NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

NEW STAFF

Maps would like to welcome **Eric Kok** to the team.
He joins the team with a background in farming and agricultural research.

For the past 6½ year's Eric has worked for SRA as a Principal technician focusing on soil health, nutrient management and farming systems.

Eric will be a Productivity officer for the Racecourse mill area, and he is looking forward to adapting his current knowledge and skills to assist growers in the Mackay Region.

To contact Eric please phone:
0437 542 204

Erin Headon has joined the MAPS team as part of QFF's graduate extension program.

Erin has a background in banana IPDM and is keen to learn all about sugarcane.

Erin will be working with MAPS staff across a range of areas, learning the ins and outs of nutrient management and the Agtrix Farming program.

She's new to cane but we won't hold that against her. Go and say g'day if you see her around. Erin can be contacted on 0417 326 672

Introduction: SRA Central District Manager, Dylan Wedel:

I'm originally from Orkabie (1hr south of Mackay) and now my wife Sarah and I grow cane at Victoria Plains.

I have previously had a career centred around the coal mining industry holding a variety of technical and operational roles. As an Engineer, I have a passion for problem solving and innovation, with skills to critically analyse and optimise systems for maximum profit.

My role is to be the link between SRA and industry, by developing a district productivity plan that will drive improved productivity and profitability, while ensuring research is targeted to assist our local area.

Feel free to get in contact:

Mobile: 0490 029 837
Email: DWedel@sugarresearch.com.au

or drop into the Te Kowai SRA office.

2021 Approved Clean Seed Distribution

The Clean Seed plots are now open for distribution. There are no new varieties for release this year. This provides an opportunity to collect a new source of an older variety you are continuing with from one of the MAPS Approved Clean Seed plots. MAPS recommends updating your plant source on an annual basis.

Victoria Plains		
Now – 31 August, Wednesday 7am – 12noon		
Varieties Available		
KQ228	**Q240**	**SRA9**
Q183	**Q250**	**SRA12**
Q208	**SP80**	**SRA21**
Q208R	**Q253**	**SRA22**

Whole Stick Clean Seed

- All varieties available for hand cutting
- Limited varieties can be pre-ordered and cut onto MAPS trailers
- AND limited varieties pre-ordered and cut onto Growers trailers
- Orders in to your productivity officer and trailers delivered by Monday morning

Billet Clean Seed

Weather permitting billets will be offered later in July for a limited time. A text message seeking expressions of interest will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

- Selected varieties will be available
- Cost set at $66/tonne, own tipper bin required

Check with your Productivity Officer for details. Billet orders will be handled by MAPS Farm Manager, Andrew Dougan - 0417 326 674.

Pioneer Valley & North Coast

The whole-stick and billet plots are open by appointment. Contact Ian Marais or Brendan Rae. Billet cost is set at $66/ tonne.

Pioneer Valley		North Coast	
Ian Marais – 0417 326 669		**Brendan Rae – 0417 326 393**	
Whole stick - Tannalo	Billets - Benholme	**Whole stick – Wagoora**	Billets – Mt Pelion
SRA22	Q253	**SRA22**	SRA9
Q208R	SRA21		SRA21

The number of varieties available at the North Coast and Pioneer Valley billet plots has been kept to a minimum. The goal is to offer different varieties each year to allow growers easier access to clean seed.

Be Wise - Sterilise

Ratoon Stunting Disease (RSD) is never an easy topic to talk about. It's an awkward discussion, but one all growers need to have with their MAPS Productivity Officer, so that we keep the disease in check.

You could be losing anywhere up to 60% yield due to a disease which often shows no visible symptoms.

RSD restricts the plant's ability to use water and grow. It is spread by using either infected plants or by harvesters, planters or any other farm gear that contacts the infected sugarcane juice or soil.

There is NO cure, nor is any variety truly resistant to RSD but certain steps can be taken on farm to maintain good productivity and to prevent the spread of the disease between blocks and farms. RSD is a disease that escalates quickly if left unchecked. Currently RSD is only found on 1% of Mackay Sugar farms.

Protecting your farm:

1) Start with a fresh source of plants from MAPS Approved Seed plots.
2) Make sure any on farm plant material is checked before planting for RSD and other pests or disease by your Productivity Officer.
3) Sterilization of any machinery moving between farms using a mixture of 70% methylated spirits and 30% water, cane knife steriliser or Steri-max.

Dirty trend

With everyone busy and pushed for time these days, often the simple and basic jobs are forgotten about. We have noticed that harvesters and planting contractors gear is not being cleaned or sterilized between farms. This is a dangerous trend, which ends badly. Time is money but in this case spending 30 minutes to sterilize the major cutting points of harvesters and planters is a cheap investment.

Prevention is better than cure, as the only way to remove RSD from an infected field is to plough out and fallow, ensuring that no volunteers survive. MAPS wants each grower or contractor to have a batch of sterilizing solution at hand to disinfect machinery as it comes onto their farm(s).

Farm machinery that is being moved between regions (across biosecurity zones) also needs to be inspected and given a Plant Health Assurance Certificate beforehand. This can be granted by an accredited Productivity Officer.

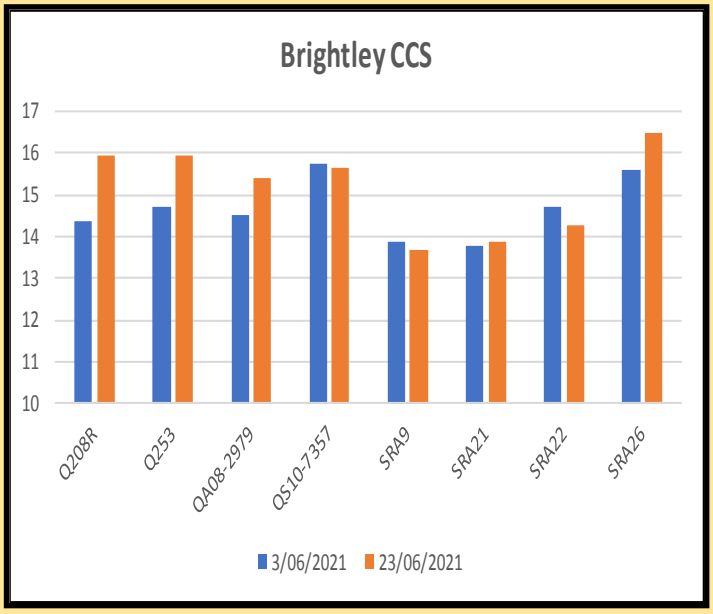
If you have further questions about RSD or machinery inspections please give your Productivity Officer a call.

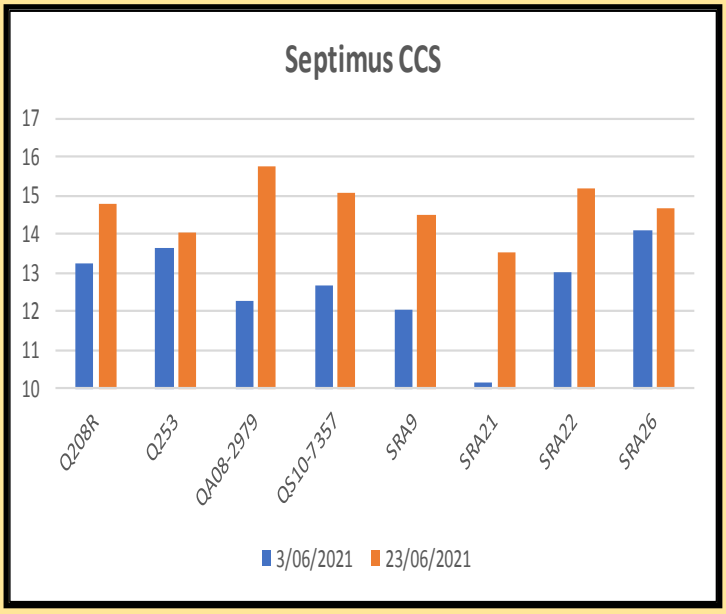
Observation Plots Maturity Testing

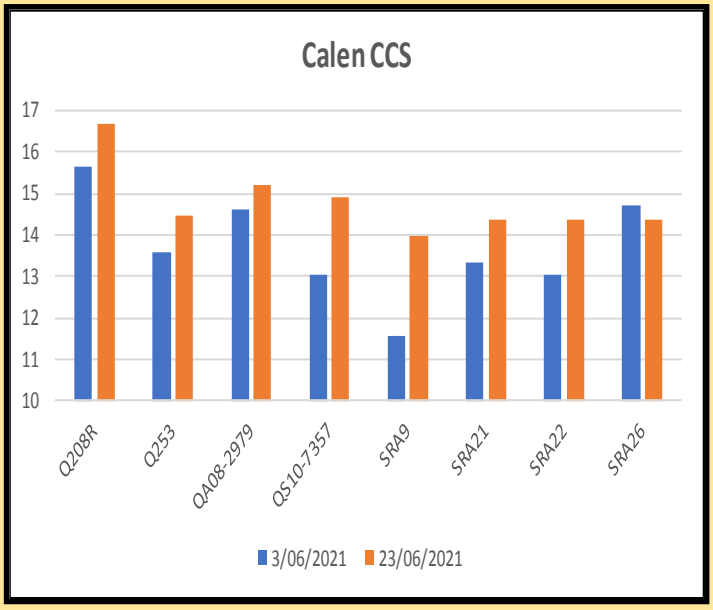
In collaboration with SRA, maturity testing has begun at four of the MAPS observation plots established throughout the Mackay Sugar region. The sampling commenced on the 3rd June and the plots will be sampled every three weeks throughout the 2021 season using the SRA maturity trailer.

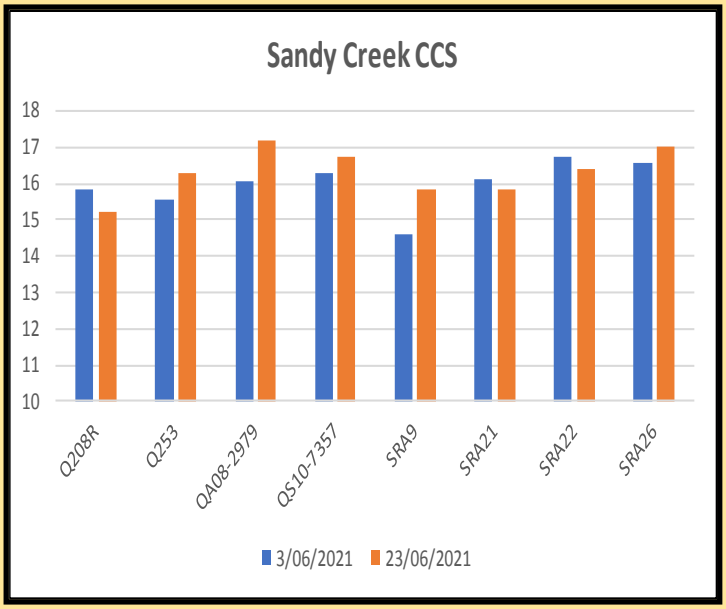
The trailer is a big time-saver in the field and by regularly measuring the maturity of the new varieties in the different plots allows us to compare the CCS against the recently released varieties. Two seedlings – QA08-2979 & QS10-7357 and SRA26 have been introduced into the observation plots which will be closely monitored and the regular testing helps build a better maturity profile of the seedlings/ new varieties.

Apart from the maturity testing, the observation plots provide valuable information and data of potential varieties grown on different soil types under various farming practices throughout the districts. Field observations such as germination times, ratoonability, moisture tolerance and chemical susceptibility provides valuable information on the varieties as they get released.









NEWSLETTER

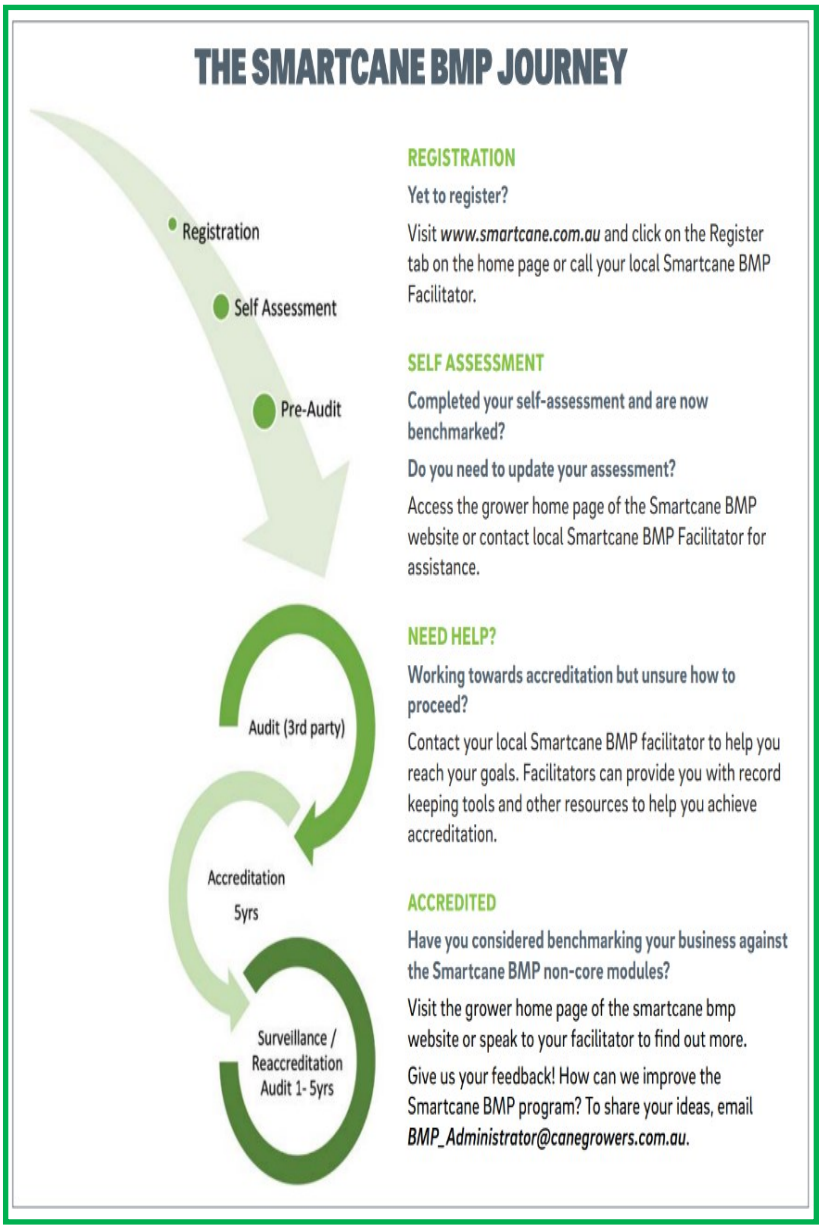
SMARTCANE BMP
MACKAY

July 2021

Smartcane BMP accreditation is for a 5-year period at which time maintaining an accredited status requires another BMP certification (reaccreditation) audit for at least the three core modules.

An internal review of Smartcane BMP procedures is conducted each year to ensure conformity and to identify improvement opportunities. To maintain the integrity of the program and in keeping with international auditing standards check-audits are also conducted annually. The number of growers selected for check-audits each year is up to 10% of the number of growers who have been accredited for at least 12 months. A grower will only be required to undertake one check audit in any five year period. (i.e. one check-audit from the time of initial audit up to the time of recertification and/or one check-audit between the time of a check-audit and when the subsequent certification would expire.)

A check audit follows the same process as the on-farm certification procedure, it is designed to check that the grower is still at industry standards or above for each practice in the core modules. This includes maintaining the required records and maintaining the currency of plans and other documentation. Once a check-audit is successfully completed, accreditation will be extended for another 5 years after which you will have to complete a reaccreditation audit.



Paul Manning a grower from the North Coast area has recently participated in a reaccreditation audit after being accredited for 5 years.

After a painless process Paul was quite happy with how the reaccreditation audit went since last audit he had participated in. “Different to previously, the audit was conducted online and was quite easy once we established what I had to prepare, with Indiana’s help beforehand and things went pretty smooth and successfully” said Paul. “Now that I have been record keeping for many years, it has become a habit for me and it is now a much easier process than when I first started.

He also stated that he will progress to Agtrix which is a web based recording program, to make things easier again. “It is all about what works for you and what you can do to make your life easier to comply with the current regulations.”

Another option when planting legumes in the fallow

Calen grower, Matt Deguara wanted to plant some soybeans in his fallow at the end of last year. Matt had planted legumes in the past as a green manure crop, but this time he thought he could also make a bit of money out of it. The block was too small and isolated to consider taking the bean to grain and having to bring in the necessary equipment to harvest it.

After taking off the final crop of cane in October 2020, Matt off sett the block twice and then bed formed it. The block had some sodic issues, so Matt managed to get some Mill Ash, which was banded on at 50 ha and then lightly worked in; he was impressed with the evenness of the application. No other fertiliser was applied.

Before planting the soybean, Matt sprayed the block with Roundup to get rid of the flush of weeds emerging. Matt used the new MAPS planter (built by Donnelly's Engineering) and planted Leichardt soybean on the 16th December 2020 after some early December showers. He found the planter easy to use, planting two soybean rows per bed, and was pleased with the soybean emergence.

12 weeks after planting, Matt contracted a bailing operator to slash, windrow and bale his soybean crop. Over 100 round bales (20 bales/ha), average weight of 700 kg, were harvested, and sold to a cattle farmer out west.

Matt was very happy with the whole exercise; not only did he make money from the sale of the bales, he also grew a good break crop, breaking the sugarcane monoculture. Together with the Ash, the soybean will improve the soil structure, leading to better water penetration. Although most of the organic matter was removed, the soybean roots will still contribute towards some organic N for the following crop (40 kg/ha). Growers engaged by MAPS in the Great Barrier Reef Foundation water quality program will get priority in the use of the planter in their fallow blocks.

Centenary of Farming Family ushers in New Recording Method

Next year the Townley family will mark 100 years since their first cane farm was purchased. Today they grow cane on 12 farms; most centred around the family farm on Cowleys Road but also several on the north side of the Pioneer River.

They appreciate the value of good record keeping and have tried many different ways to capture relevant details. Diaries from the early 1950's describe the rainfall, planting and harvesting crews and incidents.

Various recording books from the pest board, Canegrowers and rural businesses have been used and later archived in cardboard boxes.

More recently, Therese Townley tried very hard to use AgDat with frequent phone calls to a helpline in Sydney and visits by MAPS staff. When the Townleys worked towards BMP Smartcane accreditation in 2018 they went back to paper-based recording with the templates, maps and planning tools on offer.

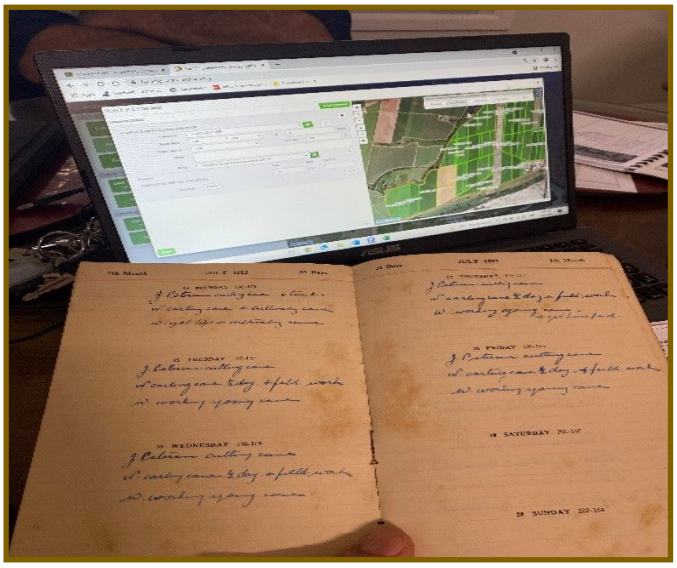
Now Therese is using AgTrix after being introduced to it by her MAPS Productivity Officer and attending a workshop in February 2021.

"Once you get going it is easy to use", Therese said. "You can't lose records, they are easy to retrieve and you can print reports. It is the way things are going."

Her husband, Charles, and sons Jono and Charlie are happy to leave the setting up of AgTrix to Therese.

"Mostly we were interested in the tool to measure distances and areas for specific tasks," Charles said.

Jono said that anything that meant he did not have to write everything down is a good thing.



But they recently spent a few hours with Shane Hare of MAPS to download the AgTrix App (free) onto their smartphones and go through how to record chemicals and fertilisers.

The idea is to do the recording when the application is done. What also became evident is that the tasks can be **Planned** on AgTrix and it will come up on their smartphone as needing to be done. Then, once completed, they may edit the information, include the weather details where relevant and just click **Done**.

The App is not yet perfect with repetitive steps to go through, but is easy to use once shown how.
They even discovered with Shane that they can record fertiliser and chemical applications in the same block at the same time. For example, when applying Confidor for grub control at the same time as fertilising with the stool splitter.

In this way the approaching centenary of the Townleys farming cane will see record keeping as an exercise shared amongst the family rather than weighing heavily on the shoulders of one person.

AgTrix is available to all growers as a free service by MAPS. If you are interested in registering to use this software, please contact Shane Hare on 0417 326 668.

SRA'S IMPROVED DISEASE RATING SYSTEM

Sugar Research Australia

By Dr George Piperidis, Variety Development Manager, Central

Disease screening of varieties in the selection program is an important part of the decision-making process for advancement of clones through the program and release of new varieties to industry. For many years, disease ratings were given on a 1-to-9 scale based on the recommended International Society of Sugarcane Technologists method for assigning disease resistance ratings. This 1-to-9 scale can be further categorised as Resistant (1-3), Intermediate (4-6) and susceptible (7-9). However, this system didn't take into account the precision of the rating for any given clone or variety.

Providing a single number for disease ratings, without any indication of the precision or accuracy of that rating, inevitably led to situations where ratings changed as more resistance data were generated. This was confusing when there was a belief that ratings were fixed and should not change once a rating had been applied. Significant angst was experienced by both industry staff and growers who had relied on a specific rating for a commercial variety.

Disease screening trials are a complex biological system and expression of disease symptoms depends on a range of factors including inherited nature of the clones, age and quality of the planting material, variability in pathogen population, environmental conditions at the time, and quality of inoculum. As more resistance data are generated for each clone, there is a greater level of confidence in the actual resistance of that clone – and the rating precision improves.

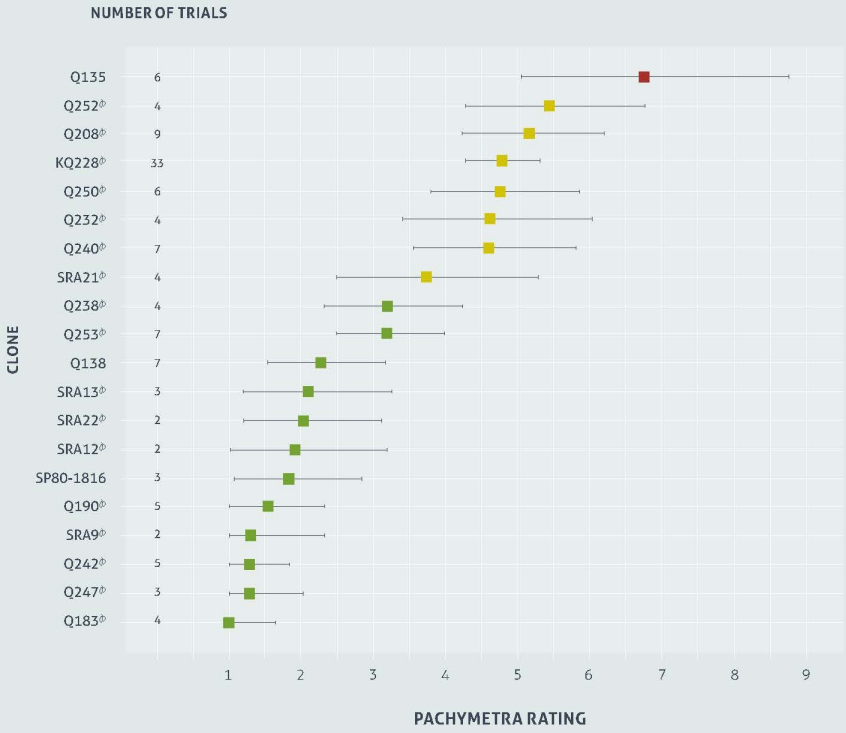
Pachymetra root rot greatly reduces root growth and yields in susceptible varieties.

In 2019, SRA reviewed the approach for providing disease ratings to address the concerns outlined above. The revised rating system provides a confidence interval instead of a single number for the resistance of each clone. The confidence interval provides an indication of how precisely SRA is able to predict the true resistance of that variety. Those viewing the new type of rating then immediately gather the general resistance in each clone and also the precision of that rating. In practical terms the confidence interval can be interpreted by considering if the disease screening was repeated 100 times, then 95 of the results would be within the interval. As more data are generated, the level of precision improves, and the confidence interval becomes narrower.

This improved rating system was introduced at the 2020 Regional Variety Committee meetings and SRA Grower Updates. It was implemented in the 2020 Variety Guides for smut and Pachymetra and has received positive feedback. Disease rating categories are still provided in the Guides but for smut and Pachymetra these rating categories should be considered in the context of the confidence intervals provided. The ratings of clones with broad confidence intervals should be held lightly until the rating becomes more precise (as more resistance trial data are generated for that variety).

In some cases, the general disease rating for a variety will change as more tests are conducted. For example, the Pachymetra rating for Q253Φ was initially Intermediate, but as more tests were conducted its rating was revised to Resistant with a confidence interval from 2.5 to 4.0. Similarly, the Pachymetra rating for Q250Φ has been revised from Intermediate-Susceptible to Intermediate with a confidence interval from 3.8 to 5.8, and Q226Φ has been revised from Intermediate-Resistant to Intermediate-Susceptible with a confidence interval from 4.3 to 7.3.

The improved rating system provides a realistic view of how well we can predict the actual disease resistance for that variety, given the data on-hand. SRA will continue working towards providing the best available disease ratings information to assist growers in making informed decisions on variety choices.



Sugarcane smut symptoms on sugarcane.

RESISTANCE GROUP
- RESISTANT
- INTERMEDIATE
- SUSCEPTIBLE

References
Bhuiyan, S. A., Deomano, E., Stringer, J., Magarey, R., Eglinton, J., Wei, X., and Piperidis, G. 2020. Development of a new variety rating system for sugarcane smut using improved statistical methods. Proc. Aust. Soc. Sugar Cane Technol. 42: 223 – 228.

Sugar Research Australia

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON DISEASE RATINGS PLEASE CONTACT:

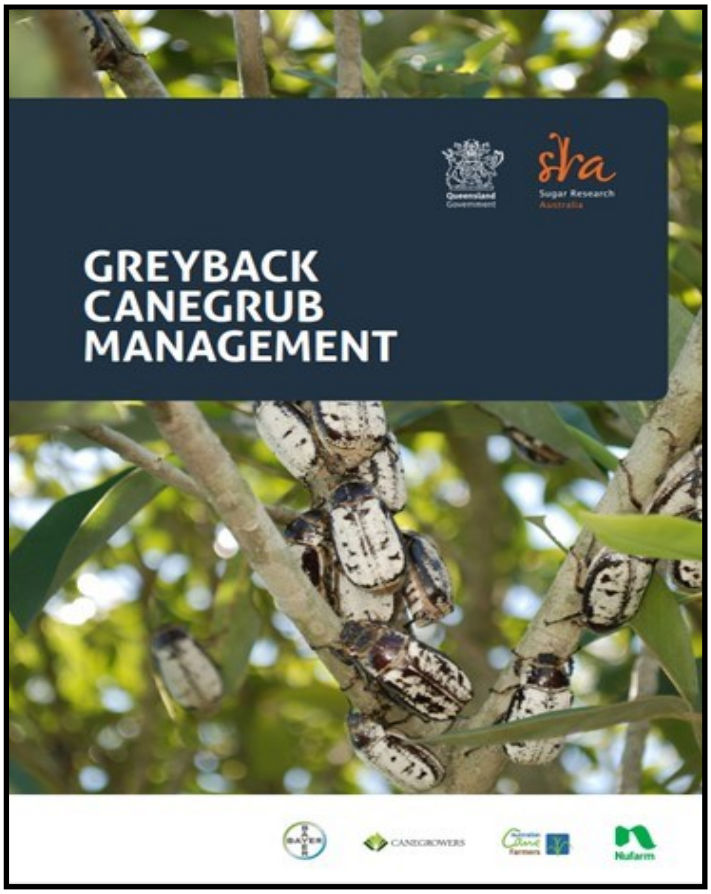
Shamsul Bhuiyan **SRA Plant Pathologist** **E** sbhuiyan@sugarresearch.com.au **M** 0400 771 304
Rob Magarey **SRA Pathologist** **E** rmagarey@suggarresearch.com.au **M** 0407 061 760
Jason Eglinton **SRA Executive Manager Variety Development** **E** jeglinton@sugarresearch.com.au **M** 0459 888 628

TIMELY REMINDERS

1 Application of liquid imidacloprid in ratoons

Imidacloprid has proved to be a good defence against cane grubs. Correct application of this chemical is essential for its effectiveness against cane grubs – the chemical needs to be placed 100 mm -125 mm below the ground surface in the cane stool. Further, proper application of imidacloprid minimises run-off losses thereby maintaining the chemical's environmental acceptability.

Guidelines and practical tips for the application of imidacloprid can be found in the recently revised SRA publication *Greyback Canegrub Management*.



The publication can be accessed through:

- SRA website (refer Resources and media/ Publications).
- SRA e-Newsletter 18 September 2020 (sent by email to members).
- Use the link: https://sugarresearch.com.au/sugar_files/2020/08/Grub-Plan-2020-F_Web.pdf
- Use the QR Code below:

2 Topping of cane

Effective topping of cane helps reduce extraneous matter in the bin because topping lowers the load on the cane cleaning chamber of the harvester.

Further, topping improves CCS because the top section of the cane stalk (low sugar/mainly water) is discarded and therefore does not dilute the CCS of the remainder of the cane stalk. SRA's publication CaneConnection Winter 2019 reported on two trials which showed that while topping reduced harvested yield (5 – 6 t/ha), the increase in CCS improved overall cane pay returns by between $110/ha - $165/ha.

It is interesting to step back some years and observe that topping had been identified as beneficial. Colin Wadell writing for the 1949 Conference of the Queensland Society of Sugar Cane Technologists noted, "In the writer's opinion, it is not only direct monetary advantage to the grower to have as many stalks as possible properly topped, but it helps him indirectly in removing his crop within a reasonable time. It assists the mill to operate at full capacity so that a given crop is crushed in a shorter period than would be required if time had to be devoted to the crushing of the low-quality top portions of cane".

Sick of Sicklepod!

Did you know that sicklepod (*Senna obtusifolia*), along with two other Sennas, foetid senna (*Senna tora*) and hairy senna (*Senna hirsuta*), are restricted invasive plants under the *Biosecurity Act 2014*?

Sicklepod is described as an extremely competitive woody shrub, with a distinctive leaf pattern of three opposite pairs rounded at the end and wedge-shaped at the base. The flowers are small, yellow and have 5 petals, and the seed pods are long, slender and sickle-shaped. When the pods are ripe, they burst open, shedding their shiny, flattened, dark brown seeds (DAF, *2020*).

Sicklepod is primarily found in sugarcane and pasture along the east coast of QLD. It is becoming a very prolific weed species within the sugarcane industry in the Mackay region, causing a variety of issues including harvesting difficulties and yield losses.

As with any prolific weed species, the most important form of control is preventing any further seed production. Mechanical control methods such as slashing can be useful in reducing infestations and/or individual plants to a manageable size.

However, slashing can encourage the plants to reshoot, and it is important to carry out any mechanical control prior to seed set. Clean machinery after use in affected areas to reduce the spread of the weed.

The chemical control of sicklepod, either by broadcast application or spot spraying, outlined in the following table from the 2021 SRA Weed Management Manual.

Herbicides are an important tool in weed management and should be used in accordance with label directions.

WEED	WEED STAGE	TREATMENT	RATE/HA	INDICATIVE COST/HA (GST INCLUSIVE)	COMMENTS
Sicklepod	Early seedling stage	dicamba (Cadence WG) + atrazine (900g/kg)	560–740g + 740–1100g	$10–$13 + $7–$10	Add atrazine for residual control.
	<50cm	2,4-D + picloram (Tordon 75-D*) + 2,4-D amine 625	700mL + 800mL	$12 + $6	Must be applied using coarse to very coarse droplets. Avoid use near sensitive crops. Only apply once per season.
	50–100cm		1000mL + 800mL	$16 + $6	
	>100cm		1500mL + 800mL	$25 + $6	

* SOURCED FROM SRA 2021 EDITION WEED MANAGEMENT MANUAL

NOTE: APPLICATION OF HERBICIDES IS MOST EFFECTIVE BEFORE THE SICKLEPOD FLOWERS.

Getting full value from mill mud

The benefits of mill mud and mud/ash are well known but are you getting full value out of your mill products? With the recent significant increase in fertilizer prices and mill mud/ash prices remaining unchanged, the economic cost for using mill products has never been so strong. To take full advantage of this, the nutrients in mud and mud/ash should be taken into account, providing a smart way to reduce your fertilizer bill.

Mill products are so good because they:

- Supply a decent amount of nutrients (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulphur, calcium, magnesium, zinc, copper and manganese)
- Improve soil texture and structure
- Improve soil water storage
- Increase soil pH

Ash is also a very important supplier of silicon which becomes deficient in some soils and helps improve soil permeability and helps treat sodicity.

Not all the nutrients in mud products are available straight away. The table below shows the nutrients the cane can use in the first year and their dollar value.

		Mill Mud		Mud/Ash	
	Nutrient Value $/kg	Available nutrients in 150t mud in first year	Nutrient value in first year	Available nutrients in 150 tonnes mud/ash	Nutrient value in first year
Nitrogen	$1.87	80	$150	50	$93
Phosphorus	$3.43	120	$412	100	$343
Potassium	$1.42	40	$57	120	$170
Sulphur	$0.70	10	$7	10	$7
Calcium	$0.45	360	$162	270	$122
			$788		$736

If the soil test for your fallow plant states that you need: Nitrogen at 140kg/ha, Phosphorus at 20 kg/ha and Potash at 100 kg/ha, this could cost $472/ha. If you use mill mud at 150 t/ha then you can cut fertilizer back to supply Nitrogen at 60 kg/ha, Phosphorus at zero and Potash at 60 kg/ha. This will cost you about $197/ha, saving $275/ha.

Note that additional nutrients in mill products become available during the remainder of the crop cycle.

Note too that if you apply more than 100 t/ha of mud it must be accounted for under reef regulations.

Banded Mill Mud & Mud/Ash Guidelines

Mud (Racecourse & Farleigh Mills)

Table 1: Typical nutrient content of mill mud & estimated available nutrients when applied at 50 t/ha banded on the row

MUD	**50 t/ha**	Estimated **available** nutrients (kg/ha)		
Nutrients	Typical nutrient content (kg/ha)	1st crop	2nd crop	3rd & 4th crop
Nitrogen	140	26.7	13.3	0
Phosphorus	140	sufficient	sufficient	sufficient
Potassium	40	13.3	0	0
Sulfur	10	3.3	3.3	3.3
Calcium (0.7 t/ha lime)	280	Calcium needs met	Calcium needs met	Calcium needs met

Table 2: Estimated $ value of mill mud available over a 3-year period when applied at 50t/ha.

	Nutrient cost	Estimated **available** nutrients & their value in **50 t/ha** mud	
Nutrient	$/kg	kg/ha	**value $/ha***
Nitrogen	1.87	40	74.8
Phosphorus	3.44	120	412.8
Calcium	0.45	280	126
Potassium	1.42	13.3	18.9
Sulfur	1.40	10	14
Total			**646.5**

* Nutrient costs are correct as of June 2021. Mud contains cane fibre which equates to about 28 % carbon content in dry matter. 50 wet t/ha of mud dries down to about 12 dry t/ha. This contributes about 3.5 t/ha of carbon to the soil. Useful quantities of magnesium, zinc, copper & manganese are also present and have not been given a dollar value.

Mud/Ash (Marian Mill)

Table 3: Typical nutrient content of mud/ash & estimated available nutrients when applied at 50 t/ha banded on the row

MUD/ASH	**50t/ha**	Estimated **available** nutrients (kg/ha)		
Nutrients	Typical nutrient content (kg/ha)	1st crop	2nd crop	3rd & 4th crop
Nitrogen	100	16.7	6.7	0
Phosphorus	100	sufficient	sufficient	Check with leaf test in 3rd crop
Potassium	60	40	0	0
Sulfur	15	3.3	3.3	0
Calcium (0.5 t/ha lime)	180	Calcium needs met	Calcium needs met	Calcium needs met

Table 4: Estimated $ value of mud/ash applied at 50 t/ha banded on the row

	Nutrient cost	Estimated **available** nutrients & their value in **50 t/ha** Marian mud/ash	
Nutrient	$/kg	kg/ha	**value $/ha***
Nitrogen	1.87	23.4	43.8
Phosphorus	3.43	100	343
Calcium	0.45	180	81
Potassium	1.42	40	56.8
Sulfur	0.71	5	3.6
Total			**528.2**

Guidelines: when using **50** t/ha mill mud or mud/ash banded on row:

- No phosphorus is needed at planting or in 3 ratoons following mud application
- Leaf testing is recommended in 3rd crop after mud/ash application to check P adequacy in the crop
- If soil BSES P is greater than 50 mg/kg, do NOT apply phosphorus fertiliser , mill mud or mud/ash
- This rate supplies approximately 0.5-0.7 t/ha of lime & the calcium needs for the crop cycle
- If calcium levels are deficient (less than 1.1 meq %) or soil pH < 5.5, extra lime is needed
- Reduce fertiliser nitrogen rate (10-15%) in the first crop after application

Crush overview

At the finish of last week, Sunday 11 July, approx. 14% of the 2021 Mackay crop has been harvested and crushed. At this point the crop is cutting slightly above the original estimate, at about 101 %. The CCS is looking very positive at over 13 % for crush week six. Some good news is that the YTD CCS is +0.5 % points better than at the same time last year. So far this season, no cane below a CCS of 7 has been delivered to any mill.

As you can see in the table KQ228 and Q240 are the highest performing varieties in CCS in the early stage of the crush. KQ228 is just under 6 % of supply while Q240 is over 40% of supply.

Mackay Sugar Variety Results YTD				
Variety	CCS%	Fibre%	Purity%	% of Supply
Q240	12.69	14.79	85.47	40.02
Q208	12.46	14.73	84.31	24.13
Q183	12.36	15.44	84.71	9.46
KQ228	12.93	15.53	85.54	5.95
Q242	11.55	15.37	83.76	4.68
SP80	11.92	15.37	83.96	4.34
Q232	12.28	15.49	84.65	2.79

After a precarious start, the Mills seem to be settling down and are starting to show good results in crushing rates.

The recent dry conditions have been really good for harvesting the crop and let's hope the sunny weather continues.

Now that the mills are getting into their stride we have to try to crush as much as possible to take advantage of the weather in this early time of the year.

The Cane Productivity department at MSL are conducting trials with two SCHLOT harvesting monitors which will be installed on several harvesters during the season. If you are interested in seeing how they are working or use it for a couple of weeks in your harvester, please contact Kev Moore. 0438 326 677.

Mackay Sugar
Member of Nordzucker Group