SYMPTOM PICTURE						NA				
SYMPTOM SEVERITY ON KQ228$^{(l)}$	mild	mild	mild	medium	medium to severe	mild	medium	medium	severe	mild
KQ228$^{(l)}$ PHYTO RATING RANGE	1.2 to 1.7	1.2 to 1.8	1.3	1.2 to 2.6	1.7 to 3.5	1.2	1.4 to 2.8	1.8 to 2.7	3.9 to 4.1	1.4 to 1.5
NUMBER OF TRIALS	4	4	1	4	4	1	4	3	2	2

MILD
MEDIUM
MEDIUM TO SEVERE
SEVERE

Herbicide toxicity symptoms for all tested varieties are compared to KQ228(ϕ) in Table 2. Green cells indicate varieties that display less severe symptoms than KQ228(ϕ). White cells indicate varieties with similar symptoms to KQ228(ϕ) and red cells indicate varieties that display more severe symptoms than KQ228(ϕ).

- SYMPTOMS LESS SEVERE THAN KQ228(ϕ)
- SYMPTOMS SLIGHTLY LESS SEVERE THAN KQ228(ϕ)
- SYMPTOMS SLIGHTLY MORE SEVERE THAN KQ228(ϕ)
- SYMPTOMS MORE SEVERE THAN KQ228(ϕ)
- -- COMBINATION OF HERBICIDE BY VARIETY NOT TESTED

TABLE 2 Visual symptoms of herbicide toxicity compared to KQ228(ϕ).
This table indicates if varieties display more or less phytotoxicity symptoms than KQ228(ϕ)

KQ228(ϕ) COMPARED TO:	2,4-D	METRIBUZIN	AMETRYN+ TRIFLOXY SULFURON	ASULAM	MSMA	2,4-D + IOXYNIL	METOLACHLOR	AMETRYN	FLUMIOXAZIN	AMICARBAZONE
SRA9(ϕ)			--			--				
SRA12(ϕ)			--			--				
SRA13(ϕ)			--			--				
Q208(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q232(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q238(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q240(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q242(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q249(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q250(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q252(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q253(ϕ)								--	--	--
SP80-1816								--	--	--

Biomass reduction in pot trials and yield loss in field trials in response to herbicide application is shown in Table 3. Dry cane biomass was measured 10 weeks after spraying and was compared to the biomass of the untreated variety. Green cells indicate varieties whose biomass was not reduced by the herbicide. Red cells indicate varieties with reduced biomass due to the herbicide treatment compared to the untreated control. Cells with a star display the combinations of herbicide by variety tested in the field to date. The orange star indicates varieties with yield reduced by more than 10% compared to the untreated control (no yield loss was significantly different to the untreated control at p = 0.05).

- NO BIOMASS REDUCTION COMPARED TO UNTREATED
- NO SIGNIFICANT BIOMASS REDUCTION COMPARED TO UNTREATED
- SLIGHT BIOMASS REDUCTION COMPARED TO UNTREATED
- SIGNIFICANT BIOMASS REDUCTION COMPARED TO UNTREATED
- -- UNTREATED
- ★ COMBINATION OF HERBICIDE BY VARIETY NOT TESTED COMBINATION TESTED IN FIELD TRIAL WITH YIELD
- ★ LOSS < 10% COMPARED TO UNTREATED COMBINATION TESTED IN FIELD TRIAL WITH YIELD LOSS > 10% COMPARED TO UNTREATED

TABLE 3 Biomass and yield difference compared to the untreated control of the same variety

	2,4-D	METRIBUZIN	AMETRYN+ TRIFLOXY SULFURON	ASULAM	MSMA	2,4-D + IOXYNIL	METOLACHLOR	AMETRYN	FLUMIOXAZIN	AMICARBAZONE
SRA9(ϕ)			--			--				
SRA12(ϕ)			--			--				
SRA13(ϕ)			--			--				
Q208(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q232(ϕ)		★		★	★			--	--	--
Q238(ϕ)		★		★	★			--	--	--
Q240(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q242(ϕ)		★		★	★			--	--	--
Q249(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q250(ϕ)		★		★	★			--	--	--
Q252(ϕ)								--	--	--
Q253(ϕ)								--	--	--
SP80-1816								--	--	--
KQ228(ϕ) biomass reduction range	0-49%	13-60%*	40%	0-48%*	9-56%*	12%	0-35%	38-80%	37-55%	0-36%
Number of trials where KQ228(ϕ) was tested	4	4	1	4	4	1	4	3	2	2

VARIETY ADOPTION IN EACH MILL AREA

Data below can be found in QCANESelect® under the regional reporting tab. Use this information to assess yield performance of varieties over a number of years. Caution should be taken when comparing commercial performance of newer varieties (from plant and young ratoons) to older/ established varieties (which include older ratoons).

Proserpine Mill (% TONNES 2018)

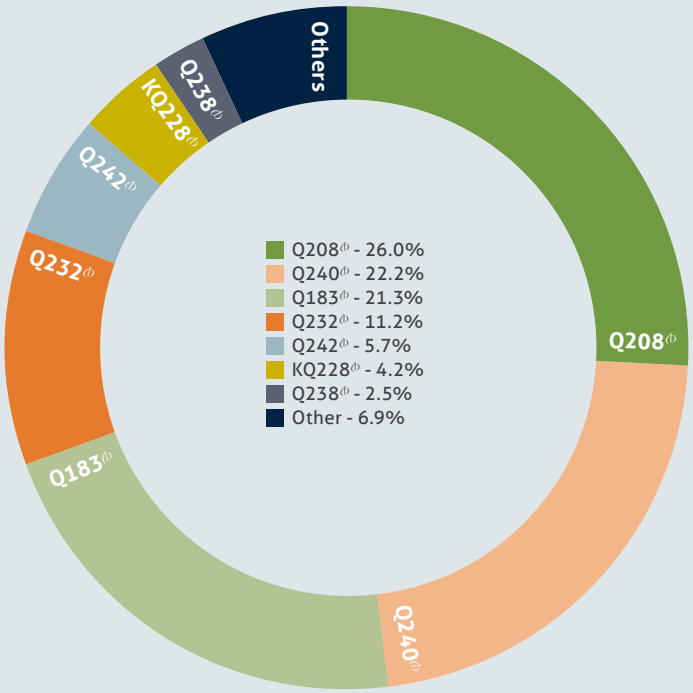
The Proserpine Mill area harvested 1,561,592 tonnes from 21,255 hectares in 2018 with an average TCH of 73.5T/Ha. The mill average CCS increased to 13.67, up from 12.69 in 2016.

Q208Ф remains the most dominant variety for the region at 26.0% of total tonnage harvested in 2018, there has been a steady decline over the years with 29% in 2017 and a high of 48.5% in 2015.

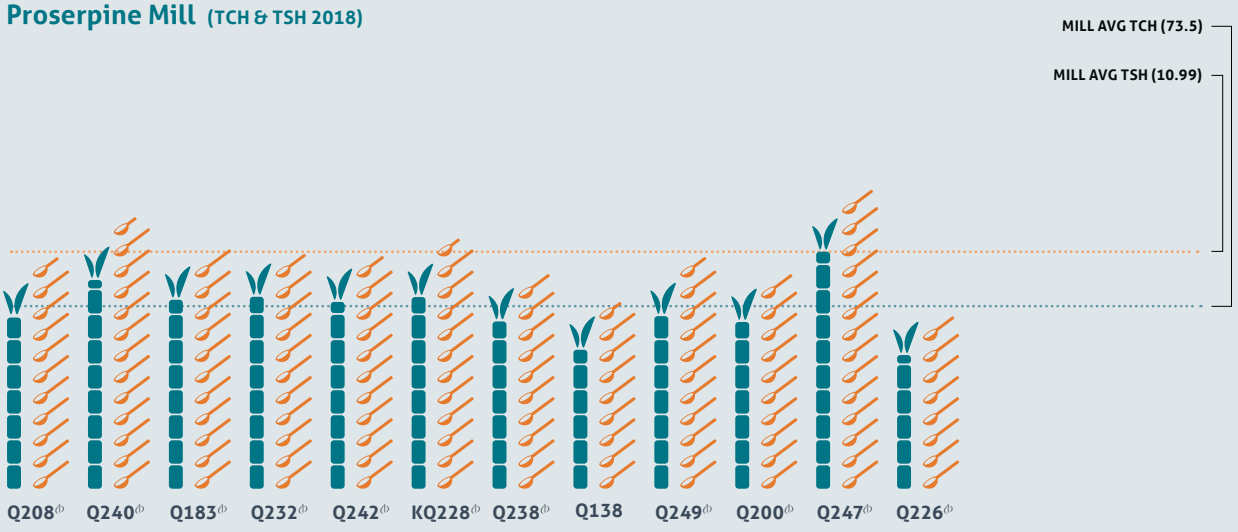
Q240Ф has been gaining ground in the last few years and in 2018 became the second highest harvested cane at 22.2% of total production, almost doubling from 2016 with 11.5%.

Q183Ф still remains a close third with 21.3% of production.

Cane varieties above 1% of production that performed above mill average TSH were Q240Ф, KQ228Ф, and Q183Ф .



Proserpine Mill (TCH & TSH 2018)

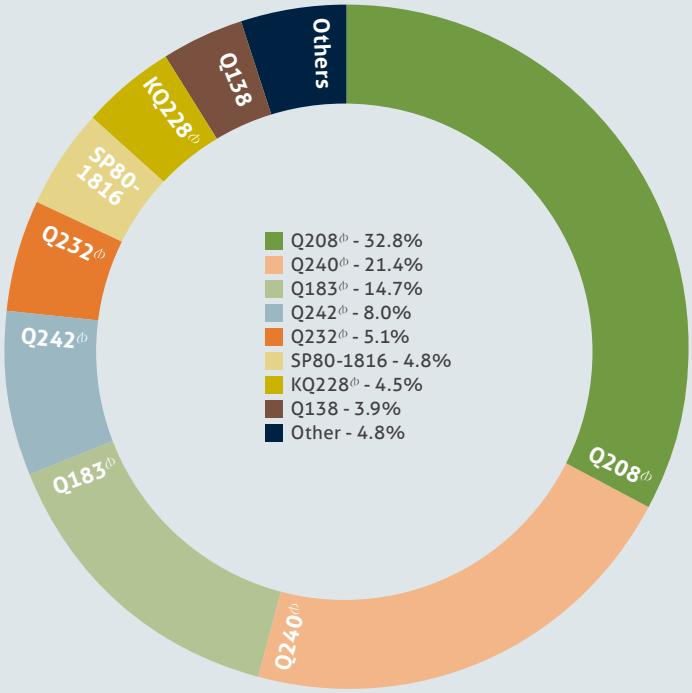


Mackay Sugar Mills (% TONNES 2018)

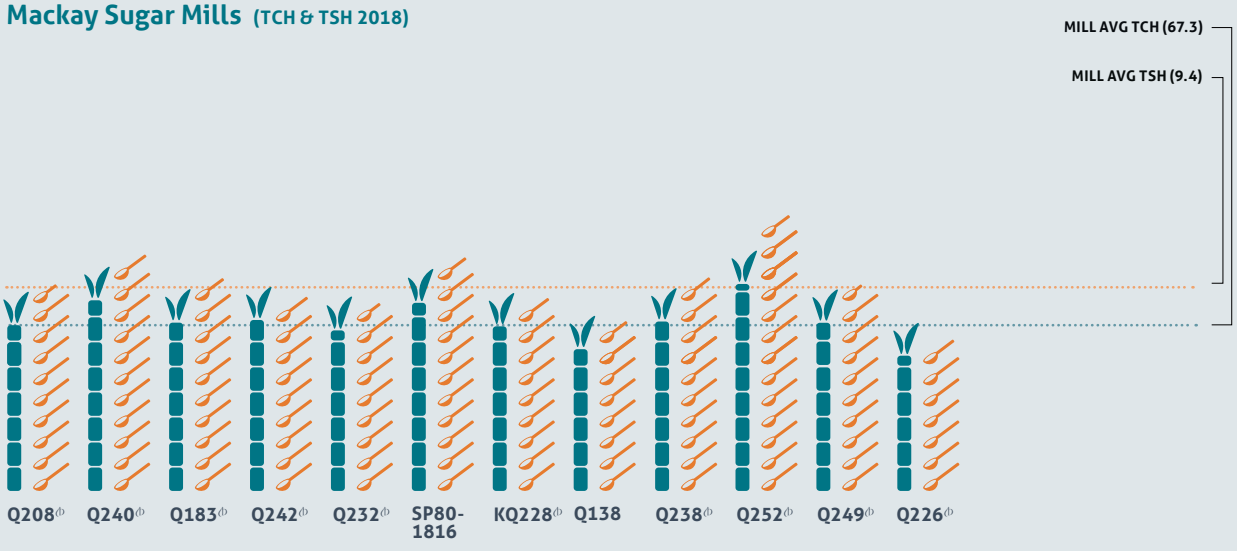
Mackay Sugar Mills reported 4,672,633 tonnes of cane harvested from 69,436 hectares in 2018. The mill average TCH has dropped slightly to 67.3T/Ha and mill average CCS was slightly higher to 13.96.

Q208Φ again is the highest for the region at 32.8% of total production but is in line with the general downward trend for the whole of the central region. In 2012 Q208Φ was 50% of the Mackay production. Q240Φ is maintaining its steady increase in production with 21.4% in 2018, 16% in 2017 and 11% in 2016. Q183Φ has remained consistent at 14.7% in 2018 taking the top three varieties within the mill region to 69%.

The top three recently released varieties also have the highest total sugar per hectare well above the district average. Q252Φ, SP80-1816 and SRA9Φ. These are influenced by the high proportion of plant cane to ratoon cane harvested but they are varieties to watch into the future.



Mackay Sugar Mills (TCH & TSH 2018)

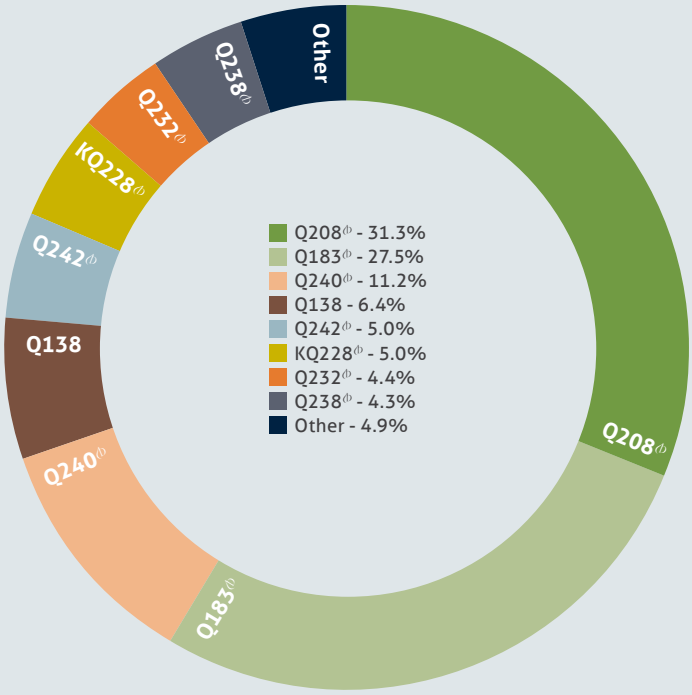


Plane Creek (% TONNES 2018)

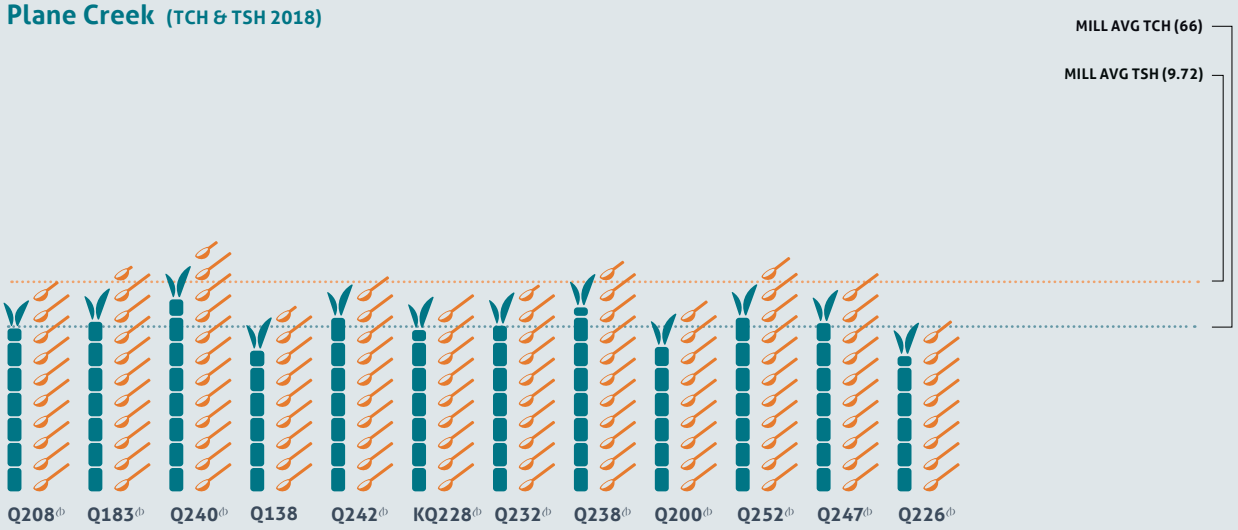
The Plane Creek region harvested 1,142,588 tonnes from 17,309 hectares in 2018. With a mill average CCS of 14.7 in 2018, and an average TCH of 66T/Ha.

Q208Ф has remained steady for the last few years at 31.3% of total production from a peak of 42.5% in 2012. Q183Ф still remains in second position in Plane Creek unlike the Mackay and Proserpine regions. It has increased to 27.5% up from 25.5% in 2017. Q240Ф is steadily increasing with 11.2% of total production, an increase from 4.5%. In 2016, it was the top performer with the highest TCH average of 76T/Ha and equal third highest CCS of 14.91. Q138 is maintaing its presence within the Plane Creek mill area, remaining at a consistent rate of 6.4%.

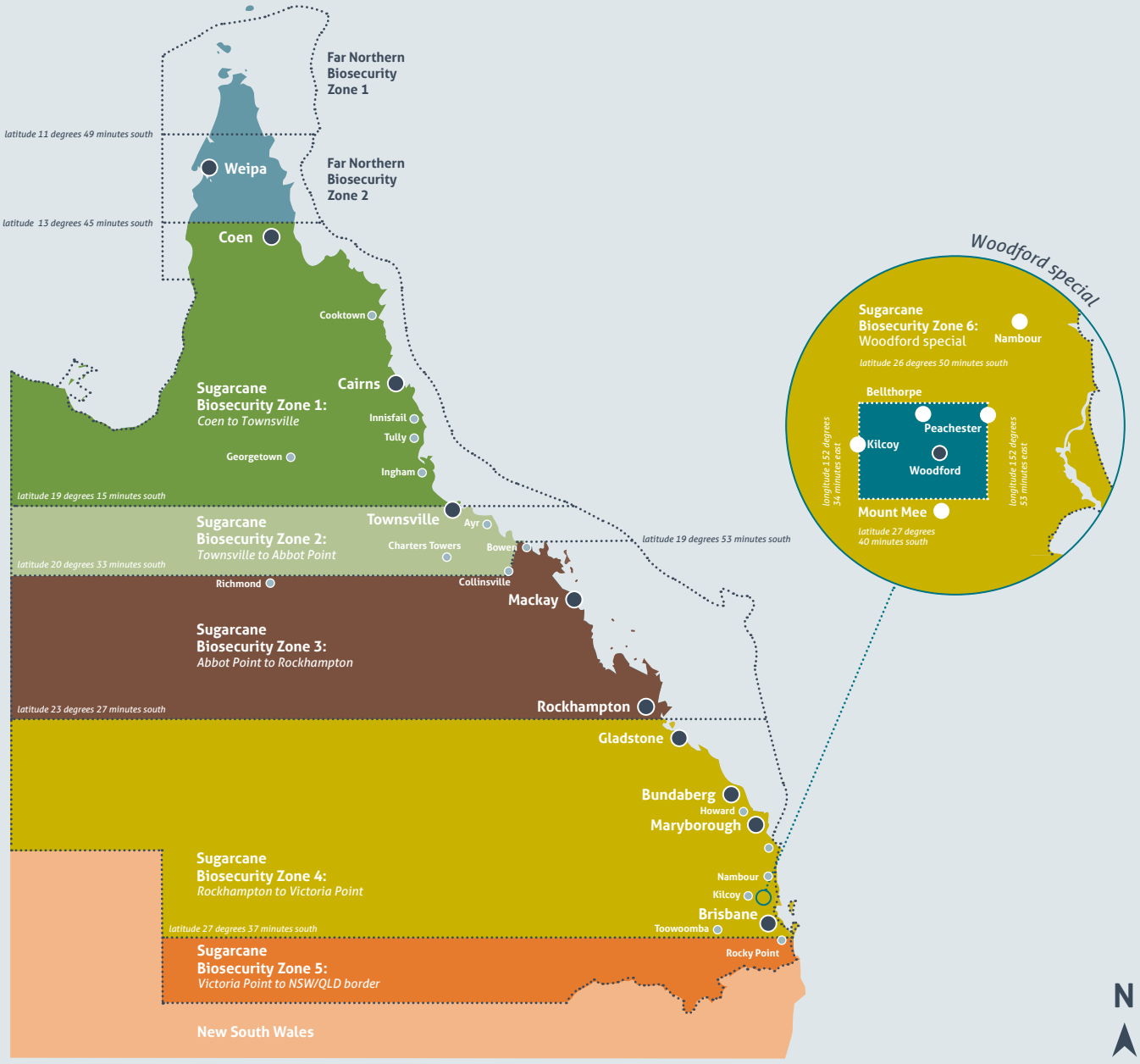
Q135, Q252Ф, Q240Ф, Q183Ф, and Q190Ф were the top five for mill average CCS.



Plane Creek (TCH & TSH 2018)



SUGARCANE BIOSECURITY ZONE MAP



- All appliances (harvesters and other sugarcane machinery) moving between sugarcane biosecurity zones must:
  - > be free of cane trash and soil
  - > be inspected by an authorised inspection person who will issue a Plant Health Assurance Certificate (PHAC)
  - > be accompanied during transportation by the PHAC.
- Machinery moving from NSW to Qld requires a Plant Health Certificate issued by NSW Department of Primary Industries.
- Machinery inspections can be arranged by contacting the local Productivity Service organisation.
- To move sugarcane plants (stalks, leaves, potted plants, etc) between biosecurity zones contact Biosecurity Queensland (13 25 23).

PROPAGATING NEW VARIETIES

Contact your local productivity services group for regional advice on varieties. They can supply clean planting material of recommended varieties and place orders for tissue culture plantlets.

Mackay Area Productivity Services (MAPS):
T 07 4963 6830

Plane Creek Productivity Services Ltd:
T 07 4956 1488

Sugar Services Proserpine Ltd:
T 07 4945 0513

Billet planting

PLANT MATERIAL FROM AN APPROVED-SEED SOURCE

Approved-seed provides cane growers with disease-free seed of varieties that are true-to-type. Disease-free seed (stalks, billets, setts or tissue culture plantlets used for planting) is a key control measure for systemic diseases of sugarcane, including chlorotic streak, Fiji leaf gall, leaf scald, mosaic, ratoon stunting disease (RSD) and smut. Provision of disease-free or approved-seed in each mill area in the Australian sugar industry is coordinated by SRA, in cooperation with the local productivity services group. SRA provides a disease-free supply of DNA fingerprinted new varieties. The local productivity services group multiplies the new varieties, maintaining the disease-free status and distributes the approved-seed to growers.

GROW SUGARCANE SPECIFICALLY FOR PLANTING MATERIAL

The block selected for growing plant material should be disease-free, weed-free and sugarcane volunteer-free. When selecting cane for planting material the cane should be less than one year old, erect and free from damage. Plan for two or more eyes per sett when harvesting for billets or stick planting. For non-irrigated regions plants should be well watered, have adequate nutrition immediately prior to harvest for billet planting. For irrigated regions you may need to reduce fertiliser rates, withhold irrigation or plant late in the season. The cane should also have originated from an approved seed plot and therefore be no more than three years away from long hot water treatment.

The best "whole farm" disease risk minimisation and productivity strategies can be achieved through consistent access to clean seed. It is highly recommended that cane considered for use as planting material be RSD tested well in advance of harvest so an informed choice can be made prior to planting.

SET UP THE HARVESTER FOR CUTTING HIGH QUALITY SOUND BILLETS

Rubber coating rollers and optimising the roller speeds to chopper speed will produce good quality billets with minimal split or crushed ends and damaged eyes. Reduce the speed of harvesting and maintain sharp basecutter and chopper blades for clean cutting. Disinfect the machinery used to cut and plant new varieties to limit the spread of disease and weeds.

Tissue culture

CALCULATE HOW MUCH TISSUE CULTURE TO ORDER

We've made it easier with our online tissue culture calculator. It demonstrates the speed at which large quantities of planting material can be produced from a set number of plantlets or for a set cost. Below is a look-up table including common results from the calculator (available at sugarresearch.com.au/calculator).

TRY TISSUE CULTURE AS AN APPROVED CLEAN SEED SOURCE

Tissue culture is an excellent source of clean seed for all varieties and can help reduce the spread of serious diseases such as RSD, smut and Fiji leaf gall. Tissue-cultured plantings are more uniform and produce more sticks than conventional plantings so larger quantities of planting material are achieved the following year. This means earlier commercial-scale production of more productive new varieties can be achieved when using tissue culture.

STAGE	ORDER DEADLINE FOR SPRING PLANTING	ORDER DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN PLANTING
Grower finalises order. Productivity services group places order with SRA.	15 November	1 July
Productivity services group receives established plantlets from nursery and distributes to growers.	Delivery on agreed date between grower, productivity services group and nursery. Available in August.	Delivery on agreed date between grower, productivity services group and nursery. Available in March.

ESTIMATED COST AND TIME TO SCALE UP NEW VARIETY PRODUCTION USING TISSUE CULTURE

Yr 1	No. plantlets ordered	100	250	500	1000
	Approximate cost	$150	$375	$750	$1500
	M row planted @ 0.8m	80	200	400	800
Yr 2	M row available for planting	2400	6000	12000	24000
	Ha avail for planting @ 1.8m	0.4	1.1	2.2	4.3

For more information on *varieties*, contact:
SRA Adoption Officer **Clare Gersch**
E cgersch@sugarresearch.com.au **T** 07 4963 6839

For more information on *tissue culture*, contact:
SRA Tissue Culture Manager **Clair Bolton**
E cbolton@sugarresearch.com.au **T** 07 3331 3374

PLANTING AND MANAGING TISSUE-CULTURED PLANTLETS IN THE FIELD

Planting

- Prepare soil to a fine tilth to ensure good soil/root contact.
- A seedling planter can be used if one is available, although hand planting small numbers is not a huge job. Plant them deep at the bottom of a drill to prevent stool tipping.
- Fill in after early growth.
- Plant the plantlets 500 mm to 1 m apart. A good distance is 800 mm, which will allow tillering to produce a high number of sticks.

Irrigating

- Provision of water is the most critical factor for the successful establishment of tissue culture plantlets.
- Irrigate plantlets immediately after planting and monitor them to ensure they don't dry out over the first three weeks to get the roots well established.
- If you do not have access to flood or sprinkler irrigation a simple irrigation system can be set up using cheap drip tape and an in-line filter hooked up to your garden tap or water tanker.

Insects

- If you expect problems with insects then an application of an insecticide drench (such as chlorpyrifos or imidacloprid) at planting will protect the young plantlets.
- In canegrub-prone areas use your standard grub control treatment.

Fertiliser

- Fertiliser requirements of the tissue cultured plantlets are the same as for billet plantings.
- If possible, plant with a planter mix to maintain good early growth, and side-dress later to avoid fertiliser burn.

Weeds

Weed control is important for good establishment and growth.

- Ideally pre-irrigate the soil to germinate weeds, then apply a knock-down herbicide or cultivate just prior to planting to reduce the weed pressure on young plantlets.
- Allow at least one week after planting before applying pre-emergent herbicides, longer if planted into cold, wet soils, as the root system needs time to establish:
  - > Atradex® at 2.5 kg/ha plus Dual Gold® at 1.5 L/ha has been successfully applied over the top, for grass and broadleaf weed control.
  - > Do not use diuron as young plantlets are sensitive to this product.
- Sempra® at 100 g/ha plus Activator at 200 mL/100 L for nutgrass. Both applications were sprayed over the top for nutgrass control.
- Do not use paraquat unless you have no other option and only on established plantings.

QCANESelect®

- Using sugarcane varieties that are best-suited to your farm may help maximise its productivity and profitability.
- QCANESelect® is an online tool that allows you to review, compare and select varieties for use on each block on your farm.
- To access QCANESelect® and the tissue culture calculator visit the SRA website **sugarresearch.com.au**
- The information in QCANESelect® is updated regularly based on our most recent trials and from observations and experiences of varieties that are growing in the field.
- Once you have identified the best varieties for planting on your farm, contact your local productivity services group to place orders for tissue-cultured plantlets.

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