

VARIETY GUIDE 2026/2027

Herbert Region





A field prepared for planting of introgression seedlings in the Herbert.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

*This guide is designed to help growers in the Herbert 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 on this guide will help you to understand:***

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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) Herbert commercial sugarcane area.

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NEW AND RECENT VARIETIES

Variety Recommendation and Release Process

Variety release decisions, in each sugarcane region, are the responsibility of Regional Variety Committees (RVCs) with membership drawn from growers, millers and productivity service groups specific to the region. SRA supports these groups with secretariat support and the provision of technical information to assist the RVCs to make decisions on particular varieties. RVCs are composed of voting and non-voting members to ensure transparency in the decision-making process.

The Herbert RVC (Sugarcane Biosecurity Zone 1) membership is drawn from grower and miller groups from the Herbert region.

The RVC has equal grower and miller voting representation. Growers hold three votes, with two allocated to CANEGROWERS and one to QCAR, while Wilmar's miller representatives hold three votes. The Herbert RVC requires a majority vote for progression of a variety through the SRA breeding program and a unanimous vote for the release of a new variety.

New Variety

SRA9[®] was approved for release at the 2026 Herbert RVC with a caveat for caution around planting SRA9[®] in high smut spore pressure areas, and will be available as seed cane in 2028.

Recently Released Varieties:

SRA32[®] & SRA48[®] were approved for release at the 2025 Herbert RVC Meeting.

SRA43[®] was approved for release at the 2024 Herbert RVC Meeting.

SRA40[®] was approved for release at the 2023 Herbert RVC Meeting.

SRA36[®] and SRA6[®] were approved for release at the 2022 Herbert RVC Meeting.

SRA31[®] was approved for release at the 2021 Herbert RVC Meeting.

SRA26[®] and SRA28[®] were approved for release in 2020 at the Herbert RVC Meeting.

If you would like more information on the variety release process through the Regional Variety Committee (RVC) please visit the SRA website: sugarresearch.com.au or scan the QR code.



For growers who wish to order any of these varieties as tissue culture please contact HCPSL on PH: 4776 1808 or Rhiannon Harrigan (HCPSL Field Officer) on 0400 558 766. All varieties are available to order through tissue culture.

The limited trial results obtained in the Herbert region for SRA9[®], SRA48[®], SRA32[®], SRA43[®], SRA40[®], SRA36[®], SRA6[®], SRA31[®], SRA28[®] and SRA26[®] are presented below.

Variety: SRA9 [®] QC97-2432			Parentage: QN81-289 x Q166 / Summary: High TCH; lower CCS.												
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	AVG YIELD (TCH)							AVG CCS						
		SRA9 [®]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [®]	Q253 [®]		SRA9 [®]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [®]	Q253 [®]	# OF HARVESTS
(2020 series FATs): 2021	Plant	102	94	88	94	94			17.1	17.7	17.7	16.9	17.6		3
2022	1R	107	111	108	116	111			15.7	16.1	16.0	15.2	15.9		3
2023	2R	93	90	84	90	89			17.5	18.0	18.1	16.8	17.9		3
(2023 series FATs): 2024	Plant	96	84	87	92	105	98		16.8	17.5	17.3	16.5	16.7	16.8	3
2025	1R	81	79	83	77	88	79		17.5	17.8	17.7	16.3	17.8	17.1	3
Overall Performance		96	92	90	94	97	89		16.9	17.4	17	16.3	17.2	16.9	15
Available from 2028 through HCPSL approved seed cane plots (limited) or as tissue culture.															

Key SRA9[®] facts

- SRA9[®] was released in the Central region in 2017, the North in 2022 and Herbert in 2026
- The variety is suited to low fertility soils and challenging environments in the Herbert
- Despite its lower CCS, SRA9[®] is a profitable choice due to its vigorous growth and high tonnage at harvest
- The variety is very responsive to crop ripeners, which can be used to increase CCS. Deploy maturity testing and seek agronomic advice
- A reliable germinator and ratooner. Initial growth can be steady in plant crop, especially in cool and wet conditions
- Resistant to leaf scald, orange rust, mosaic, and Pachymetra, making it a good option for rotations into soils with high Pachymetra spore counts
- Intermediate resistance to smut so growers should seek an alternative variety if smut pressure is high
- The variety can be susceptible to Pineapple sett rot disease, especially under cool wet conditions. It is recommended to minimise soil cover at planting time in an attempt to get the variety to germinate quickly (especially when mound planting). Ensure fungicide coverage is adequate when planting
- The variety is prone to stool tipping (especially when the crop is large). It is recommended to hill up at the out of hand stage to prevent lodging and stool tipping
- A sparse arrowing variety, with moderate trashing and does not sucker easily
- Well suited to lighter soils, can grow in heavier soils but doesn't like being wet early
- Constant growth throughout the season, more growth later in season, suits mid to late harvest

Variety: SRA48 [Ⓛ] QN11-372		Parentage: Q208 X CP94-1607 / Summary: High TCH; lower CCS										
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA48 [Ⓛ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓛ]	SRA48 [Ⓛ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓛ]	
(2017 series FATs): 2018	Plant	99	98	91	97	89	16.8	17.2	17.7	16.3	17.7	4
2019	1R	94	87	88	88	89	16.2	17.4	17.2	15.6	16.9	4
2020	2R	78	74	74	82	71	16.8	17.3	17.6	16.5	17.4	4
(2019 series FATs): 2020	Plant	93	88	88	92	87	17.1	16.8	17.1	16.5	17.2	2
2021	1R	103	96	98	105	98	16.9	16.9	16.9	16.2	16.9	2
2022	2R	111	106	106	124	109	15.4	15.3	15.5	14.7	15.3	2
Overall performance		96	92	91	98	91	16.5	16.8	17	16.0	16.9	18
Available from 2027 through HCPSL approved seed cane plots (limited) or 2026 as tissue culture												

Key SRA48[Ⓛ] facts

- Released in Herbert in 2025
- Good tonnes of cane leading to good overall sugar yield
- Consistent performer across soils and main growing environments in the Herbert. However, generally not suited to clay soils and those fields prone to significant flooding and prolonged waterlogging
- High levels of resistance to leaf scald and smut. Intermediate - susceptible for Pachymetra and it is advised to avoid planting in areas with a high Pachymetra spore count
- Low arrowing, light suckering, reliable germination with an average stalk count and a medium barrel
- Medium loose trash and a clean, erect canopy with narrow leaves
- A compact stool with an upright growth habit, providing excellent harvesting presentation

Variety: SRA32 [Ⓛ] QS09-8404		Parentage: QN80-3425 x QN86-2168 / Summary: High TCH; lower CCS												
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)						CCS						# OF HARVESTS
		SRA32 [Ⓛ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓛ]	Q253 [Ⓛ]	SRA32 [Ⓛ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓛ]	Q253 [Ⓛ]	
(2021 series FATs): 2022	Plant	138	115	108	113	123	118	15.9	16.3	16.3	15.0	15.7	15.7	4
2023	1R	104	87	79	89	96	91	17.1	17.4	17.5	16.1	17	17	4
2024	2R	90	76	70	75	83	78	17.3	17.5	17.6	16.5	16.8	17	4
Overall performance		110	92	86	92	101	95	16.8	17.1	17.1	15.9	16.5	16.6	12
Available since 2026 through HCPSL approved seed cane plots, and as tissue culture.														

Key SRA32[Ⓛ] 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 before applying a crop ripener
- 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
- 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
- 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 in an attempt to get the variety to germinate quickly (especially when mound planting)



NEW AND RECENT VARIETIES (CONT)

Variety: SRA43 [®] Q510-7130		Parentage: Q170 X QC90-289 / Summary: High TCH; lower CCS										
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA43 [®]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [®]	SRA43 [®]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [®]	
(2017 series FATs): 2018	Plant	111	98	91	97	89	16.5	17.2	17.7	16.3	17.7	4
2019	1R	100	87	88	88	89	16.1	17.4	17.2	15.6	16.9	4
2020	2R	84	74	74	82	71	16.7	17.3	17.6	16.5	17.4	4
(2019 series FATs): 2020	Plant	93	88	88	92	87	16.8	16.8	17.1	16.5	17.2	2
2021	1R	99	96	98	105	98	16.5	16.9	16.9	16.2	16.9	2
2022	2R	114	106	106	124	109	14.9	15.3	15.5	14.7	15.3	2
Overall performance		102	90	89	95	88	16.1	17.0	17.2	16.0	17	18
Available through HCPSL approved seed cane plots (limited) or as tissue culture.												

Key SRA43[®] facts

- SRA43[®] was released in the Herbert in 2024
- Good sugar yield driven primarily by high tonnes of cane per hectare, lower CCS
- Consistent performer across most crop classes and trial locations representing Herbert's main soils and growing environments
- Good resistance to Pachymetra and leaf scald, making it a good option for rotations into soils with high Pachymetra spore counts
- Avoid cane areas with high smut pressure as it is only rated as intermediate
- Low arrowing, light suckering, reliable germination with an average stalk count and a medium barrel
- Medium loose trash and a clean erect canopy with wide leaf, thick cabbage and tall stalks
- An erect compact stool with an erect growth habit providing good harvesting presentation
- Ratoons may drop away after 2nd ratoon on sodic and heavy clay soils

Variety: SRA40 [®] Q507-7049		Parentage: CP70-1547 X QA96-1492 / Summary: High TCH; low CCS										
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA40 [®]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [®]	SRA40 [®]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [®]	
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	106	88	82	92	88	15.1	16.8	16.3	14.5	16.7	3
2018	1R	94	77	81	83	81	16.2	17.8	18.0	16.4	17.7	3
2019	2R	77	64	68	62	72	16.1	17.0	17.4	15.7	16.9	3
(2018 series FATs): 2019	Plant	97	92	96	91	88	15.1	17.0	17.3	15.8	16.8	3
2020	1R	80	84	85	90	78	15.7	17.1	17.2	16.3	17.0	3
2021	2R	84	85	84	86	83	16.8	17.8	17.8	16.9	17.7	3
Overall performance		90	83	83	85	82	15.8	17.3	17.4	16.0	17	18
Available through HCPSL approved seed cane plots (limited) or as tissue culture.												

Key SRA40[®] facts

- SRA40[®] 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
- Intermediate resistance to Fiji leaf gall, important in NSW
- Similar reaction to brown rust as Q253[®] (intermediate to susceptible), but can recover later in season
- Low arrowing, light suckering, reliable germination with an average stalk count and a medium barrel
- Medium tight trash and a clean erect canopy. An erect compact stool with an erect growth habit providing good harvesting presentation
- Distinctive reddish to light green stalks

Variety: SRA36 [Ⓢ] QA07-2978			Parentage: QN80-3425 X Q142 / Summary: High TCH; low CCS									
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA36 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	SRA36 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	
(2014 series FATs): 2015	Plant	79	79	89		76	15.7	16.3	16.2		16.3	4
2016	1R	107	102	101		103	16.4	17.0	16.9		16.7	4
2017	2R	96	92	87		93	15.3	16.1	15.8		15.9	4
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	105	89	82	92	88	15.9	16.7	16.3	14.5	16.7	3
2018	1R	91	79	81	83	81	17.0	17.9	18.0	16.4	17.7	3
2019	2R	78	67	68	62	72	16.6	16.9	17.4	15.7	16.9	3
(2017 series FATs): 2018	Plant	103	98	91	97	89	16.7	17.2	17.7	16.3	17.7	4
2019	1R	95	87	88	88	89	16.2	17.4	17.2	15.6	16.9	4
2020	2R	75	74	74	82	71	16.7	17.3	17.6	16.5	17.4	4
(2018 series FATs): 2019	Plant	103	92	96	91	88	15.9	17.0	17.3	15.8	16.8	4
2020	1R	91	84	85	90	78	15.9	17.1	17.2	16.3	17.0	4
2021	2R	84	85	84	86	83	16.6	17.8	17.8	16.9	17.7	4
Overall performance		92	86	85		84	16.2	17.1	17.1		17	45

Available through HCPSL approved seed cane plots since 2024 or to order as tissue culture

Key SRA36[Ⓢ] facts

- SRA36[Ⓢ] released in Herbert in 2022
- Consistent performer across most crop classes and trial locations representing Herbert's main soils and growing environments
- An excellent disease profile with resistance to smut, Pachymetra, leaf scald, red rot, orange rust and mosaic, giving yield stability and profitability to growers
- Suited to the dry regions of the Herbert (Stone River and Ingham Line), where the crop will have average to fair CCS. On very fertile soils and wet parts of the region low CCS levels can be experienced
- A lower CCS variety preferring mid-late harvest and may benefit from the use of crop ripeners to maximise its CCS returns. Seek agronomic advice
- Red stripe top rot was observed in this variety in 2022 and 2023. This disease is of rare occurrence in the Herbert, only in very hot and wet summers with the affected plant recovering from it later in the growing season
- Medium tight trash and a clean semi-erect canopy offering good closure for weed control on suitable soils
- A compact stool with an erect growth habit providing good harvester presentation

Variety: SRA6 [Ⓢ] QN05-507			Parentage: QN80-3425 x QH93-1197 / Summary: Lower CCS; similar TCH									
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA6 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	SRA6 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	
(2011 series FATs): 2012	Plant	121	109	117			15.8	15.9	15.9			1
2013	1R	106	99	103			16.7	16.9	17.4			1
2014	2R	106	98	99			15.2	15.7	15.6			1
(2013 series FATs): 2014	Plant	76	80	79	88	84	14.7	15.8	16.0	14.8	15.4	2
2015	1R	83	84	91	89	82	14.7	15.6	16.2	15.2	16.2	2
2016	2R	71	76	89	84	80	11.8	12.9	13.2	11.8	13.2	1
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	76	89	82	92	88	15.6	16.7	16.3	14.5	16.7	3
2018	1R	80	79	81	83	81	17.4	17.9	18.0	16.4	17.7	3
2019	2R	75	67	68	62	72	16.8	16.9	17.4	15.7	16.9	3
Overall performance		88	87	90			15.4	16.1	16.2			17

Available since 2024 through HCPSL approved seed cane plots (limited) or to order as tissue culture

Key SRA6[Ⓢ] facts

- SRA6[Ⓢ] was released in the North in 2016 and Herbert in 2022
- Although this variety is short in stature, it has a very high tiller count compared to most other varieties contributing to its yields. Stalks are dense and it is very uncommon to see piping of the stalk
- Moderate yield in plant crop, however this is maintained through ratoons. On suitable soils the variety is a strong ratooner
- Performs better in blocks with good moisture holding capacity and alluvial soils, but struggles under poor/dry conditions
- A higher tonnes, lower CCS variety suited to mid-late harvest
- The variety is very responsive to crop ripeners, which can be used to increase CCS. Seek agronomic advice
- A good disease profile with resistance to smut, Pachymetra, leaf scald, orange rust and mosaic, potentially making it a profitable variety of choice for growers on suited soils
- Clean upright canopy with free-to-average trash
- Anecdotal field evidence suggests that this variety may be sensitive to Atrazine, Ametryn and Balance herbicides, so seek agronomic advice when using these products



NEW AND RECENT VARIETIES (CONT)

Variety: SRA31 [Ⓢ] QC05-1281			Parentage: QS87-7427 X QC82-954 / Summary: Similar TCH; Slightly higher CCS									
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	YIELD (TCH)					CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA31 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	SRA31 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	
(2014 series FATs): 2015	Plant	77	70	83		70	16.8	16.1	16.2		16.3	3
2016	1R	99	98	98		105	16.3	16.7	16.7		16.3	3
2017	2R	79	82	78		88	15.3	15.9	15.6		15.8	3
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	93	89	82	92	88	16.9	16.7	16.3	14.5	16.7	3
2018	1R	79	79	81	83	81	18.5	17.9	18.0	16.4	17.7	3
2019	2R	64	67	68	62	72	17.0	16.9	17.4	15.7	16.9	3
Overall performance		82	81	81		84	16.8	16.7	16.7		16.6	18
Available through HCPSL approved seed cane plots												

Key SRA31[Ⓢ] facts

- SRA31[Ⓢ] was released in the Herbert in 2021
- Suited to early-mid season harvests
- An excellent disease profile with resistance to smut, Pachymetra, leaf scald, red rot, orange rust, Fiji leaf gall and mosaic, giving yield stability and profitability to growers
- A reliable germinator and has an erect growth habit and an open stool with fair presentation for harvesting
- Trash is average-tight, protecting the slightly bulged eyes, and making it suitable for billet planting
- May be less sensitive to waterlogging than other varieties
- May be a competitive variety option to replace Q250 as an early harvest season

Variety: SRA28 [Ⓢ] QS08-8776			Parentage: Q233 X Q135 / Summary: Similar TCH; Slightly higher CCS.									
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	AVG YIELD (TCH)					AVG CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA28 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	SRA28 [Ⓢ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓢ]	
(2015 series FATs): 2016	Plant	100	96	99	108	94	17.2	16.9	17.2	15.7	16.6	4
2017	1R	97	97	94	99	95	16.5	16.5	16.0	14.4	16.5	4
2018	2R	94	101	100	97	101	18.3	18.2	18.3	16.9	17.9	4
(2017 series FATs): 2018	Plant	88	98	91	97	89	18.2	17.2	17.7	16.3	17.7	4
2019	1R	91	87	88	88	89	17.4	17.4	17.2	15.6	16.9	4
2020	2R	73	74	74	82	71	17.7	17.3	17.6	16.5	17.4	4
Overall Performance		90	92	91	95	90	17.6	17.3	17.3	15.9	17.2	24
Available from 2028 through HCPSL approved seed cane plots (limited) or as tissue culture.												

Key SRA28[Ⓢ] facts

- SRA28[Ⓢ] was released in the North and Herbert in 2020
- Sugar yield underpinned by high CCS levels
- Suited to most soil types. Early indications suggest it may be less sensitive to waterlogging than other varieties
- This variety must be harvested early and before suckering occurs. Crop ripeners can be used to suppress suckering of this variety and to maintain adequate CCS levels at harvest. Seek agronomic advice
- Excellent disease profile with resistance to Pachymetra, leaf scald, red rot, orange rust, yellow spot and mosaic, and intermediate to resistant for smut, giving yield stability and profitability to growers
- Generally a clean green canopy with good closure for weed competition
- A reliable germinator but early growth and tillering can be slow
- Stool tipping has been observed with this variety, so it is recommended to hill up adequately at the out of hand stage in plant cane
- Germination is best when young cane (under 12 months of age) is used as a seed source, mature planting material may have germination problems. Avoid planting this variety late in the planting season because germination and establishment may be poor
- It can be sensitive to hot water treatment, and the purchase of approved seed or tissue culture is advised

Variety: SRA26 [Ⓛ] QN08-2282			Parentage: QN97-2122 x Q146 / Summary: Similar TCH; slightly higher CCS.									
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	AVG YIELD (TCH)					AVG CCS					# OF HARVESTS
		SRA26 [Ⓛ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓛ]	SRA26 [Ⓛ]	Q200	Q208	Q232	Q240 [Ⓛ]	
(2014 series FATs): 2015	Plant	77	79	89		76	16.7	16.3	16.2		16.3	4
2016	1R	101	102	101		103	17.4	17.0	16.9		16.7	4
2017	2R	90	92	87		93	15.6	16.1	15.8		15.9	4
(2016 series FATs): 2017	Plant	87	89	82	92	88	16.7	16.7	16.3	14.5	16.7	3
2018	1R	81	79	81	83	81	18.1	17.9	18.0	16.4	17.7	3
2019	2R	71	67	68	62	72	17.3	16.9	17.4	15.7	16.9	3
Overall Performance		85	85	85		86	17	16.8	16.8		16.7	21
Available 2024 through HCPSL approved seed cane plots or to order as tissue culture.												

Key SRA26[Ⓛ] facts

- SRA26[Ⓛ] 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 a 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

SRA9[Ⓛ]



SRA48[Ⓛ]



SRA32[Ⓛ]



SRA43[Ⓛ]



SRA40[Ⓛ]



SRA36[Ⓛ]



SRA6[Ⓛ]



SRA31[Ⓛ]



SRA28[Ⓛ]



SRA26[Ⓛ]



For more information on variety field trials contact:
 SRA Herbert Variety Officer
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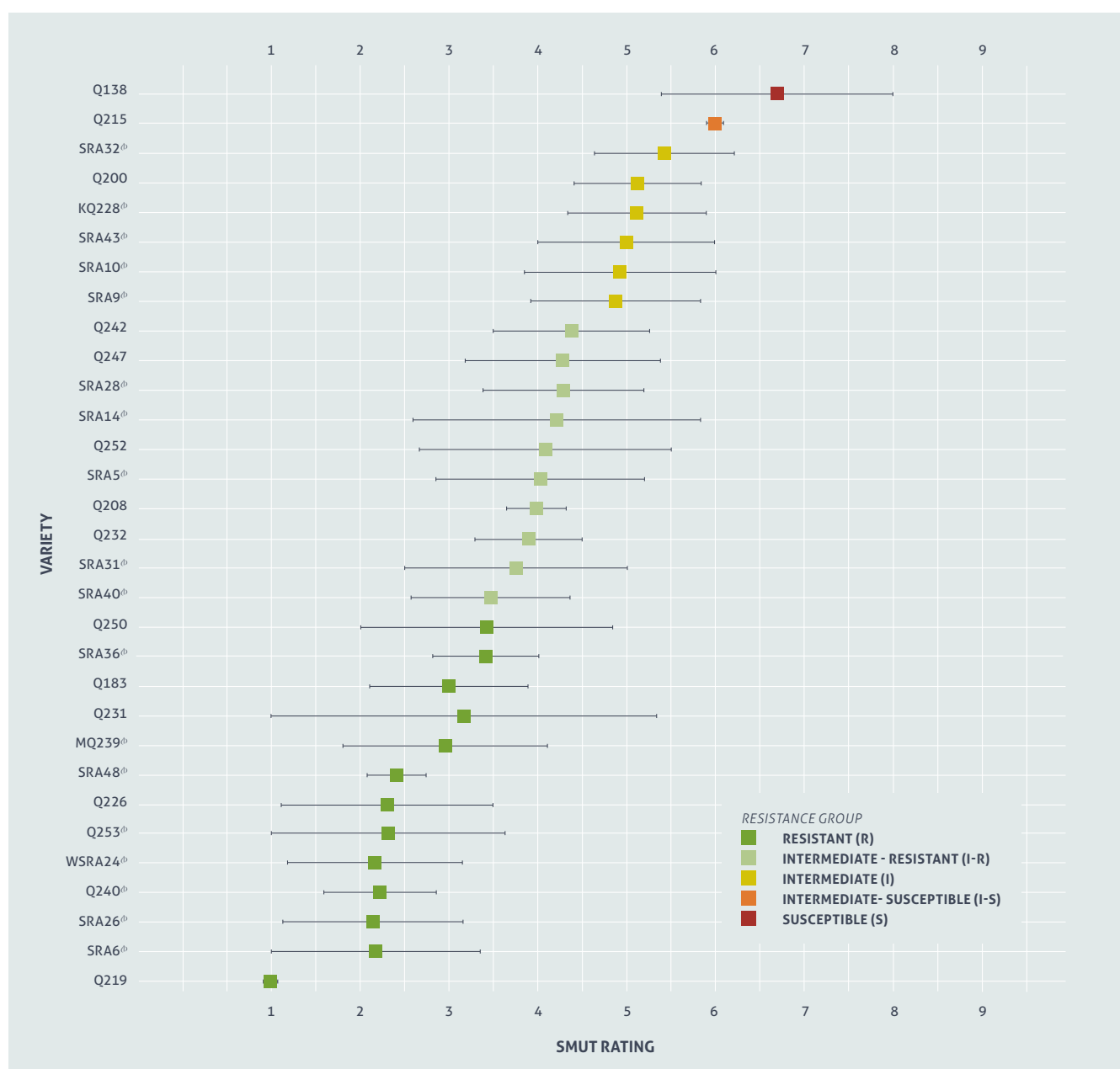
SMUT RATINGS

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.

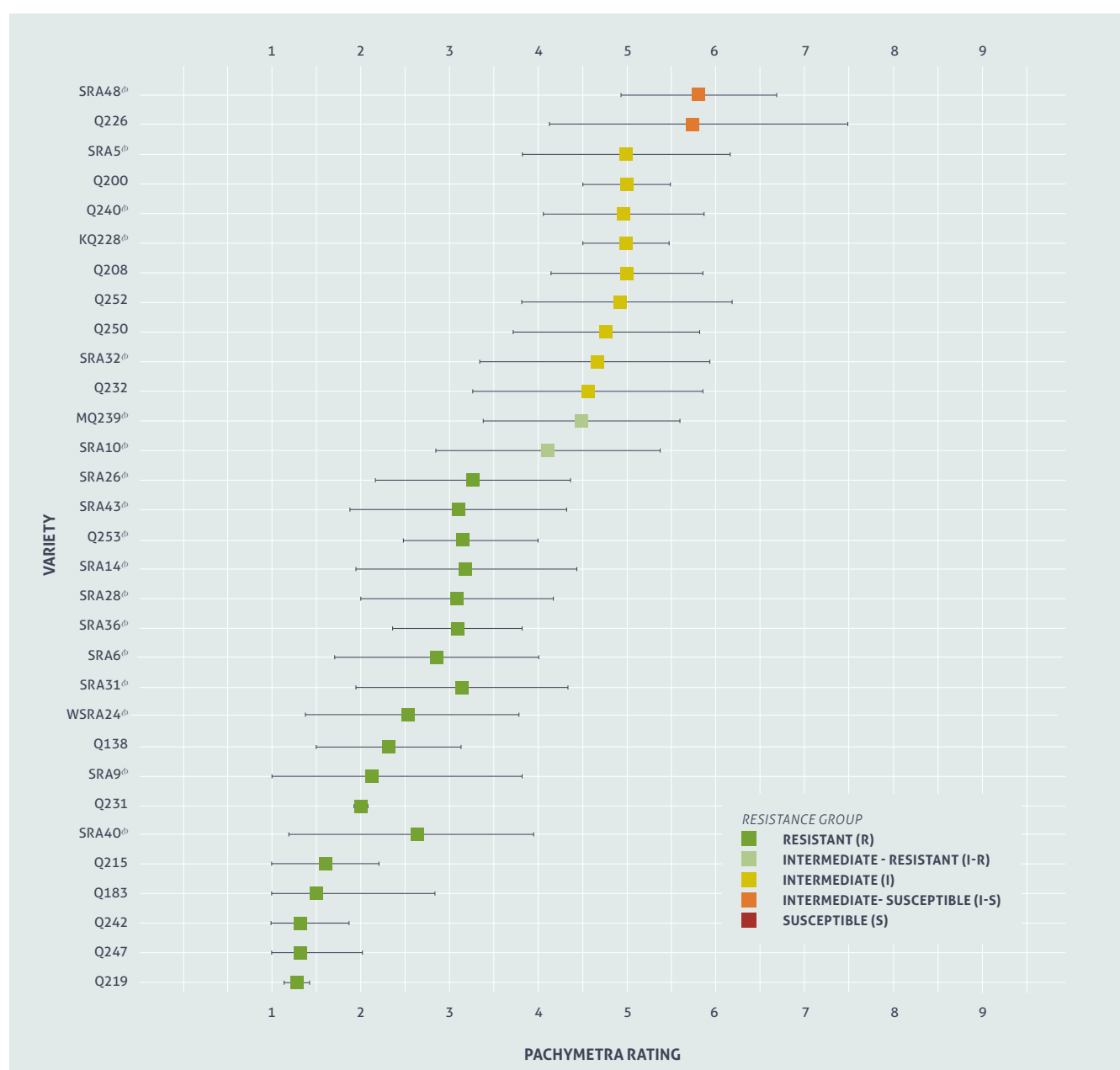




PACHYMETRA RATINGS

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

The table below indicates disease ratings of the recommended varieties. 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.

Herbert disease ratings											
VARIETY	ZONE	SMUT	PACHYMETRA	LEAF SCALD	CHLOROTIC STREAK	ORANGE RUST	BROWN RUST	RED ROT	YELLOW SPOT	FIJI LEAF GALL	MOSAIC
KQ228 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	I	I	R	S	R	R	R	I	I	R
MQ239 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	I-R	R		R		I-R	I	S	
Q138	Wet, Dry	S	R	R	I-R	R	R	I-S	I	R	I-S
Q183	Wet, Dry	R	R	I	S	R	R	I	I-S	R	R
Q200	Wet, Dry	I	I	R	I	R	R	R	I-R	R	R
Q208	Wet, Dry	I-R	I	R	R	R	R	R	R	I-S	R
Q215	Dry	I-S	R	R		R	R	R	R	R	R
Q219	Wet, Dry	R	R	R		R		R		S	S
Q226	Wet, Dry	R	I-S	R		R	I-S	R	R	R	R
Q231	Wet, Dry	R	R	I-R		R		R	I	S	I-R
Q232	Wet, Dry	I-R	I	R	R	R		I-R	R	I	R
Q240 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	I	R	I-R	R		R	I-S	I-S	R
Q242	Wet, Dry	I-R	R	R	I	R		I-R	R	R	R
Q247	Wet, Dry	I-R	R	R		R		R	S	R	R
Q250	Wet, Dry	R	I	R		I		I	I-R	I-S	I-R
Q252	Wet, Dry	I-R	I	R		R		R	I	I	R
Q253 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	R	R		R	I-S	I	S	S	R
SRA5 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	I-R	I	I-R		R	R	R		I	R
SRA6 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	R	R		R		I	I-R	I	R
SRA10 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	I	I-R	R		R		I	R	S	S
SRA14 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	I-R	R	R		R		R	I	S	R
WSRA24 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	R	R						I	R
SRA26 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	R	R		R		R	R	I	S
SRA28 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	I-R	R	R		R		R	R	I	R
SRA31 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	R	R		R		R		R	R
SRA36 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	R	R		R		R			R
SRA40 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	R	R		R	I-S	R		I	R
SRA43 ^{db}	Dry, Wet	I-R	R	R						R	I-S
SRA32 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	I	I	R			R	I		I-R	R
SRA48 ^{db}	Wet, Dry	R	I-S	R							
SRA9 ^{db}	Dry, Wet	I	R	R		R		I	I	I	R

* Region recommended

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: 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 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^{db} and Q253^{db}.

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



VARIETY HARVEST MANAGEMENT

The table below indicates the trashing type and lodging tolerance of the recommended varieties. It also indicates the CCS maturity (early, mid, or late sugar) of the recommended varieties in the Herbert Wet and Dry Zones. Harvesting varieties according to their sugar maturity profiles, optimizing CCS maturity at time of harvest, can make a significant difference to your productivity.

Herbert harvest management								
VARIETY	TRASHING	LODGING TOLERANCE	WET ZONE			DRY ZONE		
			EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR	EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR
Q138								
Q183	F-Av	A	A	G	A	A	G	A
Q200	F	A	G	G	G	G	G	G
Q208	F	A	G	G	G	G	G	G
Q215						P	A	A
Q219								
Q226	A	A	A	A	P	A	A	P
Q231		A	G	A	A	G	A	A
Q232	T	A	P	A	A	P	A	A
Q240 ^(b)	F-Av	A	A	G	G	A	G	G
Q242	T		A	A	P	A	P	P
Q247	F-Av		G	G	G	G	G	G
Q250	F-Av		G	G	G	G	G	G
Q252		A	A	G	G			
Q253 ^(b)	F-Av	G	P	A	A	P	A	A
SRA5 ^(b)			P	P	P	P	P	P
SRA6 ^(b)	T	G	A	A	A	A	A	
SRA10 ^(b)	F-Av		G	G	A	G	G	A
SRA14 ^(b)	F-Av	G	G	A	A	G	A	A
WSRA24 ^(b)	F-Av	G	A	P	A	P	P	A
SRA26 ^(b)	T	G	G	G	G	G	G	G
SRA28 ^(b)	F-Av	A	G	G	G	G	G	G
SRA31 ^(b)	F-Av	A	G	G	A	G	G	A
SRA36 ^(b)	F-Av	A	A	A	A	A	A	A
SRA40 ^(b)	F-Av	A	A	A	G	A	A	G
SRA43 ^(b)	F-Av	A	G	G	G	A	G	G
SRA32 ^(b)	F-Av	A	G	A	G	A	G	G
SRA48 ^(b)	F-Av	A	G	A	G	A	G	G
SRA9 ^(b)	F-Av	A	G	A	G	A	G	G

TRASHING

- FREE (F)
- FREE-AVERAGE (F-AV)
- AVERAGE (A)
- TIGHT (T)

OTHER FEATURES

- GOOD (G)
- AVERAGE (A)
- POOR (P)
- NOT ASSESSED (NA)



CCS PROFILES

SRA Herbert started CCS maturity data collection in 2025. Samples were taken once a month starting in May until October and analysed in the SRA Herbert Juice Lab.

This information will help growers by optimising their planting and harvesting decision-making and facilitating the adoption of new varieties by monitoring the CCS curves across productivity zones.

The CCS performance of a variety is, however, influenced by many factors such as crop age, crop class, environment (rain, temperature, and soil) and management practices. The following data represents a “snapshot” of the past season; further work will be carried out to better understand the maturity profile of a given variety.

The data was collected by the Adoption Team from the Herbert’s Plant Breeding trials.

FIGURE 1. CCS maturity curves for SRA48^Φ (1R, Fairford Rd)

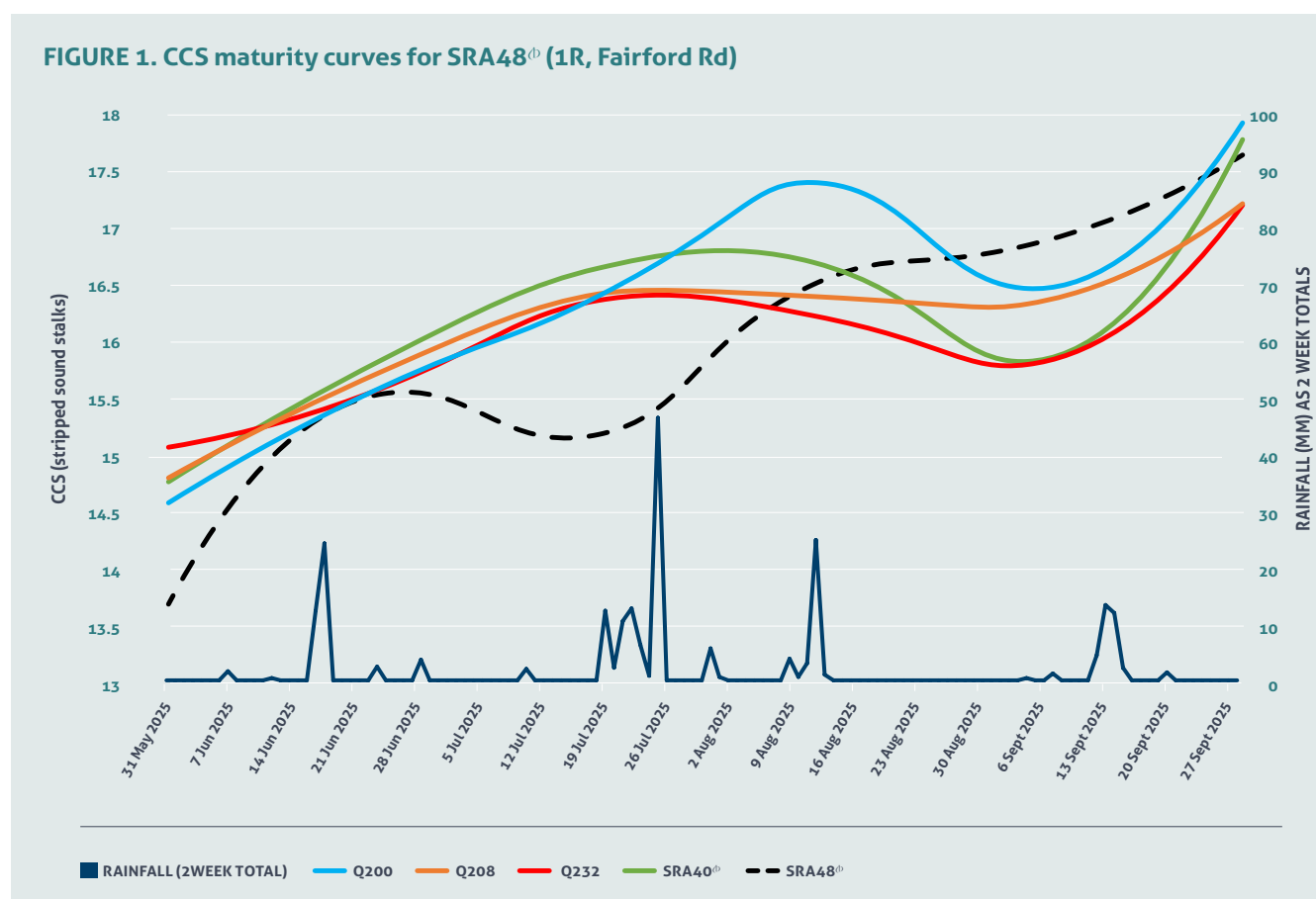


Figure 1 presents the curve for CCS on SRA48^Φ in 1st Ratoon for the 2025 season at Fairford Rd.

Q200 (light blue line) presented the highest CCS from mid-July to end August, then slightly declining until mid-September then increasing again towards the end of sampling.

Q208 (orange solid line) presented a slightly higher CCS in early-mid July but drops slightly until early September.

Q232 (red solid line) presented similar to Q208.

SRA48^Φ (Black dashed line) showed up with early CCS in the beginning of June with a slight decline till mid-July then a fairly constant increase until the end of the CCS collection finishing very similar to Q200 by end of September.



CCS PROFILES (CONT)

FIGURE 2. CCS maturity curves for SRA40^Φ & SRA43^Φ (1R, Abergrowie)

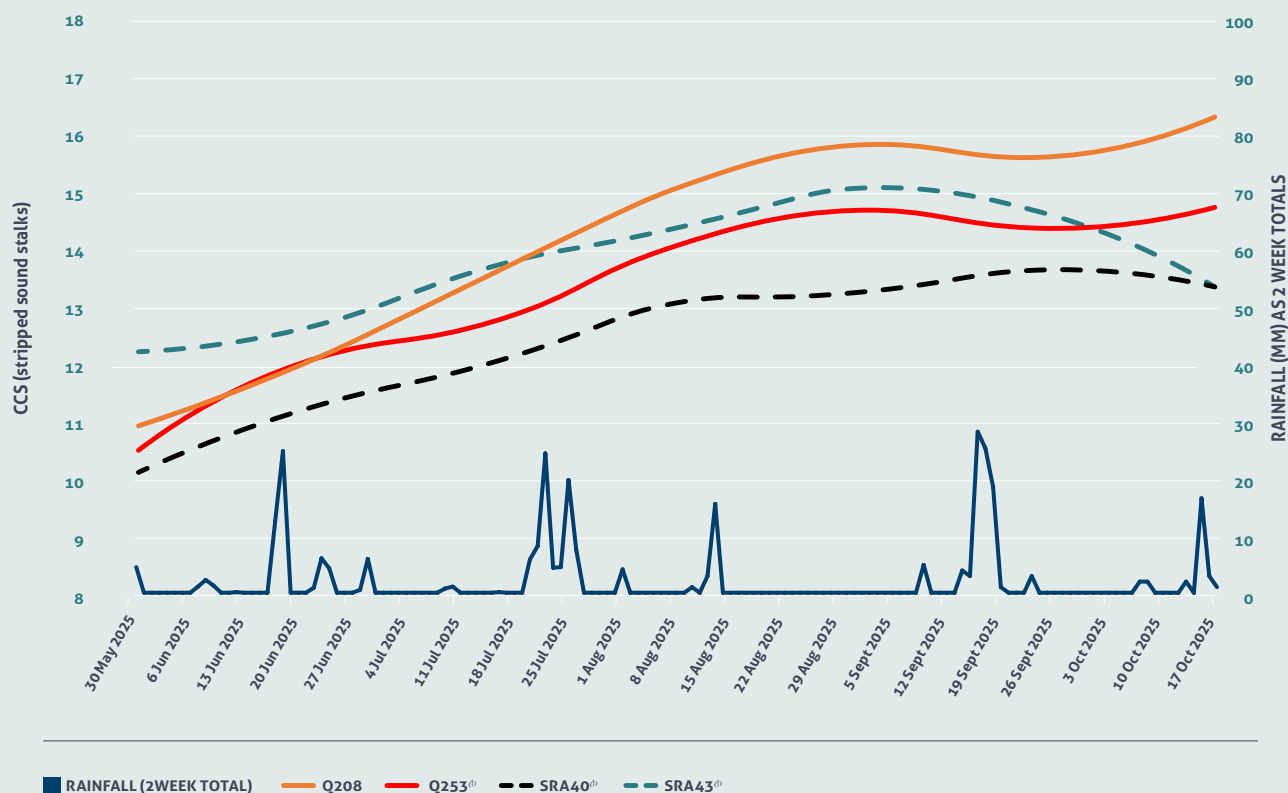


Figure 2 presents the curves for CCS on SRA40^Φ & SRA43^Φ in first ratoon for the 2025 season at Abergrowie.

Q208 (orange solid line) presented increasing CCS until early September dropping off marginally before increasing again towards the end of the sampling mid-October.

Q253^Φ (red solid line) presented a similar curve to Q208 throughout the season with a slightly lower CCS by about 1 unit.

SRA40^Φ (black dashed line) started off with a lower CCS but as the season progressed the CCS levels kept steadily increasing.

SRA43^Φ (green dashed line) had the highest CCS over Q208 until mid-July then slightly dipping below Q208 but better than Q253^Φ until the beginning of October when it fell away.



VARIETIES HARVESTED IN 2025 IN THE HERBERT REGION AND THEIR PERFORMANCE

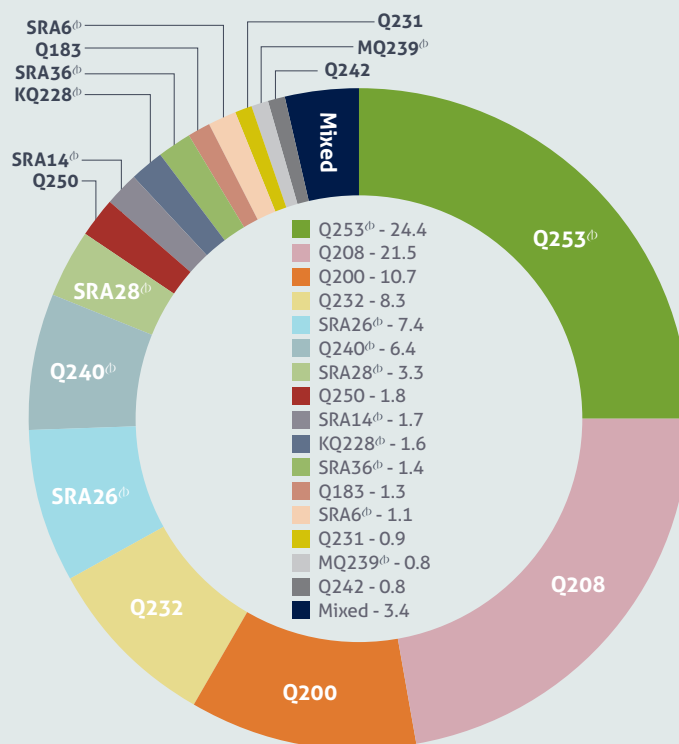
The predominant varieties harvested in the 2025 season, and their commercial performance in terms of tonnes of cane per hectare (TCH) and tonnes of sugar per hectare (TSH) are shown below.

Varieties harvested

In the 2025 season 3.7 million tonnes were forecasted for harvesting. The Herbert region harvested about 3.8 million tonnes of cane during a 24-week crushing season covering 53,728 hectares, 100% harvested green.

The mill average CCS was 12.5 and the average TCH and TSH were 67 and 8.4, respectively.

The diagram here indicates the main varieties harvested in the Herbert region in the 2025 season. Q253[®] is now the most popular variety in the Herbert accounting for 24.4% of the total tonnes harvested. Q208 followed with 21.5%; this variety has been decreasing compared with previous seasons (in 2018, 38.6% of the total cane harvested was Q208). Q200 remains the third most popular with 10.7% in 2025. Q232 is the fourth in preference with 8.3%. SRA26[®] took fifth place on the list with 7.4% moving ahead of Q240[®] in sixth place with 6.4%, SRA28[®] moved to seventh with 3.3% displacing Q250 now accounting for 1.8% of the total cane harvested.



Commercial performance of harvested varieties

The TCH and TSH, of the main varieties harvested in the 2025 season, are compared to the Herbert mill averages in the diagram below. At this scale, the commercial performance of recently released varieties is difficult to compare with that of established varieties.

The mill data for these new releases is shown along with those of major commercial varieties. Although with a small percentage of the total cane harvested (SRA26[®]: 7.5%; SRA28[®]: 3.3%; SRA36[®]: 1.4%; SRA6[®]: 1.1% respectively) the graph indicates their early commercial performance.

(TCH AND TSH 2025)





APPROVED VARIETIES FOR PLANTING AND HARVESTING

Each year the Herbert Regional Variety Committee (RVC) reviews the Herbert variety list for planting and harvesting. The aim is to assist Herbert growers meeting their General Biosecurity Obligation, in addition to regional disease management of major diseases for Sugarcane Biosecurity Zone 1 (SBZ1).

One new variety, SRA9[Ⓛ] was approved by the Herbert RVC in 2026 and added to the planting and harvesting list, making a total of 47 approved varieties to use in the district. Of these, 31 varieties are approved for planting and harvesting, while 16 are approved for harvesting only.

Herbert recommended varieties for planting and harvesting 2026-2027

Variety	Planting	Harvesting
KQ228 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
MQ239 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
Q138	Yes	Yes
Q183	Yes	Yes
Q200	Yes	Yes
Q208	Yes	Yes
Q215	Yes	Yes
Q219	Yes	Yes
Q226	Yes	Yes
Q231	Yes	Yes
Q232	Yes	Yes
Q240 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
Q242	Yes	Yes
Q247	Yes	Yes
Q250	Yes	Yes
Q252	Yes	Yes
Q253 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA5 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA6 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA10 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA14 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
WSRA24 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA28 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA26 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA31 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA36 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA40 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA43 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA32 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA48 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes
SRA9 [Ⓛ]	Yes	Yes

Variety	Planting	Harvesting
Q120	No	Yes
Q124	No	Yes
Q135	No	Yes
Q158	No	Yes
Q172	No	Yes
Q186	No	Yes
Q190	No	Yes
Q204	No	Yes
Q237	No	Yes
Q238	No	Yes
Q251	No	Yes
CASSIUS	No	Yes
ARGOS	No	Yes
KQ236 [Ⓛ]	No	Yes
SRA3 [Ⓛ]	No	Yes
Q216	No	Yes

SRA varieties released in other regions that are **not approved** for planting in the Herbert.

SRA7[Ⓛ]: Discarded due to poor performance.

SRA11[Ⓛ]: Discarded due to milling data and poor ratoon ability.

SRA12[Ⓛ]: Discarded due to fibre quality.

SRA15[Ⓛ]: Discarded due to smut concerns (severe in ratoons).

SRA22[Ⓛ]: Discarded due to milling data and poor performance.

SRA37[Ⓛ]: Discarded due to having a sugar quality issue.

Your local productivity services and agronomy group:

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Services Ltd (HCPSL):
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