Sugar Research Australia

VARIETY GUIDE
2026/2027

Central Region

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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:***

- **New and recent varieties available in the Central region** 4
- **Smut ratings** 6
- **Pachymetra ratings** 7
- **Disease resistance** 8
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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.

(Cover page) *Variety team in the field selecting seedlings for propagating to Stage 2.*
(Left) *Sugarcane Breeder Ankush Wankhade leading the team.*

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

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NEW AND RECENT VARIETIES AVAILABLE IN THE CENTRAL REGION

Variety Recommendation and Release Process

Regional Variety Committees (RVCs) are responsible for making decisions on the release of new varieties. Composed of members from grower groups, millers, and regional productivity service organisations, the RVCs meet annually in March/April to review and decide on variety releases. SRA provides secretariat support to these committees and supplies technical information to assist in making informed decisions about specific 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, and representation from Wilmar and Mackay Sugar.

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 releases and regional variety committees, visit the SRA website: ***sugarresearch.com.au or scan the QR code.***

Presented below and over the following pages are the results of trials conducted in the Central region. Yield (tonnes cane per hectare - TCH) and Commercial Cane Sugar (CCS) for each new variety are compared with the trial results of various standard varieties.

Variety: **WSRA17Ф** KQ08-2180 — ***Parentage:*** *Q208 x Tellus* **/** ***Summary:*** *Lower tonnes cane; equal CCS.*

TRIAL HARVEST YEAR		CROP CLASS	YIELD (TONNES CANE/HA)			CCS			# OF HARVESTS
			WSRA17Ф	KQ228Ф	Q240Ф	WSRA17Ф	KQ228Ф	Q240Ф	
(2015 series FATs):	2016	Plant	89	98	96	16.4	16.7	16.1	4
	2017	1R	74	74	83	17.8	17.8	17.9	4
	2018	2R	74	75	83	18.2	18.3	18.1	4
Overall performance			**79**	**83**	**87**	**17.5**	**17.6**	**17.4**	**12**
Contact your local PSO for whole stalk or billet availability and to order as Tissue Culture									

Key WSRA17Ф facts

- **Released in Burdekin (2019) and Central region (2025) targeting sodic duplex soils**
- **Can be slow to germinate, but it keeps growing throughout the season. Do not plant under wet conditions or in mid winter**
- **Do not plant in smut (intermediate-susceptible) or pachymetra (intermediate) prone areas**

Variety: **SRA32Ф** QS09-8404 — ***Parentage:*** *QN80-3425 x QN86-2168* **/** ***Summary:*** *Higher tonnes cane; slightly lower CCS.*

TRIAL HARVEST YEAR		CROP CLASS	YIELD (TONNES CANE/HA)				CCS				# OF HARVESTS
			SRA32Ф	Q208	Q240Ф	SRA9Ф	SRA32Ф	Q208	Q240Ф	SRA9Ф	
(2020 series FATs):	2021	Plant	139	128	126	133	17.8	18.0	18.0	17.5	3
	2022	1R	138	124	114	119	16.8	16.9	17.1	16.6	3
	2023	2R	83	70	71	79	18.0	18.3	18.3	17.9	3
(2022 series FATs):	2023	Plant	142	122	123	145	16.7	17.1	16.6	16.0	3
	2024	1R	133	101	112	106	17.4	17.5	17.4	16.8	3
	2025	2R	126	103	110	114	17.4	17.7	17.3	17.0	3
Overall performance			**127**	**108**	**109**	**116**	**17.4**	**17.6**	**17.5**	**17.0**	**18**
Contact your local PSO for whole stalk or billet availability and to order as Tissue Culture											

Key SRA32Ф facts

- **Released in Burdekin (2021), North (2022), Central (2024) and Herbert (2025)**
- **A high biomass line with high vigour that may allow scope for refinement of N rates, seek agronomic advice to better manage this variety**
- **Typically lower sugar and benefits from mid to late harvest. Consider the use of crop ripeners to help maximise its CCS returns, seek agronomic advice advice before applying a crop ripener**
- **This variety has intermediate reactions to pachymetra and smut, growers should consider their risk to these diseases and consider pachymetra soil testing prior to planting**
- **Suited to sodic and low fertility soils. Avoid planting this variety on fertile soils because it will lodge and generally have lower than expected CCS**
- **Due to its large, bulged eyes, growers should carefully manage plant source material**
- **The large eyes may side shoot on exposed edges of the field**
- **The variety can germinate slowly, especially during cool and wet conditions. It is recommended to minimise soil cover at planting time to support rapid germination (especially when mound planting)**

Variety: **SRA40ϕ** QS07-7049		***Parentage:*** *CP70-1547 x QA96-1492* ***/ Summary:*** *Higher tonnes cane; lower CCS.*						
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	**CROP CLASS**	**YIELD (TONNES CANE/HA)**			**CCS**			**# OF HARVESTS**
		SRA40ϕ	**Q208**	**Q240ϕ**	**SRA40ϕ**	**Q208**	**Q240ϕ**	
(2014 series FATs): 2015	Plant	105	95		15.7	17.4		4
2016	1R	112	104		16.0	16.8		4
2017	2R	86	84		17.2	18.5		4
(2018 series FATs): 2019	Plant	115	91	96	15.2	16.9	16.7	3
2020	1R	100	103	99	15.6	16.8	16.8	3
2021	2R	105	102	104	16.6	17.8	17.8	3
Overall performance		**104**	**96**	*	**16.1**	**17.4**	*	**21**
Contact your local PSO for whole stalk or billet availability and to order as Tissue Culture								

Key SRA40ϕ facts

- **SRA40ϕ was released in the Herbert and Central regions in 2023 and in NSW in 2024**
- **An excellent disease profile with resistance to smut, Pachymetra, leaf scald, red rot, orange rust and mosaic, giving yield stability and profitability to growers**
- **A viable option in blocks with poor soils and high Pachymetra fields**
- **Suited to most soils, excluding high fertility soils**
- **Steady continued growth through autumn and winter, mid-late season harvest**
- **Nitrogen could be managed to maximise CCS, seek agronomic advice**
- **May be responsive to crop ripeners (especially early in the season); seek agronomic advice before applying a crop ripener**
- **Similar reaction to brown rust as Q253ϕ (intermediate to susceptible), but can recover later in season**
- **A fast and reliable germinator which ratoons well**
- **A large stool with high stalk numbers of good length**
- **Sparse arrowing, lodging tolerant, low suckering**

Variety: **SRA26ϕ** QN08-2282		***Parentage:*** *QN97-2122 x Q146* ***/ Summary:*** *Slightly below tonnes cane; higher CCS.*								
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	**CROP CLASS**	**YIELD (TONNES CANE/HA)**				**CCS**				**# OF HARVESTS**
		SRA26ϕ	**Q208**	**Q240ϕ**	**SRA9ϕ**	**SRA26ϕ**	**Q208**	**Q240ϕ**	**SRA9ϕ**	
(2020 series FATs): 2021	Plant	119	128	121	130	17.7	17.1	17.3	16.8	3
2022	1R	126	133	127	126	17.4	17.1	17.2	16.7	3
2023	2R	77	79	79	85	18.1	17.8	18.0	17.4	3
Overall performance		**107**	**113**	**109**	**113**	**17.7**	**17.3**	**17.5**	**17.0**	**9**
Contact your local PSO for whole stalk or billet availability and to order as Tissue Culture										

Key SRA26ϕ facts

- **SRA26ϕ was released in the North (2019), Herbert (2020), Central (2022) and Burdekin (2023)**
- **Excellent resistance to smut and Pachymetra, making it a good option for growers with higher Pachymetra spore counts to rotate their varieties**
- **Performs well on well-drained soils. Does not tolerate long periods of wet conditions on heavier soils**
- **Ratoonability may be poor on wet and dry clay soils and sodic soils**
- **CCS levels generally good all season**
- **A fast and reliable germinator with a large canopy that fills in quickly, providing good canopy closure.**
- **Leaves may appear light green to golden colour as the crop matures**
- **The crop may be difficult to harvest early in the morning and when conditions are wet because of the stringy nature of the trash**
- **Internodes of even length and protected eyes making it an ideal variety for billet planting**
- **Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn if stick planting, due to its hairiness**
- **When harvesting, cut slightly above ground to improve ratooning. This variety dislikes being harvested deep and under wet conditions**
- **Anecdotal field evidence suggests that this variety may be sensitive to Ametryn herbicides, so seek agronomic advice when using these products**

WSRA17ϕ

SRA32ϕ

SRA40ϕ

SRA26ϕ

For more information on *variety field trials* contact:
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M 0418 907 755

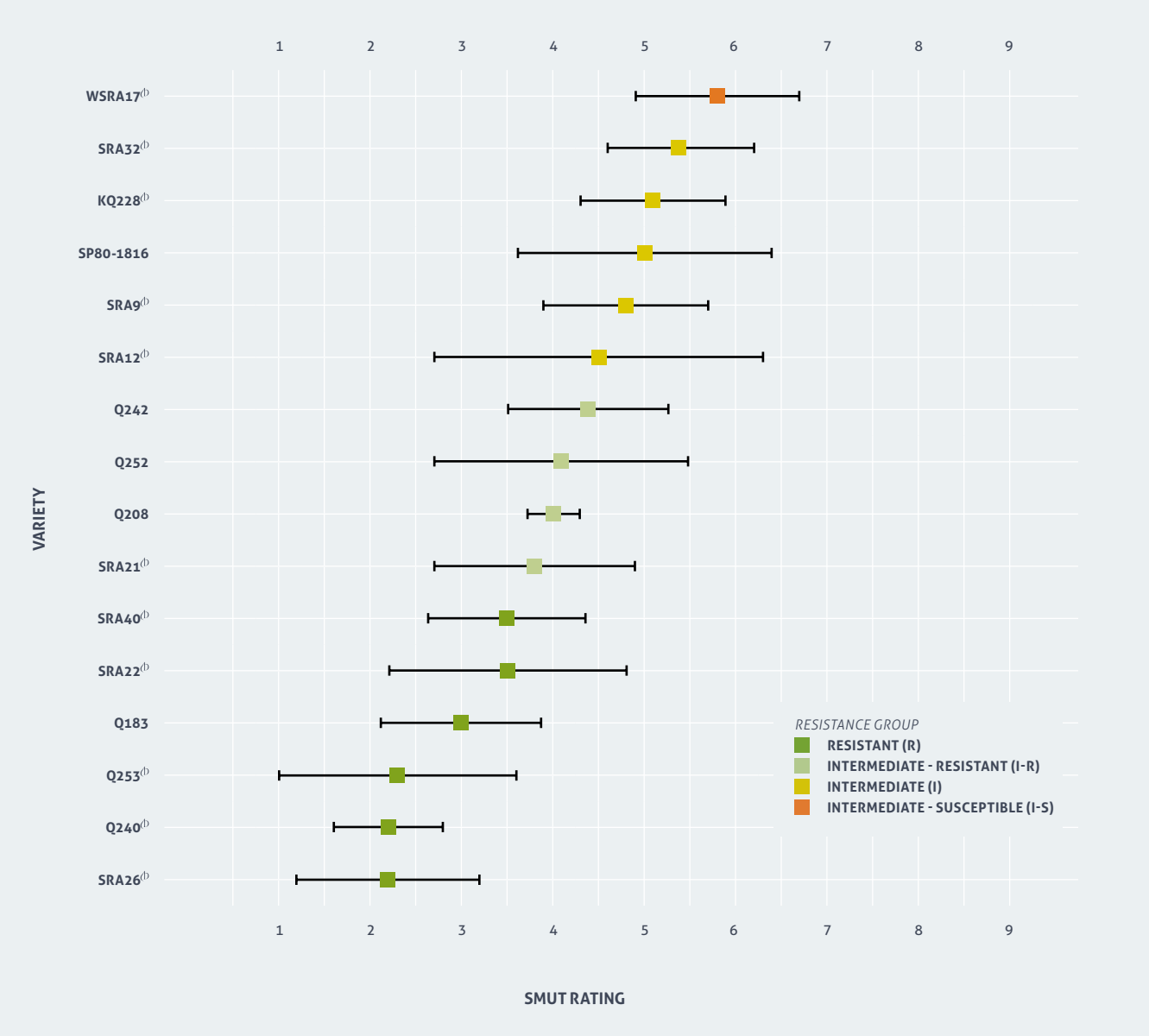
SMUT RATINGS

Smut resistance ratings are calculated from the incidence and severity of infection in a test clone compared to standard varieties in inoculated bench 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 times a variety has been tested and variability of smut infection within each trial.

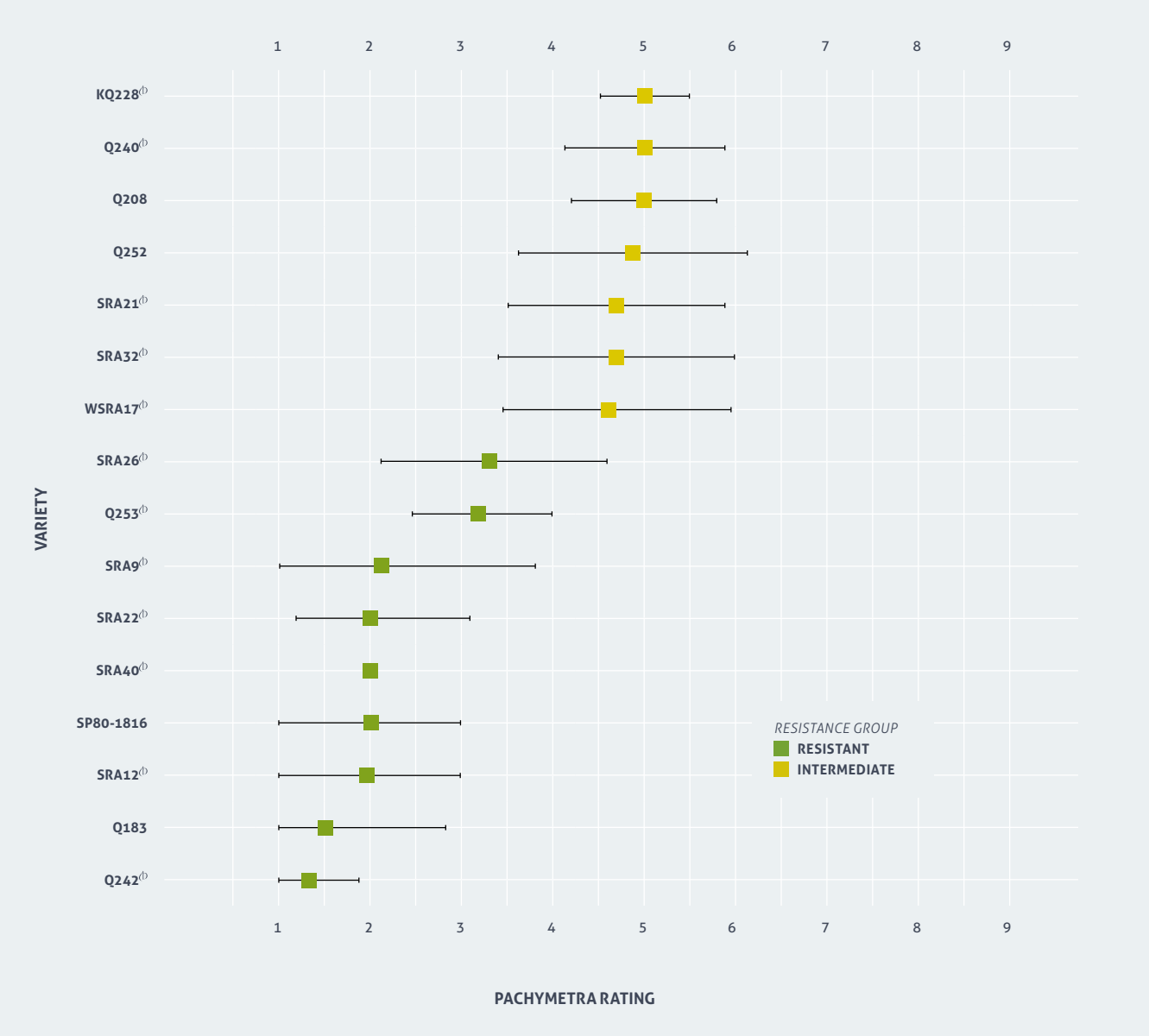
Rating confidence will improve as more data is collected.



PACHYMETRA RATINGS

Pachymetra resistance ratings are calculated from the severity of infection in a test clone compared to standard varieties in inoculated bench 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 times a variety has been tested and variability of Pachymetra infection within each trial. Rating confidence will improve as more data is collected.



DISEASE RESISTANCE

Disease has the potential to lower the performance of varieties on your farm. This table contains all of the varieties approved for planting in the Central region, and will help you select varieties that will perform well given the diseases that may be present on your farm.

Central Disease Ratings										
VARIETY	SMUT	PACHYMETRA	LEAF SCALD	RED ROT	CHLOROTIC STREAK	FIJI LEAF GALL	ORANGE RUST	BROWN RUST	YELLOW SPOT	MOSAIC
WSRA17(ф)	I-S*	I	R	R		I				R
SRA32(ф)	I	I	R	I		I-R		R		R
SRA40(ф)	R	R	R	R		I				I-R
SRA26(ф)	R	R	R	R		I-R	R		R	S
SRA22(ф)	R	R	I-R	I		R	R	R		R
SRA21(ф)	I-R	I	R	I		R	R		R	I
SRA13(ф)	I	R	R	I-R		R	R			R
SRA12(ф)	I	R	R	I		I	R		I-R	I
SRA9(ф)	I	R	R	I-R		I	R		I-R	R
Q253(ф)	R	R	R	I		S	R	I-S	S	R
Q252	I-R	I	R	R		I	R		I	R
Q250	R	I	R	I		I-S	I		I-R	R
Q249	R	I-R	R	I-R		R	R		R	R
Q247	I-R	R	R	R		R	R		S	R
Q242	I-R	R	R	I-R	I	R	R		R	R
Q240(ф)	R	I	R	R	I-R	I-S	R		I	R
Q238	R	R	R	I-R	S	I-R	R	R	S	R
Q232	I-R	I	R	I-R	R	I	R		R	R
KQ228(ф)	I	I	R	R	S	I	R	R	I	R
Q226	R	I-S	R	R		R	R	I-S	R	R
Q208	I-R	I	R	R	R	I-S	R	R	R	R
Q200	I	I	R	R	I	R	R	R	I-R	R
Q190	R	R	R	R		R	R	I-R	I-S	R
Q183	R	R	I	I	S	R	R	R	I-S	R
Q138	S	R	R	I-S	I-R	R	R	R	I	I-S
SP80-1816	I	R	R	R		R	R		I	R

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.**

NOTE: 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 management; growers should continue to ensure that approved seed cane is used to establish crops, that crops are planted into volunteer-free land and equipment is regularly decontaminated.

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(ф) and Q253(ф).

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

*PROVISIONAL RATING

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Select varieties for a harvest plan that can be followed to maintain maximum CCS throughout the year. The tables below indicate early, mid or late sugar varieties. The information presented in this table for recently released varieties is based on very limited information and could be expected to differ in different circumstances and conditions. SRA will continue to monitor this information and update as more becomes available.

Central Harvest Management			
VARIETY	EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR
WSRA17(◊)	Average	Average	Average
SRA32(◊)	Average	Good	Good
SRA40(◊)	Poor	Average	Average
SRA26(◊)	Average	Good	Good
SRA22(◊)	Average	Good	Average
SRA21(◊)	Good	Good	Average
SRA13(◊)	Average	Average	Poor
SRA12(◊)	Poor	Average	Average
SRA9(◊)	Average	Average	Good
Q253(◊)	Good	Good	Average
Q252	Average	Good	Good
Q250	Good	Good	Average
Q247	Average	Average	Average
Q242	Average	Average	Average
Q240(◊)	Good	Good	Good
Q238	Good	Good	Good
Q232	Poor	Good	Poor
KQ228(◊)	Good	Good	Average
Q208	Good	Good	Good
Q183	Good	Good	Good
Q138	Poor	Poor	Average
SP80-1816	Average	Good	Good

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.

GOOD
AVERAGE
POOR

VARIETY ADOPTION IN EACH MILL AREA

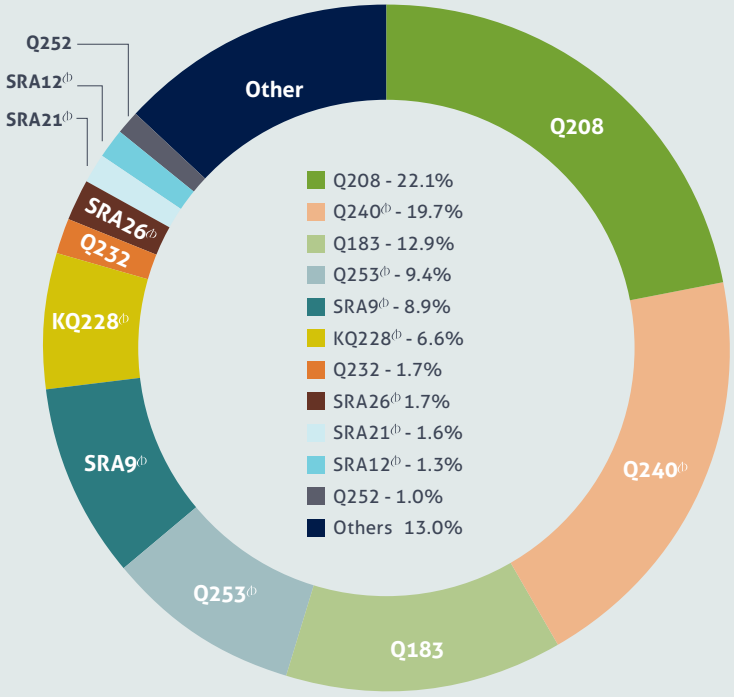
The following graphs are generated from mill statistics from the 2025 season. Use this information to assess yield performance of varieties over a number of years. Caution should be taken when comparing commercial performance of newer varieties (from plant and young ratoons) to older/established varieties (which include older ratoons).

Proserpine Mill (% TONNES 2025)

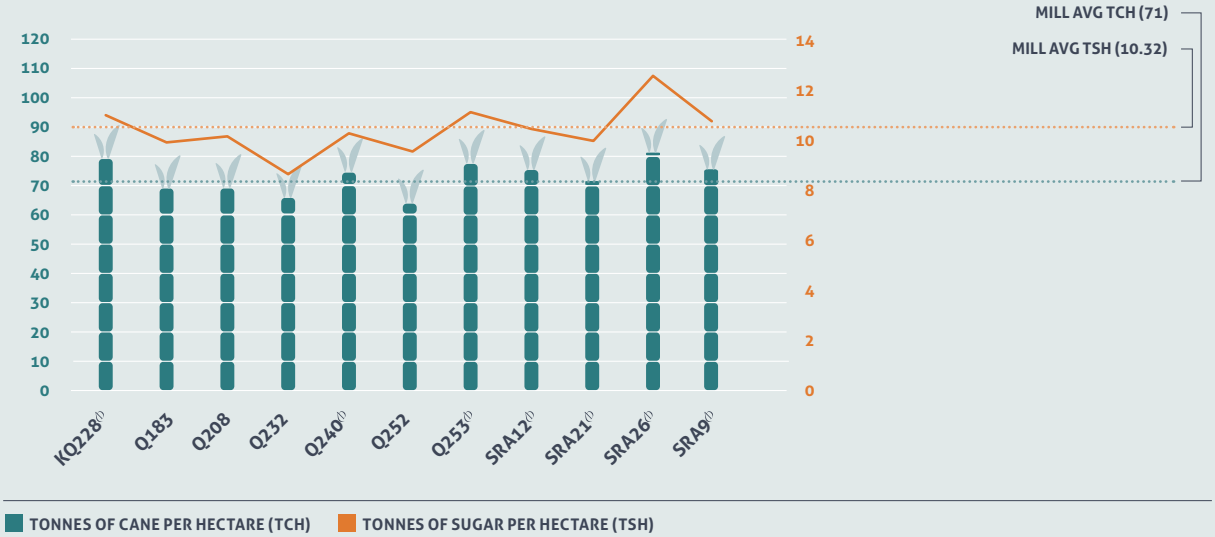
In 2025, the Proserpine Mill area harvested 1,478,750 tonnes of cane from 20,769 hectares, achieving an average yield of 71 T/Ha – a significant decrease from 86 T/Ha in 2024. However, the mill's average CCS increased from 13.83 in 2024 to 14.42 in 2025.

Q208 was again the district's highest-producing variety in 2025, accounting for 22.1% of the total crop, but down from 25.9% in the previous year. It was closely followed by Q240Φ at 19.7%, while Q183 remained the third most prevalent variety, contributing 12.9%, followed by Q253Φ at 9.4% and SRA9Φ with 8.9%. Together, these five varieties comprised 73% of the district's total production.

Cane varieties that performed above mill average TSH and had more than 1% of total production were SRA9Φ, SRA12Φ, SRA26Φ, Q253Φ and KQ228Φ.



Proserpine Mill (TCH AND TSH 2025)



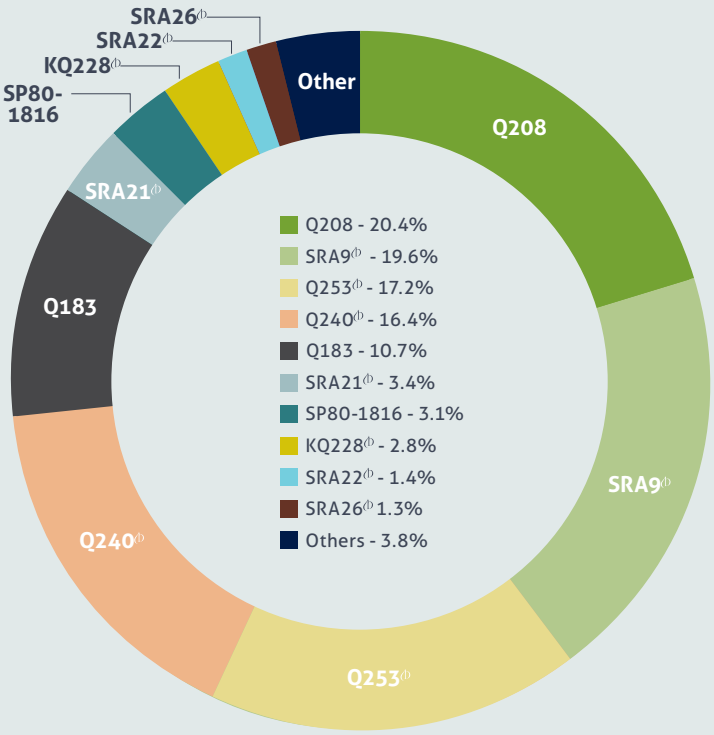
VARIETY ADOPTION IN EACH MILL AREA (CONT)

Mackay Mills (% TONNES 2025)

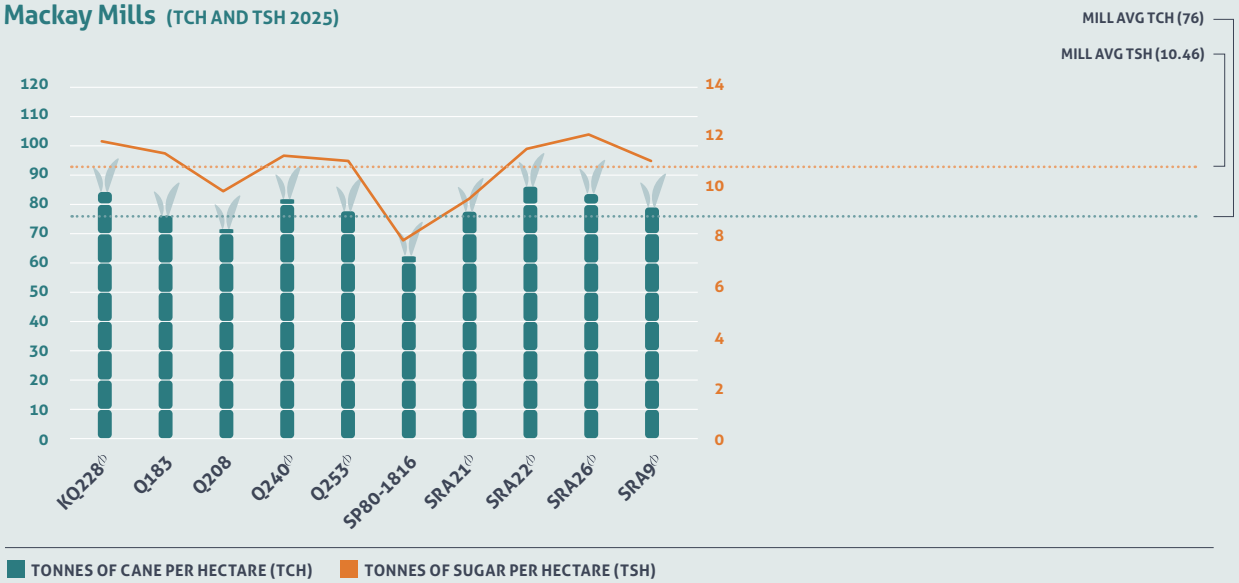
Mackay Sugar Mills processed 4,817,459 tonnes of cane from 63,314 hectares in 2025. The mill area's average yield was 76 T/Ha, down from 83 T/Ha in 2023, while the average CCS increased from 13.06 in 2023 to 13.63 in 2025.

Production of Q208 declined by more that 5% from 2023, yet it still remained the number one variety at 20.4% of total production. SRA9Ⓓ jumped into second place at 19.6%, followed by Q253Ⓓ at 17.2% and Q240Ⓓ at 16.4%. Q183 rounded off the top five varieties with 10.7%, and together, these top five varieties made up 84.3% of the total crop in 2025.

SRA9Ⓓ, SRA22Ⓓ, SRA26Ⓓ, Q253Ⓓ, Q240Ⓓ and KQ228Ⓓ all produced higher tonnes of sugar per hectare than the district average, although the newer varieties will be influenced by the high proportion of plant cane to ratoon cane harvested. Among these six varieties, SRA9Ⓓ, Q253Ⓓ, and SRA26Ⓓ increased their production in 2025, while the others saw a reduction.



Mackay Mills (TCH AND TSH 2025)



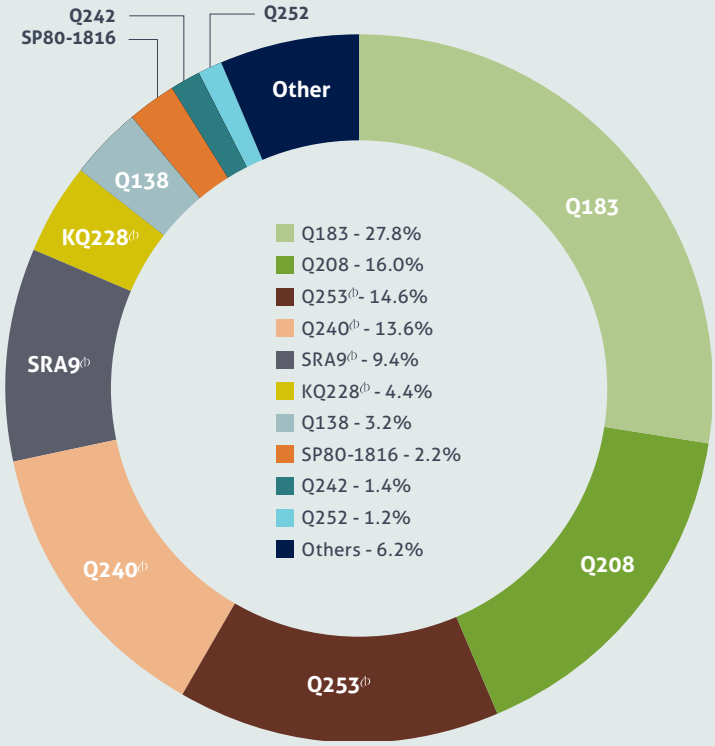
VARIETY ADOPTION IN EACH MILL AREA (CONT)

Plane Creek (% TONNES 2025)

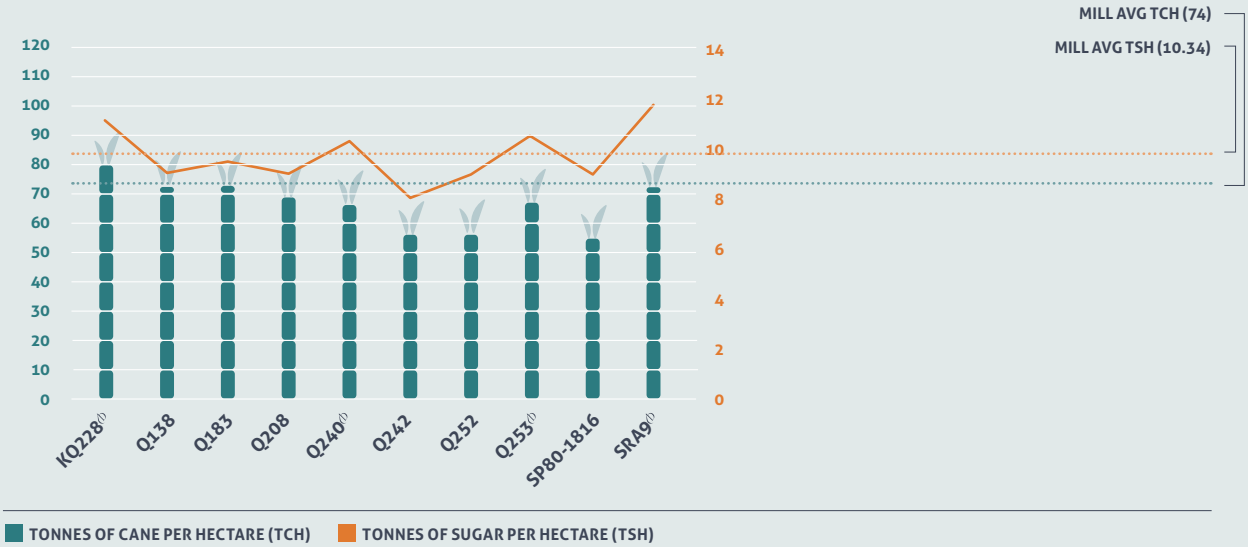
In 2025, the Plane Creek region harvested 1,332,851 tonnes of cane from 18,030 hectares, achieving an average yield of 74 tonnes per hectare (T/Ha), down from 84 T/Ha in 2024. The average CCS saw a modest increase, rising to 13.93 from 13.85 the previous year.

Q183 remained the dominant variety, accounting for 27.8% of the crop. It was followed by Q208 (16.0%), Q253Ⓓ (14.6%), Q240Ⓓ (13.6%), and SRA9Ⓓ (9.4%). Collectively, these five varieties made up 81% of the region's total production in 2025.

The top performers with tonnes of sugar per hectare higher than the mill average were SRA9Ⓓ, Q253Ⓓ, Q240Ⓓ, and KQ228Ⓓ.



Plane Creek (TCH AND TSH 2025)



Your local productivity services:

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M 0419 763 192

Plane Creek Productivity Services Ltd:
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Sugar Services Proserpine Ltd:
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