

VARIETY GUIDE 2026/2027

Southern Region







HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

*This guide is designed to help growers in the Southern 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 will help you 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) A selection of sugarcane varieties bound for transport to undergo disease screening.

(Opposite) Harvesting a trial at Qunaba. The hats are used as a guide for the harvesting crew to produce accurate weights of each plot in the trial. The data is extrapolated to produce tonnes of cane per hectare (TCH).

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NEW AND RECENT VARIETIES AVAILABLE IN THE SOUTHERN REGION

Variety Recommendation and Release Process

Regional Variety Committees (RVCs) are responsible for variety release decisions. SRA supports these groups with secretariat support and the provision of technical information to assist the committee in making decisions on particular varieties.

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

The Southern RVC (Sugarcane Biosecurity Zones 4 and 5) voting membership includes one grower representative

and one Productivity Board Services representative from the Bundaberg, Isis, Maryborough and Rocky Point districts, and one miller representative per mill. In April 2026, the RVC voted to include three SRA representatives as voting members, to give a total of 14 voting members. Rocky Point representatives may also attend the NSW RVC as observers.

The Southern RVC requires a majority vote for progression of a variety through the breeding program and a majority vote for the release of a variety.

If you would like more information on new variety releases and regional variety committees, please visit the SRA website:

sugarresearch.com.au
or scan the QR code



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

Variety: SRA44 [Ⓛ] Q513-1279			Parentage: QS99-482 x QS00-2319 / Summary: High TCH; low CCS.							
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	AVG YIELD (TCH)				AVG CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		SRA44 [Ⓛ]	Q208	Q240 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	SRA44 [Ⓛ]	Q208	Q240 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	
(2018 series FATs): 2019	Plant	99	99	86	90	13.9	14.7	15.2	15.1	4
2020	1R	104	99	93	92	14.9	15.7	16.3	16.1	3
2021	2R	117	114	104	103	14.3	15.1	15.7	15.6	4
(2020 series FATs): 2021	Plant	131	112	114	117	13.3	14.2	14.8	14.9	3
2022	1R	124	118	120	122	13.9	14.8	15.3	15.7	3
2023	2R	95	95	96	100	13.3	14.7	15.2	15.1	3
Overall Performance		111	106	101	103	13.9	14.9	15.4	15.4	20
Contact your local Productivity Services Officer (PSO) for availability of clean planting material.										

Key SRA44[Ⓛ] facts

- SRA44[Ⓛ] was released in the South in 2024
- Higher tonnes, lower CCS variety
- Heavy stalk and good disease profile
- Resistant to Fiji leaf gall, Pachymetra root rot, smut and mosaic. Intermediate resistance to leaf scald and red rot
- A good option for rotations into soils with high Pachymetra spore counts
- Low short fibre and average fibre content
- Good harvestability

Variety: SRA32 [Ⓛ] Q509-8404			Parentage: QN80-3425 x QN86-2168 / Summary: High TCH; moderate CCS.							
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	AVG YIELD (TCH)				AVG CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		SRA32 [Ⓛ]	Q208	Q240 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	SRA32 [Ⓛ]	Q208	Q240 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	
(2022 series FATs): 2023	Plant	73	62	55	62	16.1	15.8	15.8	16.3	4
2024	1R	122	100	90	95	15.4	15.0	15.3	15.9	4
2025	2R	125	99	90	97	15.5	15.1	15.2	16.1	4
(2024 series FATs): 2025	Plant	78	71	68	73	15.0	15.2	15.9	16.5	3
Overall Performance		101	84	77	82	15.5	15.3	15.5	16.2	15
Contact your local PSO for whole stalk availability and to order as Tissue Culture										

Key SRA32[Ⓛ] facts

- Released in Burdekin (2021), North (2022), Central (2024), and South 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, moderate CCS in the Southern region (lower elsewhere) 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 may lodge and generally will 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 develop side shoots on the 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 where possible to support rapid germination (especially when mound planting)

Variety: SRA47 [Ⓛ] Q511-2481			Parentage: QN96-610 x QS96-2026 / Summary: High TCH; moderate to high CCS.							
TRIAL HARVEST YEAR	CROP CLASS	AVG YIELD (TCH)				AVG CCS				# OF HARVESTS
		SRA47 [Ⓛ]	Q208	Q240 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	SRA47 [Ⓛ]	Q208	Q240 [Ⓛ]	KQ228 [Ⓛ]	
(2019 series FATs): 2020	Plant	98	92	96	90	17.5	17.0	17.1	17.5	3
2021	1R	128	125	121	120	16.9	16.3	16.4	17.0	3
2022	2R	109	105	111	106	15.7	14.8	14.8	15.5	2
2023	3R	102	97	97	92	18.9	18.5	18.0	18.9	1
2024	4R	92	83	83	75	16.1	15.9	15.7	16.0	1
(2021 series FATs): 2022	Plant	105	92	91	103	15.3	13.8	14.3	15.7	3
2023	1R	86	77	76	78	16.6	15.6	15.9	16.7	3
2024	2R	88	89	87	90	16.2	15.1	15.5	16.4	2
2025	3R	90	95	92	94	16.2	14.9	15.3	16.7	2
Overall Performance		101	96	96	96	16.5	15.6	15.8	16.7	20
Contact your local PSO for whole stalk availability and to order as Tissue Culture										

Key SRA47[Ⓛ] facts

- SRA47[Ⓛ] was released in the Southern region in 2025
- A high TCH and CCS variety, significantly better than Q240[Ⓛ]
- Fibre quality readings and quality results suggest no milling issues
- Moderate arrowing and lodging
- Resistant to smut, Fiji leaf gall and mosaic, with intermediate resistance to leaf scald
- Intermediate to *Pachymetra* root rot. Growers are encouraged to utilise the SRA Tully soil assay to monitor *Pachymetra* spore levels. Rotate with *Pachymetra*-resistant cultivars

SRA44[Ⓛ]



SRA47[Ⓛ]



SRA32[Ⓛ]



For more information on variety field trials contact:

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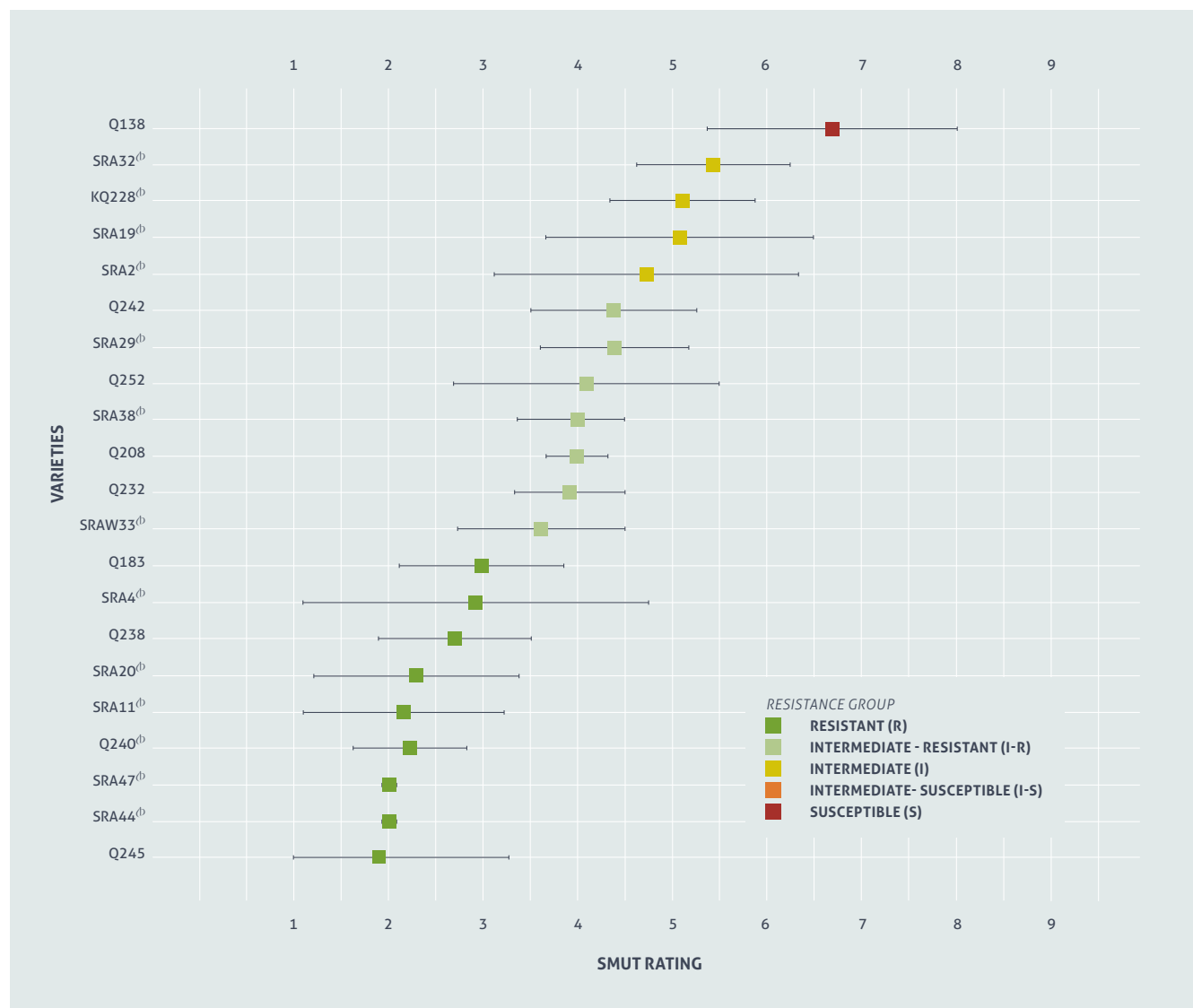
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SMUT RATINGS

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.

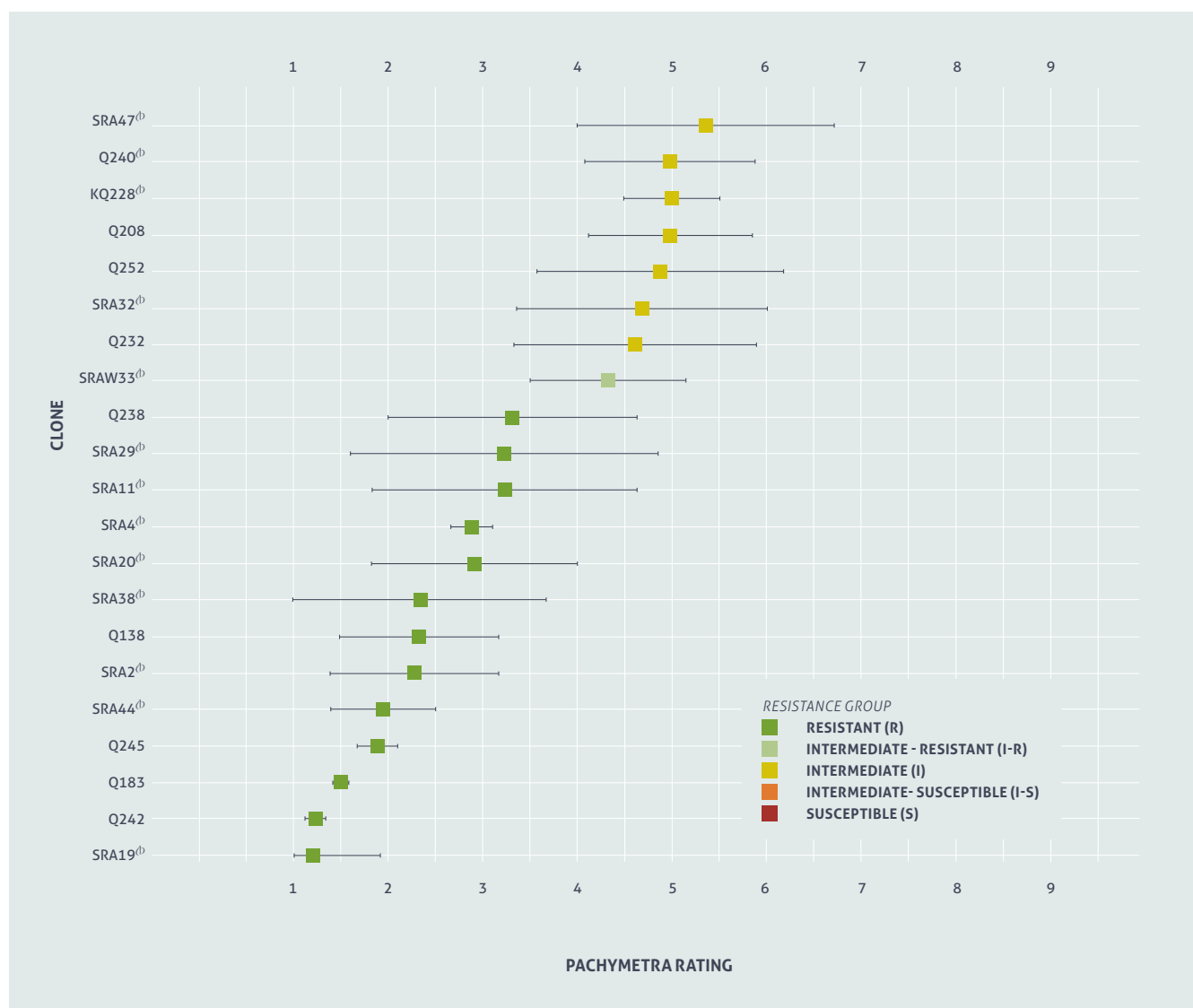
The confidence interval is influenced by factors such as the number of trials and the uniformity of smut infection. Rating confidence will improve as more data is collected.



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.

Southern Disease Ratings											
VARIETY	MILL AREA RECOMMENDED	SMUT	PACHYMETRA	LEAF SCALD	CHLOROTIC STREAK	ORANGE RUST	BROWN RUST	RED ROT	YELLOW SPOT	FIJI LEAF GALL	MOSAIC
SRA47 ^{db}	B, M, RP	R	I	I	U	U	U	R	U	R	R
SRA44 ^{db}	I, M, RP	R	R	I-R	U	U	U	I-R	U	R	R
SRA38 ^{db}	B, I, RP	I-R	R	I-R	U	U	U	R	U	R	R
SRAW33 ^{db}	B, I, M, RP	I-R	I-R	R	U	R	U	R	U	R	I-R
SRA32 ^{db}	I, M, RP	I	I	R	U	U	U	I	U	I-R	R
SRA29 ^{db}	B, I, M	I-R	R	R	U	U	U	I	U	R	R
SRA20 ^{db}	B, I, M	R	R	I	U	U	U	R	U	I	R
SRA19 ^{db}	B, I, M	I	R	R	U	R	U	I-R	I	I	R
SRA11 ^{db}	B, I, M, RP	R	R	R	U	R	U	I	U	R	R
SRA4 ^{db}	B, RP	R	R	R	U	R	U	R	I	R	R
SRA2 ^{db}	B, RP	I	R	R	U	I	U	R	I-R	R	I
Q252	B, I, M, RP	I-R	I	R	U	R	U	R	I	I	R
Q247	B	I-R	R	R	U	R	U	R	S	R	R
Q245	B, I, M	R	R	R	U	R	U	S	R	R	R
Q242	B, I, M, RP	I-R	R	R	I	R	U	I-R	R	R	R
Q240 ^{db}	B, I, M, RP	R	I	R	I-R	R	U	R	I	I-S	R
Q238	B, I, M, RP	R	R	R	S	R	U	I-R	S	I-R	R
Q235	RP	I-R	R	R	I-S	I-R	U	R	R	R	R
Q232	B, I, M, RP	I-R	I	R	R	R	U	I-R	R	I	R
KQ228 ^{db}	B, I, M, RP	I	I	R	S	R	R	R	I	I	R
Q208	B, I, M, RP	I-R	I	R	R	R	R	R	R	I-S	R
Q183	B, I, M, RP	R	R	I	S	R	R	I	I-S	R	R
Q155	RP	I-R	S	R	I	R	R	S	I	R	I
Q151	B	R	I-S	R	U	R	R	I-R	U	R	R
Q138	B, I, M, RP	S	R	R	I-R	R	R	I-S	I	R	S

B BUNDABERG
I ISIS
M MARYBOROUGH
RP ROCKY POINT

Chlorotic streak has been observed to occur in SRA29^{db}. It is recommended that growers avoid planting SRA29^{db} in areas prone to waterlogging or wet conditions. An observation trial for chlorotic streak will be established in 2026 to continue to assess resistance screening methods for recently released varieties.

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 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 disease-free 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^{db} and Q252.

- 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 tables below indicate early, mid and late sugar varieties.

Bundaberg and Isis					
VARIETY	EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR	TRASHING	LODGING
SRA32 [Ⓛ]	Poor	Average	Average	Average	Poor
SRA47 [Ⓛ]	Average	Good	Good	Average-Tight	Average
SRA38 [Ⓛ]	Average	Average	Good	Free-Average	Poor
SRAW33 [Ⓛ]	Average	Good	Good	Free-Average	Average
SRA29 [Ⓛ]	Average	Average	Average	Free	Average
SRA20 [Ⓛ]	Poor	Average	Good	Average	Average
SRA19 [Ⓛ]	Poor	Average	Good	Average	Average
SRA11 [Ⓛ]	Average	Good	Good	Free	Good
SRA4 [Ⓛ]	Average	Average	Average	Average	Good
SRA2 [Ⓛ]	Good	Good	Good	Free-Average	Average
Q252	Good	Good	Good	Free	Average
Q247	Poor	Poor	Poor		
Q245	Poor	Average	Average	Average	Average
Q242	Average	Average	Poor	Average-Tight	Poor
Q240 [Ⓛ]	Good	Good	Average	Free-Average	Average
Q238	Poor	Average	Average	Average	Good
Q232	Poor	Average	Poor	Tight	Poor
KQ228 [Ⓛ]	Good	Good	Average	Average-Tight	Average
Q208	Average	Good	Good	Free	Average
Q151	Good	Average	Poor	Average-Tight	Average
Q183	Poor	Average	Good	Free-Average	Average
Q138	Poor	Poor	Poor	Average	Average

Maximise your profit at harvest: Selecting varieties for specific sugar maturity profiles, 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 can help maximise profitability.

TRASHING		SEASONAL SUGAR AND LODGING	
■	FREE	■	GOOD
■	FREE-AVERAGE	■	AVERAGE
■	AVERAGE	■	LOW
■	AVERAGE-TIGHT	■	POOR
■	TIGHT		UNKNOWN



HARVEST MANAGEMENT (CONT)

Maryborough					
VARIETY	EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR	TRASHING	LODGING
SRA32 ^{db}	Poor	Average	Average	Average	Poor
SRA47 ^{db}	Average	Good	Good	Average-Tight	Average
SRA44 ^{db}	Poor	Poor	Poor	Average-Tight	Average
SRAW33 ^{db}	Average	Good	Good	Average	Average
SRA29 ^{db}	Average	Average	Average	Free	Average
SRA20 ^{db}	Poor	Average	Good	Free-Average	Average
SRA19 ^{db}	Poor	Average	Good	Average	Average
SRA11 ^{db}	Average	Good	Good	Free	Good
Q252	Good	Good	Average	Free	Average
Q245	Poor	Average	Average	Average	Average
Q242	Average	Average	Average	Average-Tight	Poor
Q240 ^{db}	Good	Good	Average	Free-Average	Average
Q238	Poor	Average	Average	Average	Good
Q232	Poor	Average	Average	Tight	Average
KQ228 ^{db}	Good	Good	Average	Average-Tight	Average
Q208	Average	Good	Good	Free	Average
Q183	Poor	Average	Good	Free-Average	Average
Q138	Average	Average	Average	Average	Good

Rocky Point					
VARIETY	EARLY SUGAR	MID SUGAR	LATE SUGAR	TRASHING	LODGING
SRA32 ^{db}	Poor	Average	Average	Average	Poor
SRA47 ^{db}	Average	Good	Good	Average-Tight	Average
SRA44 ^{db}	Poor	Poor	Poor	Average-Tight	Average
SRA38 ^{db}	Average	Average	Good	Free-Average	Poor
SRAW33 ^{db}	Average	Good	Average	Average	Average
SRA11 ^{db}	Average	Average	Average	Free	Average
SRA4 ^{db}	Average	Average	Average	Average	Good
SRA2 ^{db}	Good	Good	Average	Free-Average	Average
Q252	Good	Good	Good	Free	Average
Q242	Good	Good	Good	Average-Tight	Poor
Q240 ^{db}	Good	Good	Average	Free-Average	Average
Q238	Average	Good	Good	Average	Good
Q235	Good	Good	Average	Average	Poor
Q232	Poor	Average	Average	Tight	Average
KQ228 ^{db}	Good	Good	Average	Average-Tight	Average
Q208	Average	Average	Average	Free	Average
Q183	Average	Good	Good	Free-Average	Average
Q155	Good	Average	Average	Average	Average
Q138	Average	Average	Average	Tight	Good



VARIETY ADOPTION IN EACH MILL AREA

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).

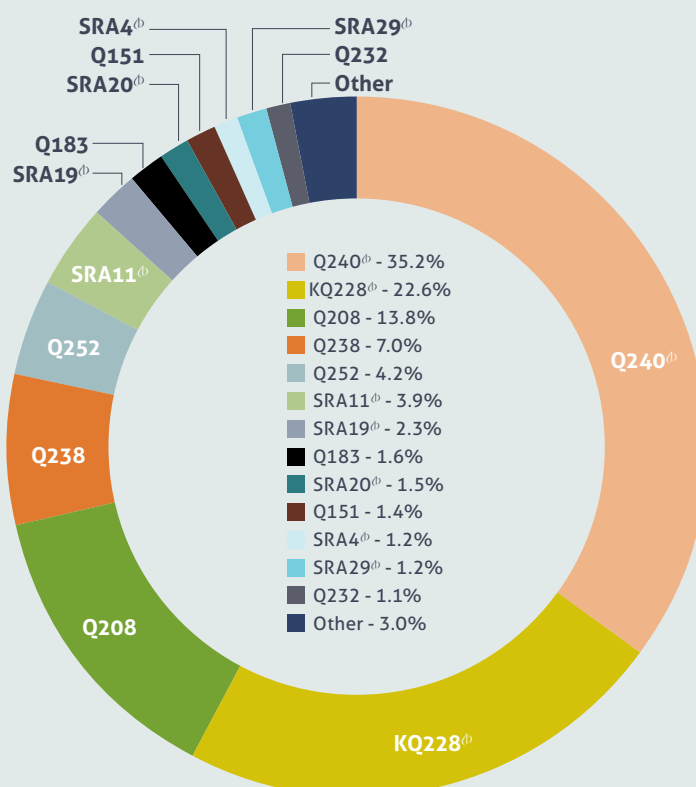
Bundaberg (% TONNES 2024)

In 2024, a total of 1,205,229 tonnes of cane was harvested from 14,159 hectares in the Bundaberg region. The Bundaberg mill area had an average yield of 85.12 tonnes of cane per hectare and an average CCS of 13.59%.

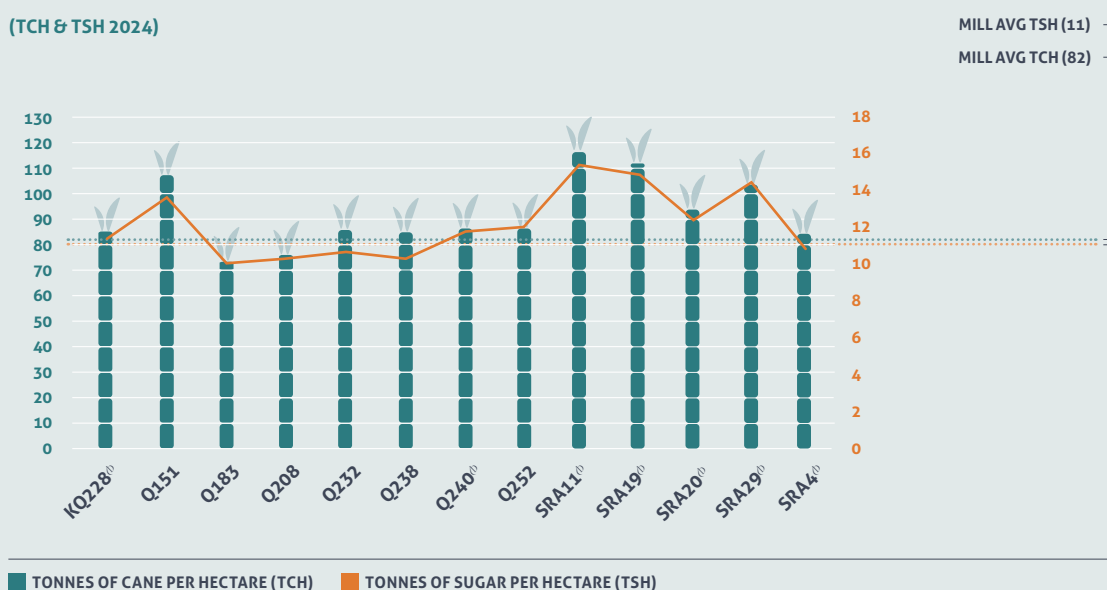
Q240[®] continues to be the major commercial variety, representing 35.2% of production in this mill area. Variety composition remains largely unchanged between the 2023 and 2024 harvest seasons. The top three varieties (Q240[®], KQ228[®] and Q208) together make up 72% of production. SRA29[®] production increased to just above 1% in 2024, while SRA19[®] and SRA20[®] production reached 2.4% and 1.5%, respectively.

SRA29[®], SRA19[®] and SRA11[®] were among the top performing varieties crushed at Millaquin mill in 2024, achieving an average TSH of 14.5, 14.8 and 15.5, respectively; compared with the season mill average of 11.0 TSH. SRA20[®] also resulted in above average productivity, with an average TSH of 12.4. Major varieties Q240[®] and KQ228[®] produced an average TSH of 11.9 and 11.3, respectively. Varieties with the highest average CCS were SRA29[®], Q183 and Q208.

Mill data from the 2025 harvest season results was not available for the Southern mill areas at the time of publication.



(TCH & TSH 2024)





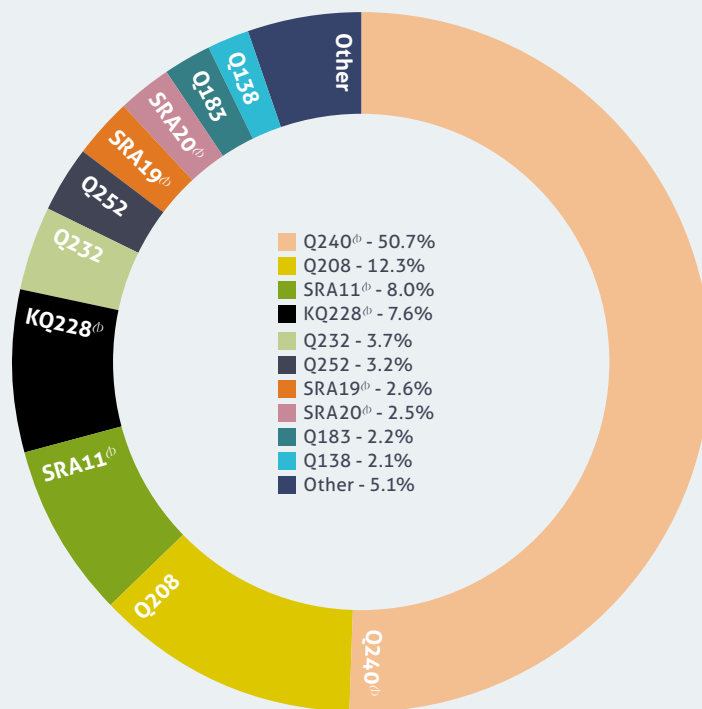
VARIETY ADOPTION IN EACH MILL AREA (CONT)

Isis (% TONNES 2023)

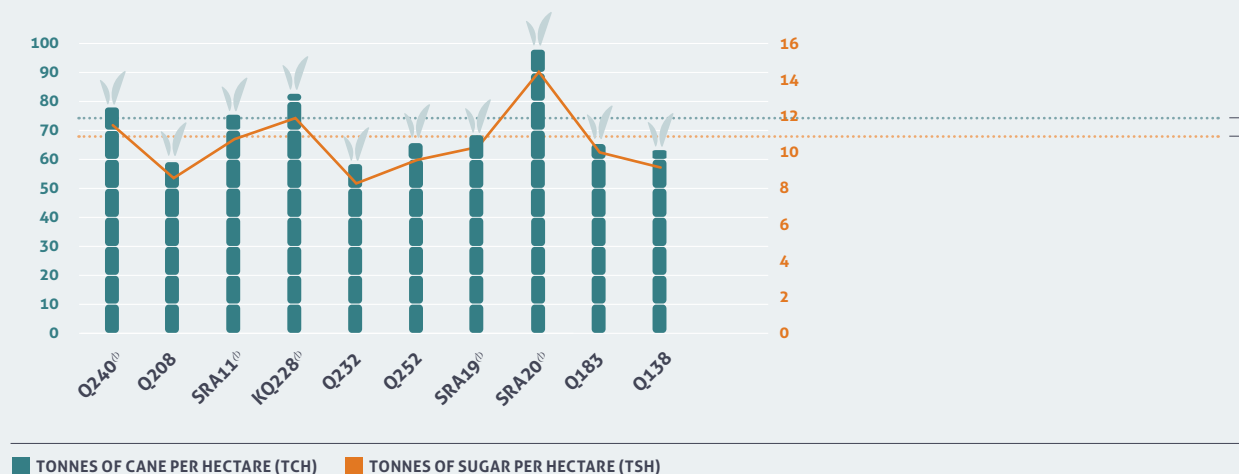
In 2023, a total of 1,035,609 tonnes of cane was harvested from 14,238 hectares in the Isis region. The Isis mill area had an average yield of 74.0 tonnes of cane per hectare and an average CCS of 14.7.

Q240th accounted for the majority of production in the Isis region with percent production up marginally from 50.4% in 2022 to 50.7% in 2023. Q208 had the second highest production at 12.3%. Varieties SRA19th and SRA20th have both moved to above 2% of production. A small quantity of SRA29th was also delivered to the mill (0.21% of production).

Q240th and SRA29th performed at or above mill average for CCS in 2023.



(TCH & TSH 2023)

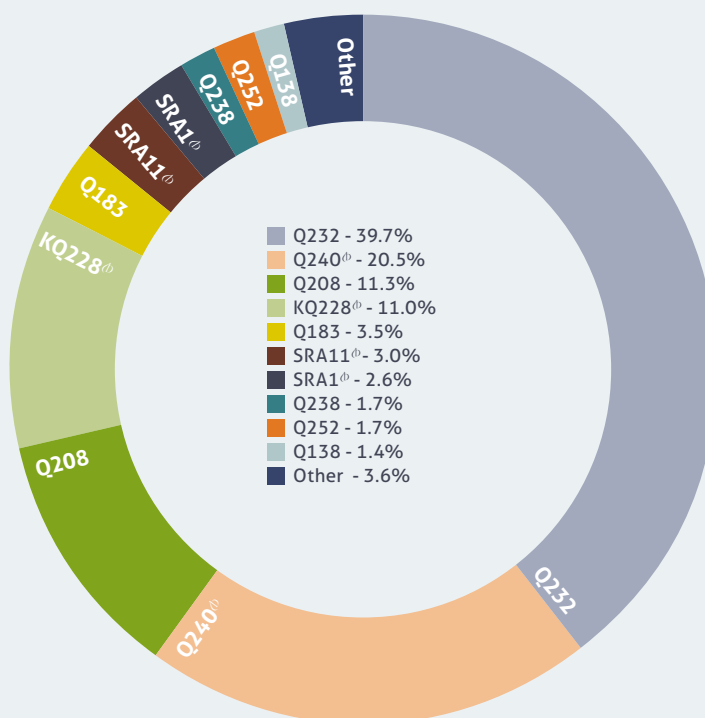


Rocky Point (% TONNES 2023)

In 2023, a total of 215,876 tonnes of cane was harvested in the Rocky Point region. The Rocky Point mill area had an average CCS of 13.5%. Area harvested was not reported.

Q232 remains the dominant variety in 2023, accounting for 39.7% of the total harvest, up 6% from the previous year. Q208 decreased by 7% to a total 11.3% of the crop while KQ228[Ⓢ] and Q240[Ⓢ] saw a 5% and 1% increase.

Q183, Q208, KQ228[Ⓢ], Q240[Ⓢ], Q252 and SRA11[Ⓢ] performed at or above mill average for CCS in 2023.



(CCS 2023)



CCS

MILL AVG CCS (13.5)

Your local productivity services and agronomy groups:



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