



Sugar Research
Australia

VARIETY GUIDE 2026/2027

Burdekin Region



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to help growers in the Burdekin cane-growing 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 on the following pages will help you understand:



New and recent varieties available in the Burdekin region

3



Smut ratings

5



Disease resistance

6



Harvest management

7



Variety adoption in the Burdekin

8



Approved Planting and Ratooning/Ratooning Only List

9

WANT TO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE OTHER REGIONS?

You can find all the regional variety guides on the SRA website.
Visit sugarresearch.com.au or scan the QR code.



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NEW AND RECENT VARIETIES AVAILABLE IN THE BURDEKIN REGION

Variety Recommendation and Release Process

Regional Variety Committees (RVCs) are responsible for variety release decisions. Membership is drawn from growers, millers, and productivity services specific to the region. SRA supports these groups with secretariat support and the provision of technical information to assist the committee making decisions on varieties. RVCs are composed of voting and non-voting members to ensure transparency in the decision-making process.

The Burdekin RVC (Sugarcane Biosecurity Zone 2) voting membership consists of one representative from CANEGROWERS Burdekin Limited, Kalamia Cane Growers Organisation, and QCA, and one miller representative from Wilmar Sugar. In the event of an even vote, the manager of Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS) will have the deciding vote. The Burdekin RVC requires a majority vote for progression of a variety through the program and a unanimous vote for release of a variety.

SRAW46[Ⓢ]

SRAW46[Ⓢ] was released in 2025. SRAW46[Ⓢ] progressed through the Wilmar Technical Field Department's early stage breeding program and then was tested in combined SRA and Wilmar FAT trials.

SRA32[Ⓢ]

SRA32[Ⓢ] was released in the Burdekin in 2021 and has subsequently been released in all growing regions in Queensland since. SRA32[Ⓢ] has been planted into strip trials by Burdekin Productivity Services. In 2025, 48 000 tonnes was delivered to Burdekin mills.

If you would like more information on new variety releases and regional variety committees, visit the SRA website: sugarresearch.com.au or scan the QR code.



Presented below and over the page are the results of Final Assessment Trials (FATs) conducted in the Burdekin region. Yield (TCH) and Commercial Cane Sugar (CCS) for each new variety are compared with the trial results of various standard varieties.

Variety: SRAW46 [Ⓢ] QK14-2492		Parentage: Q208 x N29 / Summary: Higher tonnes; lower CCS										
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TONNES CANE/HA)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRAW46 [Ⓢ]	KQ228 [Ⓢ]	Q240 [Ⓢ]	Q183	Q208	SRAW46 [Ⓢ]	KQ228 [Ⓢ]	Q240 [Ⓢ]	Q183	Q208	
2017 Series FAT: 2018	Plant	164	156	154	135	149	17.2	17.2	16.8	17.0	16.8	3
2019	1R	136	132	127	123	124	18.1	18.0	17.6	18.3	18.0	3
2020	2R	122	108	108	104	105	17.4	17.6	17.1	17.7	17.3	3
2019 Series FAT: 2020	Plant	149	151	146	147	160	15.4	16.0	15.7	15.8	15.8	4
2021	1R	121	120	117	115	126	16.6	17.2	16.8	17.0	16.8	4
2022	2R	118	115	111	109	122	16.7	17.3	16.9	17.3	17.2	4
2020 Series FAT: 2021	Plant	156	145	145	132	147	14.6	16.1	15.2	16.1	15.3	3
2022	1R	139	130	125	118	127	16.6	17.5	16.8	17.5	17.2	3
2023	2R	121	117	112	106	113	17.2	17.8	17.3	18.0	17.6	3
Overall performance		136	131	128	121	131	16.6	17.2	16.7	17.2	16.9	30

Key SRAW46[Ⓢ] facts

- Released in the Burdekin in 2025
- Has a very good disease resistance package being resistant to smut, leaf scald and red rot
- FAT trial results were variable, though the variety showed an increase in TCH with a decrease in CCS compared to average performance of KQ228[Ⓢ], Q240[Ⓢ], Q183 and Q208



NEW AND RECENT VARIETIES AVAILABLE IN THE BURDEKIN REGION (CONT)

Variety: SRA32 [Ⓛ] QS09-8404		Parentage: QN80-3425 x QN86-2168 / Summary: High Tonnes, Low CCS										
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TONNES CANE/HA)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA32 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	Q240 [Ⓛ]	Q183	Q208	SRA32 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	Q240 [Ⓛ]	Q183	Q208	
2015 Series FAT: 2016	Plant	171	158	151	142	153	14.5	16.0	15.1	15.5	15.3	3
2017	1R	156	139	131	125	140	15.9	16.5	15.8	16.1	16.4	3
2018	2R	113	106	96	90	106	17.3	18.4	18.3	18.1	18.0	3
2017 Series FAT: 2018	Plant	152	151	148	128	144	15.7	17.0	16.6	16.9	16.7	4
2019	1R	137	132	126	121	122	16.8	17.5	17.1	17.8	17.6	4
2020	2R	129	107	108	105	104	17.2	17.8	17.3	17.9	17.5	3
Overall performance		143	133	128	119	129	16.2	17.2	16.7	17.1	16.9	20

Key SRA32[Ⓛ] facts

- Released in Burdekin (2021) North (2022), Central (2024) and Herbert (2025, Southern in 2025)
- A high biomass with high vigour that may allow scope for refinement of N rates. Seek agronomic advice
- Typically lower sugar and benefits from mid to late harvest. Consider the use of crop ripeners to help maximize its CCS returns. Seek agronomic advice
- This variety has intermediate rating to smut. Growers should consider their risk to this disease prior to planting
- More suited to marginal soils, to maximise CCS
- Large, bulged eyes, growers should carefully manage plant source material
- The large eyes can germinate and lead to side shooting on exposed edges of the crop

SRAW46[Ⓛ]



SRA32[Ⓛ]



Prominent eyes in SRA32[Ⓛ]

For more information on variety field trials contact:

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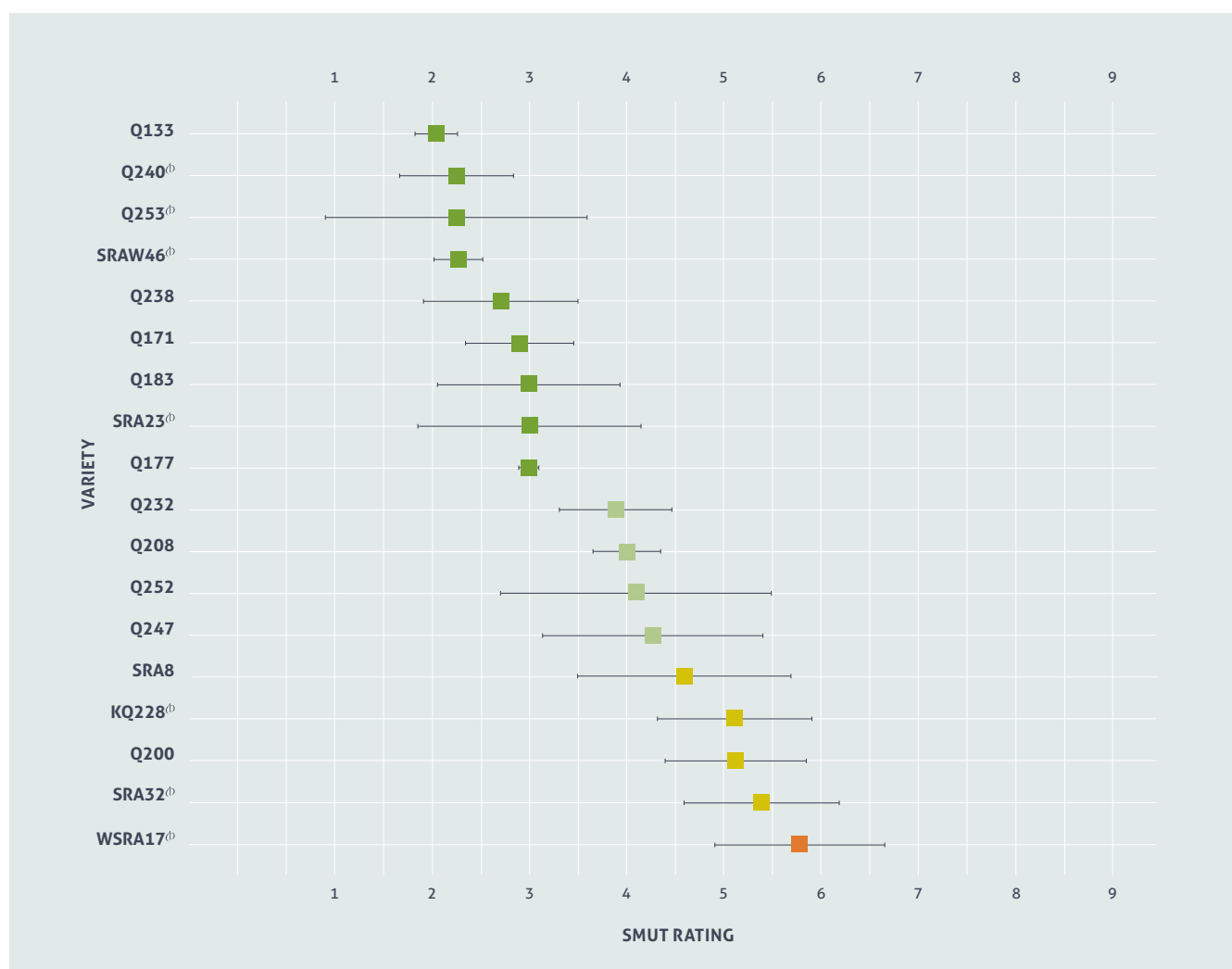


SMUT RATINGS

Smut resistance ratings are calculated from the incidence and severity of infection compared to standard varieties in inoculated field trials.

The graphic below includes ratings 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. Rating confidence will improve as more data is collected.



RESISTANCE GROUP

- RESISTANT (R)
- INTERMEDIATE - RESISTANT (I-R)
- INTERMEDIATE (I)
- INTERMEDIATE - SUSCEPTIBLE (I-S)
- SUSCEPTIBLE (S)
- UNKNOWN (U)

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.

Burdekin Disease Ratings										
CLONE	SMUT	LEAF SCALD	PACHYMETRA	CHLOROTIC STREAK	ORANGE RUST	BROWN RUST	RED ROT	YELLOW SPOT	FIJI LEAF GALL	MOSAIC
SRAW46 ^(b)	R	R	I	U	U	U	R	U	R	R
SRA32 ^(b)	I	R	I	U	U	U	I	U	I-R	R
SRA23 ^(b)	R	R	I	U	U	U	I	U	I	R
WSRA17 ^(b)	I-S	R	I	U	U	U	R	U	I	R
SRA8	I	R	I-R	U	R	R	I	U	R	R
Q253 ^(b)	R	R	R	U	R	I-S	I	S	S	R
Q252	I-R	R	I	U	R	U	R	I	I	R
Q247	I-R	R	R	U	R	U	R	S	R	R
Q240 ^(b)	R	R	I	I-R	R	U	R	I	I-S	R
Q238	R	R	R	S	R	U	I-R	S	I-R	R
Q232	I-R	R	I	R	R	U	I-R	R	I	R
KQ228 ^(b)	I	R	I	S	R	R	R	I	I	R
Q208	I-R	R	I	R	R	R	R	R	I-S	R
Q200	I	R	I	I	R	R	R	I-R	R	R
Q183	R	I	R	S	R	R	I	I-S	R	R
Q177	R	R	S	U	I	R	I-R	R	I-R	I-R
Q171	R	R	S	U	R	R	I	U	R	S
Q133	R	I-R	S	I-S		R	I	U	S	U

Rotation of Varieties

Rotation of varieties for each crop cycle 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. Visit sugarresearch.com.au or scan the QR code.



You will note that Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) resistance ratings are not included in this variety guide. Varietal resistance is not one of the three pillars of RSD disease management; growers should continue to ensure that approved seed cane is used to establish crops, that crops are planted into volunteer-free land and the equipment is decontaminated regularly.

No sugarcane varieties are resistant to RSD: they can all become infected, suffer yield losses, and further spread the disease.

Some varieties are more sensitive to RSD and carry significantly higher levels of the bacteria. In situations where RSD is a high risk and hygiene measures are not guaranteed, it may be appropriate to avoid varieties such as KQ228^(b) and Q253^(b).

- RESISTANT (R)
- INTERMEDIATE - RESISTANT (I-R)
- INTERMEDIATE (I)
- INTERMEDIATE- SUSCEPTIBLE (I-S)
- SUSCEPTIBLE (S)
- UNKNOWN (U)



HARVEST MANAGEMENT

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

Burdekin Harvest Management				
VARIETY	EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR	LODGING TOLERANCE
SRA32 ^{db} (Based on limited mill data)	Poor	Poor	Poor	Poor
SRA23 ^{db}	Average	Good	Average	Average
WSRA17 ^{db}	Average	Average	Average	Average
Q253 ^{db}	Poor	Poor	Poor	Average
Q252	Average	Good	Good	Average
Q247	Average	Average	Average	Average
Q240 ^{db}	Average	Average	Average	Average
Q238	Poor	Poor	Poor	Good
Q232	Poor	Poor	Poor	Average
KQ228 ^{db}	Good	Good	Average	Average
Q208	Average	Good	Good	Average
Q200	Poor	Average	Good	Average
Q183	Average	Good	Good	Good
Q177	Average	Average	Average	Average
Q171	Good	Average	Average	Average
Q133	Poor	Poor	Average	Average
Q171	Good	Average	Average	Average
Q133	Poor	Poor	Average	Average

Maximise your profit at harvest:

Selecting varieties for specific sugar maturity profiles, and planting and harvesting them for optimal CCS maturity 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.

GOOD
AVERAGE
LOW
POOR
UNKNOWN



VARIETY ADOPTION IN THE BURDEKIN

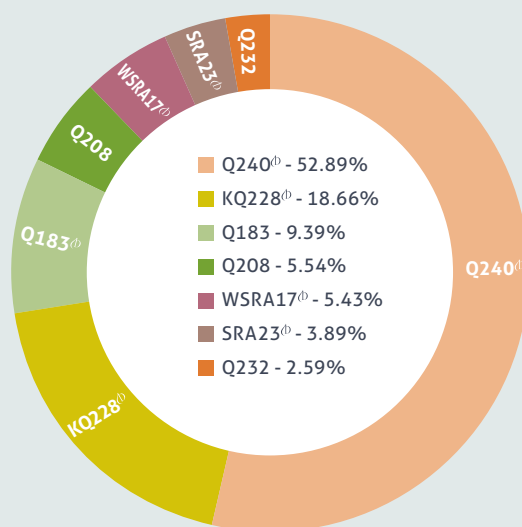
Use this information to assess yield performance of varieties over a number of years. Caution should be taken when comparing commercial performance of newer varieties (from plant and young ratoons) to older/established varieties (which include older ratoons).

BURDEKIN DISTRICT PRODUCTION (% TONNES 2025)

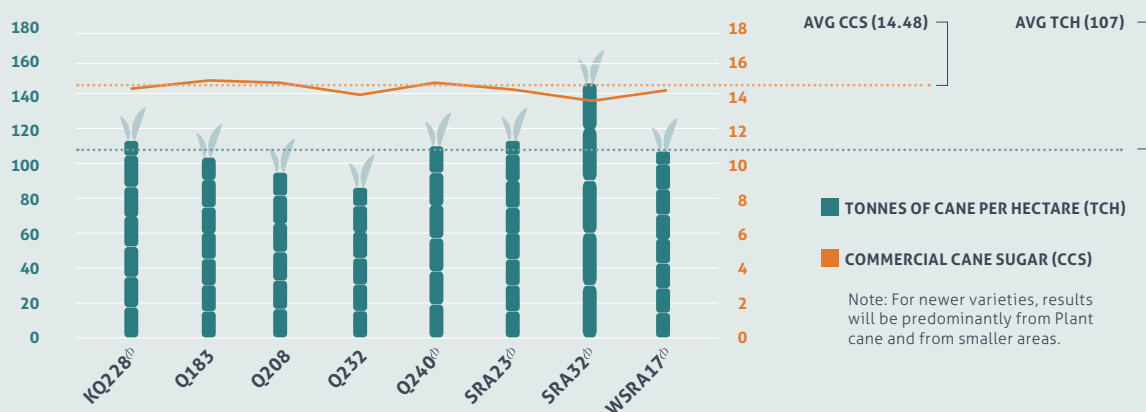
Burdekin mills cut 7.6m tonnes over 70727 ha for the 2025 season. This gave average tonnes cane/ha of 107 and average CCS of 14.48.

Q240[®] remains the dominant variety grown in the Burdekin region with over 50% of the crop harvested in 2025.

Close to 20% of the 2025 crop was KQ228[®]. More recently released varieties, WSRA17[®], SRA23[®] and SRA32[®] accounted for 10% of the crop. Small amounts of SRA27 was also delivered to Burdekin mills in 2025.



ALL BURDEKIN DISTRICT PRODUCTION



APPROVED PLANTING AND RATOONING/RATOONING ONLY LIST

All varieties in the Burdekin Approved Planting and Ratooning list meet the disease thresholds for the region. Some varieties, eg CP74-2005 are on the list for a specific purpose, striate mosaic.

In 2023, the Regional Variety Committee added SRA26[Ⓛ] and SRA27, two varieties released in the northern regions, to the Approved list. Both varieties meet the disease thresholds for the Burdekin region.

Tellus was removed from the Burdekin Approved Planting and Ratooning list in 2026.

VARIETY	DATE APPROVED FOR BURDEKIN	APPROVAL TYPE	SMUT	LEAF SCALD	PACHYMETRA	COMMENT
CP74-2005	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	R	I-R	S	Approved for Striate Mosaic areas
Q96	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	I-R	I-R	I-S	
Q133	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	R	I-R	S	
Q156	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	I-S	R	I	Approved for Striate Mosaic areas
Q171	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	S	
Q177	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	S	
Q183	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	R	I	R	
Q200	19/3/2007	Planting and Ratooning	I	R	I	
Q208	5/9/2003	Planting and Ratooning	I-R	R	I	
KQ228 [Ⓛ]	10/4/2006	Planting and Ratooning	I	R	I	
Q231	30/8/2013	Planting and Ratooning	R	I-R	R	
Q232	18/9/2008	Planting and Ratooning	I-R	R	I	
Q238	16/9/2011	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	R	
Q240 [Ⓛ]	16/9/2011	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	I	
Q247	16/9/2011	Planting and Ratooning	I-R	R	R	
Q250	21/9/2012	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	I	
Q252	30/8/2013	Planting and Ratooning	I-R	R	I	
Q253 [Ⓛ]	30/8/2013	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	R	
SRA8	19/4/2016	Planting and Ratooning	I	R	I-R	
SRA23 [Ⓛ]	8/5/2019	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	I	
SRA32 [Ⓛ]	23/3/2021	Planting and Ratooning	I	R	I	
SRA26 [Ⓛ]	22/3/2023	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	R	
SRA27	22/3/2023	Planting and Ratooning	I-R	R	I-S	
WSRA17 [Ⓛ]	21/6/2018	Planting and Ratooning	I-S	R	I	
SRW46 [Ⓛ]	27/3/2025	Planting and Ratooning	R	R	I	

■ RESISTANT (R)
■ INTERMEDIATE - RESISTANT (I-R)
■ INTERMEDIATE (I)
■ INTERMEDIATE- SUSCEPTIBLE (I-S)
■ SUSCEPTIBLE (S)



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