

March 2025

The number of **KNOWN** RSD farms in the Mackay Region has increased in 2024 from 2023.

A clean, volunteer free fallow is step one of combatting RSD

RSD is easily spread

RSD can cause up to 60% yield loss.

The best way to know your plants are clean is to get clean seed

Getting your plants checked is the best way to manage RSD

RSD has **NO** external symptoms in most cases

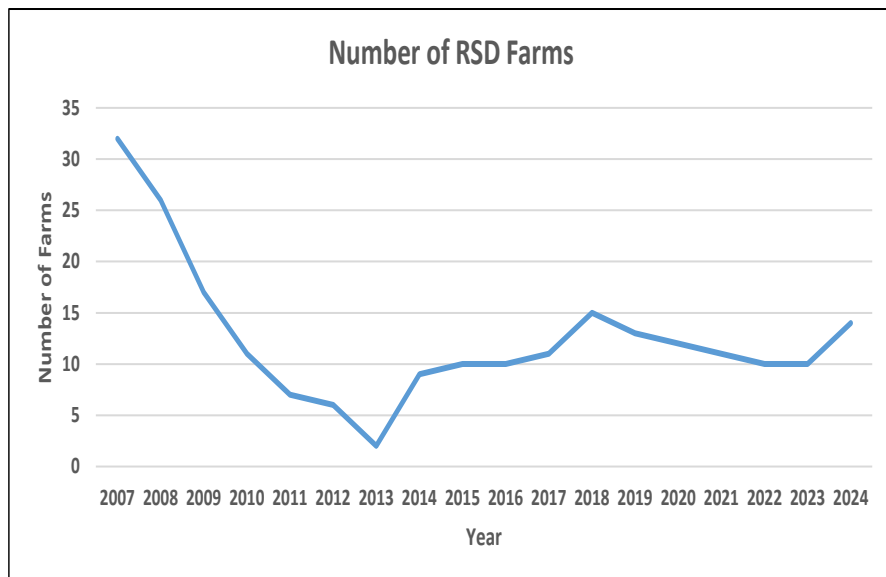
Do **NOT** plough-out replant

Volunteers are an easy way for RSD to be transferred to the next crop cycle

BE WISE, STERILISE!!

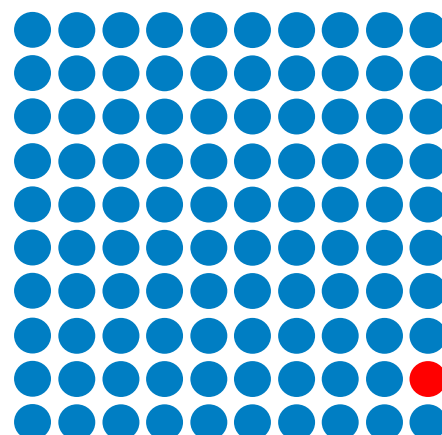
Controlling RSD by Working Together

As RSD becomes a hot topic again this season, it's important to note that while the Mackay region has one of the lowest RSD rates, the risk of an outbreak still exists. This year, RSD has been detected in areas where it hasn't been seen for many years, highlighting that no farm or area is immune. MAPS takes a proactive approach by conducting on-farm plant source inspections to detect RSD, as well as an annual survey targeting older ratoon blocks. While the detections are disappointing, they provide an opportunity to implement control measures and work toward eliminating the disease.

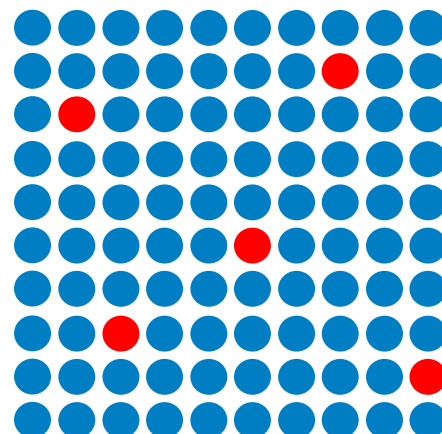


RSD restricts the plant's ability to grow and use water and can cause yield losses of 15-20%, with the potential to reach up to 60% in dryer years. RSD is spread through infected planting material or by harvesting and planting machinery that's been in contact with infected juice. The risk of spreading RSD increases significantly during peak harvesting and planting periods. Plough out replant and volunteer stools can also transmit the disease through to the next crop cycle. Using a cane free fallow or break crop is the only way to get rid of RSD as no varieties are resistant. To minimise this risk, it's essential to sterilise machinery between farms and, in some cases, between blocks, especially if harvesters have been in older ratoons where contamination risk is higher as there are no external symptoms besides growth stunting. While sterilisation and cleaning of equipment can be time-consuming, it is an effective way to reduce potential crop losses as RSD can survive on base cutters for up to 4 days.

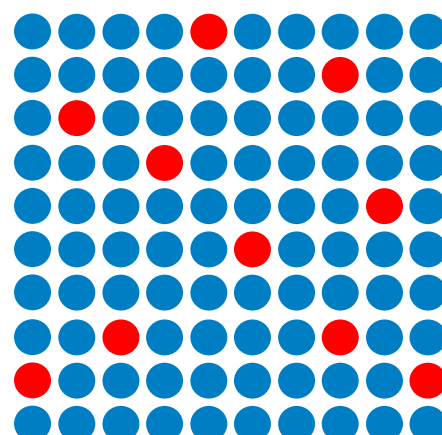
RSD can be a very hard disease to detect at low infection rates as shown in the diagrams. Each diagram represents a paddock with the red dots an infected RSD stool, it's fair to say finding RSD can be a difficult job at low infection levels. If you don't look you won't find anything, that's why plant inspections are vital to detecting RSD in the early stages and can prevent a major disease outbreak. The combination of plant inspections and RSD surveys in older ratoons gives MAPS the best chances of finding the diseases and protecting our local industry.



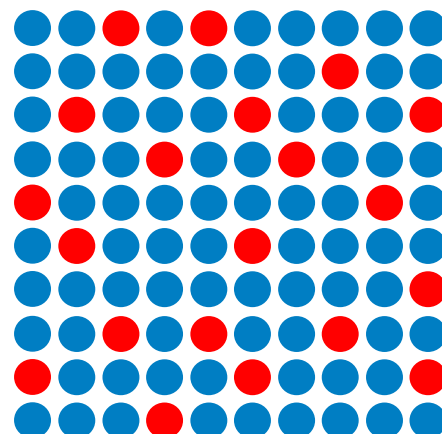
Paddock with 1% RSD Infection



Paddock with 5% RSD Infection



Paddock with 10% RSD Infection



Paddock with 20% RSD Infection

Although no one wants RSD it is a manageable disease if the appropriate steps are taken on farm to maintain good productivity and to prevent the spread between blocks and farms. The best recommendation to maintaining a clean and disease-free farm is to follow ***the three R's***:

- ✓ Regular Clean Seed Uptake
- ✓ Regular Plant Source Inspections
- ✓ Regular Sterilisation & Hygiene of Planting &

Harvester Equipment

RSD management is crucial for maintaining and improving productivity, and one of the best ways to achieve this is by collecting clean seed from MAPS-approved seed plots. These plants undergo Cold Soak and Hot Water Treatment, ensuring that growers have access to disease-free planting material. Every row of a MAPS clean seed plot is sampled every 20 metres and analysed by the highly sensitive qPCR method at a SRA laboratory.

While the process can be time-consuming, it is a worthwhile investment to refresh seed sources and eliminate RSD. This is why MAPS regularly emphasises the importance of RSD management and clean seed. We strongly encourage growers to follow our advice and take full advantage of the resources and services we offer to support disease-free farming practices. This year plants are available from:

| Victoria Plains | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Whole Stick | | Billet | |
| Ian Marais – 0417326669 | | | |
| SRA40, SRA32, SRA26, SRA22, SRA21, SRA9, Q253, Q240, Q183, KQ228, Q208R | | SRA40, SRA26, SRA22, SRA21, SRA9, Q253, Q240, Q183, KQ228, Q208R | |
| Pioneer Valley | North Coast | Racecourse | Marian |
| Billets Dows Creek | Billets Pindi Pindi | Billets Bakers Creek | Billets Marian Hampden |
| Ian Marais – 0417326669 | Brendan Rae - 0417326393 | Indiana Zarb - 0439557839 | Maryanne Volker - 0417326668 |
| SRA9 | Q240 | Q183 | Q240 |



SRA32[®]

(QN80-3425 x QN86-2168)

CENTRAL variety summary factsheet – more information, including detailed herbicide toxicity data, can be found in your latest regional Variety Guide.

VARIETY ATTRIBUTES

SRA32[®] has shown a 18% TCH yield advantage over Q208 in Central field trials. This yield advantage is consistent across trial locations in Central, Burdekin, Herbert and Far North. SRA32[®] is a reliable germinator for early crop establishment, it continues growing throughout the season and is best harvested mid to late. SRA32[®] is a more profitable variety choice for growers with a low Pachymetra and smut risk. SRA32[®] was approved for release by the Regional Variety Committee in 2024. Whole stick will be available from SSP and PCPSL in 2024 and 2025 from MAPS. Tissue culture is also available through SRA.



| VARIETY | RELATIVE TO Q208 | |
|--------------------|------------------|-----|
| | CCS | TSH |
| Q208 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| SRA9 [®] | -0.6 | 0.6 |
| SRA32 [®] | -0.2 | 3.1 |

Productivity data presented is from 5 x Plant, 5 x 1R and 2 x 2R harvest results from Central FATs planted in 2020 and 2022.

| VARIETY | Diseases | | | | | APPEARANCE AT HARVEST | | |
|--------------------|----------|------------|---------|------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------|
| | Smut | Pachymetra | Red Rot | Leaf Scald | Fiji Leaf Gall | Lodging | Arrowing | Suckering |
| Q208 | I | I | R | R | I-S | Moderate | Average | Light-mod |
| SRA9 [®] | I | R | I-R | R | I | Mod-heavy | Average | Light |
| SRA32 [®] | I | I | I | R | I-R | Moderate | Average | Light |

■ RESISTANT (R) ■ RESISTANT-INTERMEDIATE (I-R) ■ INTERMEDIATE (I) ■ INTERMEDIATE-SUSCEPTIBLE (I-S) ■ SUSCEPTIBLE (S) * PROVISIONAL RATING (P)

AGRONOMIC FEATURES

SRA32[®] has demonstrated fast germination, rapid early growth, and reliable ratooning. It has a large, open stool with a very high stalk count, and stalks of moderate thickness with good length. SRA32[®] exhibits average arrowing similar to SRA9[®], and suckering comparable to Q253[®]. It tends to lodge in larger crops and has large, bulbous eyes that are covered by moderate trash and side shooting has been observed on exposed edges.

In final assessment trials in the Central region, SRA32[®] has shown to be a very high-yielding variety with CCS slightly below the average of the standards.

SRA32[®] has a similar disease profile to Q208, with an intermediate rating for smut and pachymetra. A moderate level of smut has been observed in SRA32[®] in second ratoon trials. Initial maturity sampling of SRA32[®] suggests it is best harvested mid to late in the season. Consider the use of crop ripeners to help maximize its CCS returns, as it has slightly lower CCS compared to other major commercial varieties. SRA32[®] is a profitable variety choice for Central growers with a low pachymetra and smut risk.

SRA32[®] is protected by Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) as denoted by the [®] symbol. SRA32[®] growers are subject to the terms of the SRA License Agreement. This license is currently royalty free.



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For more information on *variety field trials* contact: **Central Variety Officer, Chris Tom, CTom@sugarresearch.com.au, M 0411 589 806**

sugarresearch.com.au



mackay area productivity services



Variety Information

| Disease, Harvest & Management Ratings | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Variety | First Year Supplied from MAPS | Parentage | Pachymetra | Red Rot | Smut | Germination | Sugar | | |
| | | | | | | | Early | Mid | Late |
| SRA32 | 2025 | QN80-3425 x QN86-2168 | Intermediate | Intermediate | Intermediate | Good | Average | Good | Good |
| SRA40 | 2024 | QN97-2122 x Q146 | Resistant | Resistant | Resistant | Good | Poor | Average | Average |
| SRA26 | 2023 | CP70-1547 x QA96-1492 | Resistant | Resistant | Resistant | Good | Average | Good | Good |
| SRA22 | 2020 | QS91-7179 x CP72-2086 | Resistant | Intermediate | Resistant | Good | Average | Good | Average |
| SRA21 | 2019 | QC82-668 x Q205 | Intermediate | Intermediate | Inter-Res | Good | Average | Good | Average |
| SRA13 | 2018 | QC88-284 x QC90-289 | Resistant | Inter-Res | Resistant | Good | Average | Average | Poor |
| SRA12 | 2018 | Q233 x QC90-289 | Resistant | Intermediate | Resistant | Slow | Poor | Average | Average |
| SRA9 | 2017 | QN81-289 x Q166 | Resistant | Inter-Res | Inter-Sus | Good | Poor | Average | Good |
| Q253 | 2017 | QN80-3425 x Q209 | Resistant | Intermediate | Resistant | Very Good | Good | Good | Average |
| Q252 | 2013 | Q208 x Q96 | Intermediate | Resistant | Intermediate | Good | Good | Good | Average |
| Q250 | 2017 | QN79-183 x QN89-1043 | Intermediate | Intermediate | Resistant | Good | Good | Good | Average |
| Q249 | 2012 | QC83-625 x QC90-289 | Intermediate | Inter-Res | Resistant | Average | Average | Average | Average |
| Q247 | 2013 | Q138 x Q155 | Resistant | Resistant | Intermediate | Average | Average | Average | Average |
| Q242 | 2012 | Q170 x Q150 | Resistant | Inter-Res | Intermediate | Good | Average | Average | Average |
| Q240 | 2012 | QN81-289 x SP78-3137 | Intermediate | Resistant | Resistant | Good | Good | Good | Average |
| Q238 | 2009 | Q138 x Q155 | Resistant | Inter-Res | Resistant | Good | Average | Good | Good |
| Q232 | 2009 | QN80-3425 x QS72-732 | Intermediate | Inter-Res | Inter-Res | Average | Average | Average | Average |
| KQ228 | 2007 | QN80-3425 x CP74-2005 | Intermediate | Resistant | Intermediate | Good | Good | Good | Poor |
| Q208R | 2016 | | Intermediate | Resistant | Inter-Res | Average | Good | Good | Good |
| Q208 | 2005 | Q135 x QN61-1232 | Intermediate | Resistant | Inter-Res | Average | Good | Good | Good |
| Q190 | 2000 | Q170 x H56-752 | Resistant | Resistant | Resistant | Good | Poor | Average | Average |
| Q183 | 2007 | Q124 x H56-752 | Resistant | Intermediate | Resistant | Good | Average | Good | Good |
| Q138 | | QN58-829 x QN66-2008 | Resistant | Inter-Sus | Susceptible | Average | Poor | Average | Average |
| Q135 | | NC0310 x QN56-7096 | Susceptible | Susceptible | Intermediate | Average | Poor | Average | Good |
| SP80 | 2015 | SP71-1088 x H57-5028 | Resistant | Resistant | Inter-Sus | Average | Average | Average | Average |

The information in this table is reproduced from the SRA Variety Guide with permission from SRA.

Ratoon Stunting Disease

Please note RSD ratings have not been included. No sugar cane varieties are resistant to RSD. All varieties can become infected and suffer yield loss. Some varieties such as KQ228, Q242 and Q253 are more susceptible to RSD. The following measures will help reduce the risk of introducing RSD to your farm and help contain the spread of RSD:

- Source clean seed from a MAPS approved clean seed plot
- Refresh your source for all varieties every 2-3 years
- Have MAPS staff inspect all cane plant sources you intend to use
- Plant into volunteer-free fallow
- Sterilize planting and harvesting equipment that comes into contact with cane juice

MAPS Field Observations

| Based on MAPS Field Observations | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--|---|-----------------|
| Variety | Release date | General Comments | | Soil Preference |
| SRA32 | 2025 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Above average tonnes - Below average sugar - Prone to lodging | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pronounced eyes/ Tough rine - Limited commercial data available - Fast germinater /Slow to stool out | Good |
| SRA40 | 2023 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susceptible to brown rust - Stool prone to sprawling | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Below Average Sugar - limited commercial data available | Average |
| SRA26 | 2022 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reliable germination - Slow after germination - Leaf Scald | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highly susceptible to chlorotic streak - Limited commercial data available - Hairy leaf sheaths | Good |
| SRA22 | 2020 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compact stool size - Good canopy, closes in well - Slow grower - Early to mid-season maturing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid late harvest - Responds well to irrigation - Heavy trash blanket | Good |
| SRA21 | 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Upright cane - Reliable germination (can be slow) - Ratoons reliably | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can tolerate waterlogged - Prone to suckering | Average to Good |
| SRA13 | 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prone to lodging - Average sugar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor yields in ratoons - Prone to smut | Good |
| SRA12 | 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slow to germinate & ratoon - Compact stool | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prone to smut | Good |
| SRA9 | 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slow but reliable ratooner, fills in well - Good tonnes sugar / hectare - Wet feet and thick trash cover reduce yields (consider removing trash in low, heavy country) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good/heavy soils may produce lower CCS (consider adjusting nitrogen rates) - Heavy crops can challenge harvesting - Crops yields holding up well in later ratoons | All soils |
| Q253 | 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fast, reliable germination - Susceptible to brown rust - More prone to RSD than most varieties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good option for poorer soils - Heavy/good soils may produce lower CCS (consider adjusting nitrogen rates) | Poor |
| Q252 | 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good early sugar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ratooning concerns, fades in ratoons | Good |
| Q250 | 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Very little commercial data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Heavy to good soil preferred | Good |
| Q242 | 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prone to smut, chlorotic streak and RSD - Prone to suckering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Superior pachymetra resistant varieties now available | Average to Good |
| Q240 | 2012 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Good germination - Early sugar, deteriorates late with suckering | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handles some waterlogging - May tolerate soldier better than other varieties | All soils |
| KQ228 | 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early sugar, deteriorates late with suckering - Fast germination - More prone to RSD than other varieties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More prone to RSD than other varieties - Can tolerate heavy soil | Good |
| Q208R | 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reliable allrounder, good ratoonability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Slow in dry conditions & if plant material is mature | All soils |
| Q208 | 2005 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handles wet feet | | |
| Q183 | 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fast germination and ratooning | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Susceptible to Chlorotic Streak | All soils |
| SP80 | 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brittle in windy conditions - Variable sugar | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resilient in poor harvest conditions | All soils |

The information in this table is from observations made by MAPS staff. It should be used as a guide only as varying conditions can impact variety performance.

The Halls Re-Accreditation

Growers who have achieved Smartcane BMP Accreditation need to be reaccruited after five years. This is a process that Geoff and Deb Hall are currently going through with son Nick who has returned to the farm on completion of his trade.

The Halls initially decided to go for Smartcane BMP Accreditation after enduring a fertiliser audit by DES. Their MAPS Productivity Officer pointed out that they would not have any difficulty passing a BMP audit and would then be a low priority for any future visits from state government representatives.

Now, five years later, they are revisiting what was collated the first time around to review and update. They are also including new documents that demonstrate compliance with legislation introduced since their first audit.

For example, the regulations requiring that Nitrogen and Phosphorus (N&P) Budgets be calculated before any fertilising program is done came into effect several years ago and so was not something addressed in the initial accreditation process.

Nick Hall says that he sees the need for paperwork having been exposed to it when doing his trade. "I see that there are different ways to do recording on the farm and sometimes the way Dad was doing it works best for us," said Nick.

Geoff added that fertiliser records were part of their farming long before doing BMP, with colour coding and notes on farm maps a preferred method and often referred to.

Recording applications of chemicals on the farm, especially herbicides, is evolving over time. Again, the Halls prefer using farm maps for these records, but the additional information required (e.g. weather conditions before, during and after the work and the quantities of products used, etc) may need a table attached to make it less busy and confusing.

Deb Hall is a key figure in completing various documents that attempt to capture on paper what Geoff and Nick have in their heads! Whatever needs to be done is never too much.

If you know you have a BMP Reaccreditation coming due, you may do it earlier than the date on your certificate by giving a call to MAPS BMP Facilitators - Lorelle Flynn (0448 715 482) and Steven Garrad (0417 326 673).



MAPS NEW TEAM MEMBER

My name is Maggie Bath, and I am the new Productivity Officer for MAPS in the Racecourse and Victoria Plains area.

I grew up in Mackay on my family's cane farm at Sandy Creek which was my introduction into the sugar industry.

During high school I completed work experience with MAPS which furthered my interest in the agriculture industry.

I am currently studying a Bachelor of Agriculture majoring in Agronomy online through CQUniversity, as well

as being a part of the Queensland Farmers Federation Agricultural Extension Program.

During my free time away from work I enjoy the outdoors, especially the beach and playing netball.

I am very interested in expanding my knowledge and connections within the sugar industry to assist local farmers in increasing farm productivity.

**Contact me by:
PH: 0417 326 672
Email: mbath@maps.org.au**



SRA notice: Innisfail leaf scald detection

SRA has been notified of a detection of leaf scald in an SRA26 crop in the Innisfail District. The infected crop was reported by a grower and SRA pathologists visually affirmed the infection as leaf scald and identified the plants as SRA26.

- Leaf scald has been detected in SRA26 in Innisfail
- SRA will monitor infected crops for increased disease.
- Growers identifying potential infections should contact SRA staff.
- Appropriate phytosanitary methods should be used to avoid further disease spread where leaf scald has been identified.

What you can do to mitigate leaf scald spread:

- o Take care to prevent the bacterium from moving from your farm to others, by minimising traffic in and out of infected areas to avoid potential spread
- o Only use cane from approved seed plots with protocols for producing clean seed
- o Do not replant from untested plant sources from your farm or another farm
- o Clean and disinfect all implements i.e. cane knives, whole stalk and billet planters and harvesters
- o Spray cutting surfaces and parts that contact infected plants with registered products.

SRA's Lead Field Pathologist Dr Seona Casonato said despite the detection in SRA26, symptoms are less severe than those exhibited in other more susceptible varieties.

"If you have SRA26, the leaf scald we have observed in the Innisfail District has not presented with classic leaf scald symptoms and looks similar to chlorotic streak. Please contact your local pathologist for diagnosis if unusual symptoms are observed," Dr Casonato said.

SRA will continue to monitor leaf scald cases in the district and provide updates. Growers who think they have leaf scald should contact their local SRA station.

For further information on leaf scald see this [fact sheet](#).



Above Photo Left: Initial symptoms expressed in SRA26. Above Photo Right: Advanced symptoms in the acute stage, exhibiting leaf scald.



(Above photos) Severe leaf scald symptoms in susceptible varieties of sugarcane.



(Above photos) An example of typical chlorotic streak symptoms. Leaf scald in SRA26 can look similar.

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Feral Pig Recording



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Record Feral Pig activity in FeralPigScan



Record Feral Pigs

Log In

Register

Total Records

23,659

Recent Records

5,162

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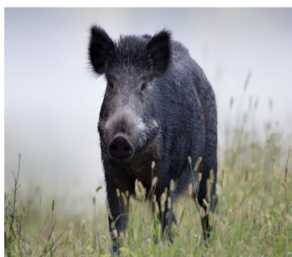
[Record feral pig activity](#)

What FeralPigScan provides

FeralPigScan is a free resource for landholders, Landcare groups, community groups, local Councils, professional pest controllers and biosecurity groups. It has been designed by landholders for communities.

1. Feral pig activity and sightings
2. Damage (such as crop damage or soil disturbance)
3. Control activities (eg. baiting, trapping, shooting)
4. Photos from monitoring cameras

[Learn more](#)



If you have feral pig activity/sightings on your farm, please record this information on the feral pig scan website <https://www.feralscan.org.au/feralpigscan/default.aspx>.

The more information put in for the Mackay region the more likelihood we are in getting government funding to combat the feral pest.

Yellow Crazy Ants

Yellow crazy ants are an exotic pest, listed as one of the world's 100 worst invasive species. First detected in the Cairns area in 2001, they currently infest over 1400 hectares in the region, including cane farms around Edmonton, Sawmill Pocket, Bentley Park and Gordonvale.

Yellow crazy ants are adept 'farmers' and can be observed 'husbanding' large numbers of honeydew producing insects. This includes sugarcane pests, such as scale insects, whitefly and aphids.

Excess honey dew from large numbers of these insects often leads to development of sooty moulds and encourages mildews – causing significant damage to yellow crazy ant infested cane crops.

Local cane farm worker and rural community representative Frank Teodo knows the impact yellow crazy ants can have on sugarcane.

"Farmers are busy people and don't have time for trivial matters, it's not until they have massive numbers of yellow crazy ants that they realise the full financial impact the ants can have.

"In 2012/13, the numbers of yellow crazy ants on neighbouring properties exploded and growers were forced to plough out first ratoon, which simply makes farming economically unviable."

The ants also pose a risk to the nearby Wet Tropics World Heritage Area so with the support from Commonwealth and State funding, the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) and its partners are working together to eradicate yellow crazy ants from infestations south of Cairns and near Kuranda.

As a result, the Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program was established in 2014. Since then the overall ant numbers have declined and the effects on local sugarcane farms is significantly reduced. Still, about forty percent (592 hectares) of the total yellow crazy ant infestation area is on sugarcane farms.

WTMA Project Manager, Lucy Karger and her dedicated team have been working hard to eradicate this pest.

"We have recently declared two outlying sites eradicated, with another site on track to be eradicated later this year—so we know the treatment program is working.

"However, with increased vigilance and greater public awareness of yellow crazy ants we are finding other areas of infestation, the majority of which are found in sugarcane on the southern edge of the Wet Tropics infestation."

Yellow crazy ants spread in three ways: through colony budding, through human assistance, and by 'rafting' downstream with the flow of water.

People can spread ants by moving materials that harbour a nest or queen ants. This includes farm machinery and vegetation.

With the ants foraging 24 hours a day there is significant potential, during the

harvest season, for spreading yellow crazy ants from infested areas to other cane farms.

Yellow crazy ants are a restricted biosecurity matter (Category 3) under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

This means everyone has an obligation to minimise the risk of further infestation by not moving yellow crazy ants or materials infested with them.

The Yellow Crazy Ant Eradication Program want to ensure local farmers are well informed, know how to identify a yellow crazy ant and who to contact to report yellow crazy ants.

It is also important farmers are aware and can follow existing industry biosecurity measures to help stop expansion and further infestation of the ants.

According to the Biosecurity Manual for Sugarcane Producers – created by Plant Health Australia, CANEGROWERS, Sugar Research Australia and the Australian Sugar Milling Council – there are easy ways to protect your farm, including:

- Manage people movement and the risks posed by vehicles and equipment – this could include erecting biosecurity signs, ensuring farm machinery that travels between properties is washed down prior to moving between sites, or having designated clean parking areas for visitors to your property.
- Adopt industry best management practices – industry schemes like Smartcane BMP have pest management components to assist in risks.
- Monitor your farm and report anything unusual – ongoing vigilance is vital to early detection and control of pests.

Report the presence immediately.



Mackay Sugar Mapping

Mackay Sugar is making changes to its mapping and harvest management processes for the 2025 season and migrating its existing systems to Agtrix. This involves merging three IT systems (GECHO, GSM, and Agtrix) into one system (Agtrix). The main reason for the change is that the existing MSL mapping program is over 20 years old and is becoming more complex to manage and more difficult and costly to support.

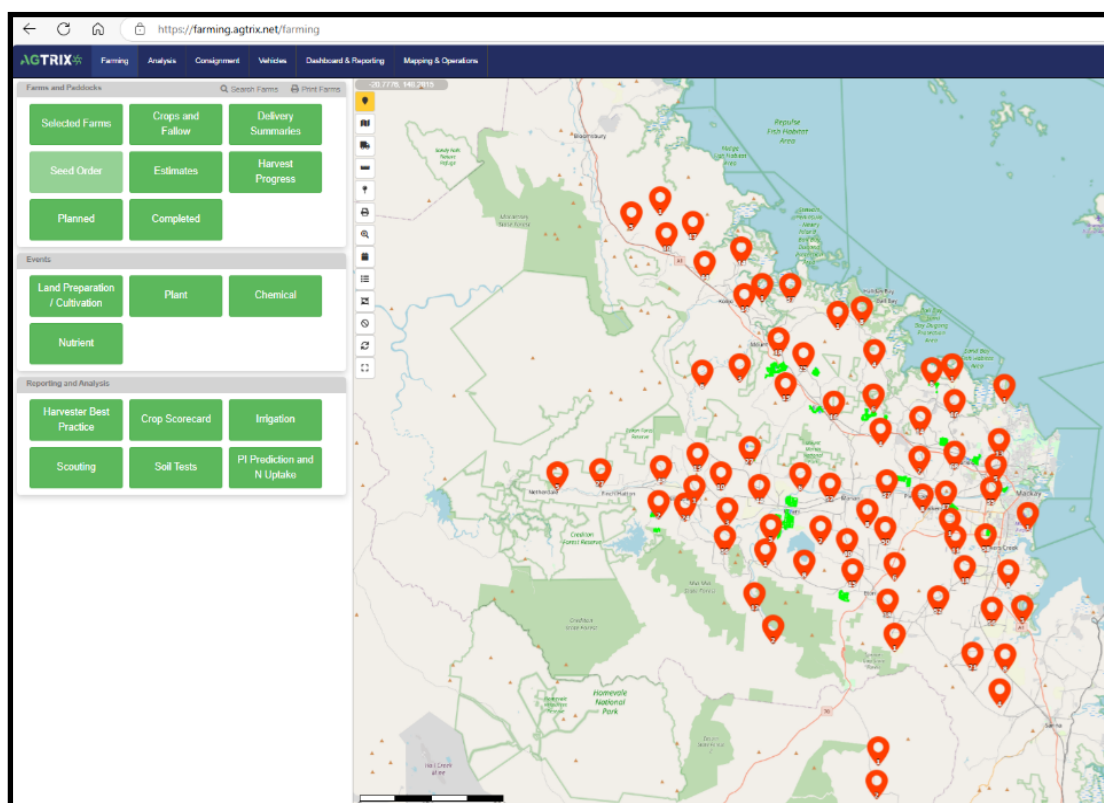
One of the main functions of the mapping program is to provide a reliable and accurate crop forecasting model that produces an exact number for the area under cane. Having multiple systems adds a layer of complexity when trying to produce a single figure that can be used with confidence by both the growers and the miller.

The move to the Agtrix system aligns with the same program that is used by MAPS. The main benefit of moving to Agtrix is that we can now rely on Agtrix as the 'single source of the truth' for land under cane and crop estimating. This ultimately does away with the double handling of details in multiple systems where inevitably there were differences in data. Moving forward, there is also the potential benefits of being able to share satellite imagery and harvest tracking through the Agtrix program to growers.

In addition to using the Agtrix mapping system, MSL is going to use the Agtrix Harvest Management system. This allows for land under cane, crop estimating, and harvest management to all be performed in the same place, giving more accurate and real time data to the Cane Supply team.

These are a couple of big changes that over time will deliver a system that simplifies the mapping process and provides an efficient harvest management system. With some of these changes taking place over a short amount of time we do ask that you bear with us over the coming months and into the season as we work with you to deliver these changes.

Any questions or queries about the change in process can be directed to Damian Baxter on 0419294768 or d.baxter@mkysugar.com.au



four values
growing together



Mackay Sugar
Member of Nordzucker Group

Elevating cane farming through sustainable practices



CANERISE
Mackay Whitsunday

CaneRise Mackay Whitsunday (canerise.com.au) is a local website featuring stories, tools and information to help cane farmers in the Mackay Whitsunday region grow their productivity and profits through sustainable practices.

CaneRise is a central portal **for cane farmers** to easily access:

- useful and up-to-date **tools and resources** for cane farming
- **funding** opportunities for growers
- upcoming **events** in the region
- stories and videos featuring **local growers** who are seeing benefits from practice changes
- opportunities to get involved with local water quality improvement **projects**.



There is also a **community section**, including CaneRise Learning, a new education hub featuring an interactive cane farm for little kids and big kids to learn about cane farming, at home or in the classroom.



CaneRise is funded through the Queensland Government's Queensland Reef Water Quality Program to help cane growers implement practices that improve their cane, soil and water quality in Reef catchment areas. CaneRise was originally created as part of a project funded by the partnership between the Australian Government's Reef Trust and the Great Barrier Reef Foundation.

Supporting organisations



Great Barrier Reef Foundation



Head over to canerise.com.au to check it out.
Don't forget to **sign up to the newsletter** to receive updates on the latest tools, information and stories from the Mackay Whitsunday area. And pass the word on!