



# Burdekin Productivity Services Grower Update

OCTOBER 2010 EDITION 1

## HOT TOPIC

### Annual Grower Survey

It is that time of the year when BPS field staff are out collecting information from all growers towards the annual crop data survey. This involves collecting:

- Fallow management strategies
- Detail of blocks planted including dates
- Varieties planted and location of the plant source
- Planting methods
- Sett protection and pest control measures implemented on farm
- Nutrition applied on plant blocks
- Soil ameliorations applied on-farm, including mill mud/ash
- Known pests and diseases affecting farms
- Current contact details
- Seed cane orders for next year

**Your field officer will contact you soon.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CPI Meetings

CPI meetings are being held in the month of November.

- Pioneer and Kalamia first/second weeks of November
- Invicta first and second weeks of November
- Inkerman 3rd week of November

Grower representative organisations will email dates through normal channels. BPS will send SMS messages on the day to remind growers of time and venue.

## NOTICES

### Farm Hygiene

Growers should remain vigilant with farm hygiene due to the risk of RSD and weed pests such as Itch grass being spread by machinery. A recent RSD outbreak highlighted the district's need for sterilisation of all contractor and grower machinery.

### Membership details

It is important to keep in touch with BPS to update contact details when there have been changes. Mobile and email are becoming important communication tools and we would not like growers to miss out on important information.

### Fee for service

BPS is offering EC Mapping to growers wishing to improve the application of soil ameliorants such as gypsum. This service is conducted on a fee for service basis. EC mapping also assists in the geo-referencing of soil test location using GPS technology. Contact us for further information.

### Plot inspections

BPS staff are out inspecting the newly planted plots to ensure that each plot is to the approved seed cane standard. BPS maintains 8 plots across the district to ensure maximum seed distribution to growers.

### Itch Grass

BPS Staff will begin coordinating and assisting in the detection and removal of Itch Grass across the district in the coming weeks. If you find itch grass or unsure as to a weed pest, please contact BPS to arrange an inspection.

## STAFF PROFILE

**Name:** Trevor Berryman

**Position:** Manager

**How long have you been working for this organisation?**

I've worked for BPS for nearly 3 years, since December 2007.

**Why do you like working at BPS?**

BPS is a positive and challenging environment. I come from a sugar background, growing up on the family farm here in the Burdekin. Sugar is in the blood, so to speak. I enjoy working with the BPS team to provide high standard services for growers. Working for the betterment of the industry with other industry players - grower representative organisations, Sucrogen and government - is a bonus.

**What is the most challenging aspect of being the manager of BPS?**

There are new and varied challenges every single day. The world moves at lightning pace for all of us, no matter what we're doing. We all have to keep pace. That's the challenge!



## STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

### Manager

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### Financial Officer

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### Operations Manager

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### Field Staff

#### Inkerman

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#### Kalamia

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#### Invicta

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#### Pioneer

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