



ISSUE 10 - FEBRUARY
2013



Important Messages

Welcome back to another year and I take this opportunity to wish all members a happy New Year and hope the 2013 season is kind and beneficial to all growers in the district.

Last year as part of the review of the strategic plan, the board made a decision to actively engage in and deliver high quality extension services to support Burdekin growers. The Board has appointed Rob Milla to fill the new Extension Agronomist position and he commenced his employment on the 11th February. Rob is a resource available to growers for extension advice on all areas of the farming system and as the position develops he will need trial co-operators to provide field sites which will showcase some of the innovative farming practices growers are developing or can implement. These will be demonstrated through field walks and demonstration at field locations. We welcome Rob on board as a new team member and wish him well as he carries out his duties.

BIO – Rob Milla

Rob is trained as an agricultural engineer and has been involved with the Burdekin sugar industry for over 10 years. He started in the region as a Rural Water Use Efficiency (RWUE) extension officer at BSES before moving into a more general extension role. In his last role most growers will recognise him from his role as an extension officer with DAFF (formerly DPI) where his focus was on profitable farming systems and their impacts on water quality. If you wish to contact Rob you can find his contact details in the staff contacts.

John's Corner

All the BPS staff have returned from annual leave and are currently finishing off their data collection, inspecting plots and attending to growers requests about pests and diseases they may have in their fields. Itch Grass rogueing continues to be a high priority on our agenda and blocks on several farms have recently been rogued by the staff. NBWB channel banks have also been inspected and any Itch Grass found has been sprayed and adjacent cane rogued. Staff will be inspecting the majority of cane lands for Orange Rust. Prior to the rain in late January Orange Rust was detected in some blocks.

Field Staff have commenced our annual spraying of rogue cane in drains, culverts, riparian lands etc. These rogue stools are potential breeding sites for Pests and Diseases. We are relatively disease free in the Burdekin and our Field Staff want to keep it this way.

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Rob Milla the newly appointed
Extension Agronomist

*"Itch Grass rogueing
continues to be a high
priority on our agenda"*



BPS & NBWB staff looking at Itch Grass



Rogue cane management/spraying



Rogue cane adjoining cane railways

Plot News

All the plots are looking good. The owners/managers have been controlling the irrigation during December/January period in order to prevent lodging. Another method we have also implemented to reduce the chance of lodging has been to reduce the rate of Nitrogen applied to approx. 75 to 100 kg. In March all varieties on the plots will be tested for RSD to ensure they are disease free.

Please see the two page summary at the back of the newsletter showing all the Approved Seed Cane that is available in each of the distribution plots this year. Where orders exceed availability then growers will be placed on a quota system. **NB. We do not allocate first ratoon cane from the plots.** However, if there is some 1st ratoon cane available, then growers can purchase these varieties from the P&K plot. At this stage we do not plan to open the plots for seed cane distribution before mid-April. A call about the opening date will be made when the seed cane is of a good size as to when to open the plots. This may vary from plot to plot across the district.

Of great concern to BPS was the discovery of Itch Grass in the 2nd ratoon block of cane on P&K farm. BPS staff continue to eradicate these plants and are constantly monitoring this site. All the relevant information is passed on to Julie Artiach & Laurence Pavone. During the last two months of 2012 the whole P&K farm was walked/inspected for Itch Grass on 8 separate occasions.

Pest & Diseases News

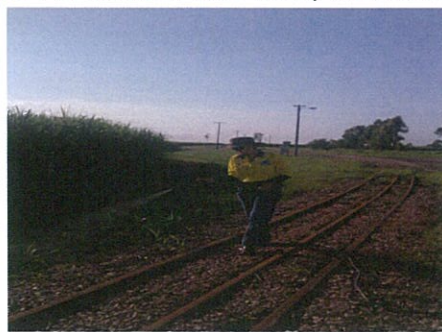
ITCH GRASS/ROGUE CANE

From November to March Itch Grass consumes a lot of our time. It is important that all growers remain proactive in eradicating Itch Grass. Remember, if your neighbour is controlling Itch Grass on his farm and you are not so diligent, then all you are doing is propagating the plants for your neighbour. This is totally unacceptable. The seeds float in irrigation water, so are easily transported downstream onto neighbouring farms.

The photo below shows staff removing Itch Grass from a severely infested block with seeded heads.



Cane infested with Itch Grass



Spraying Cane Railway



Spraying Water Board Channel

The NBWB channel banks were sprayed to demonstrate to NBWB employees what they could be doing during their daily travels if they spot Itch Grass. The purpose was to up skill the NBWB staff in plant recognition and the procedures to remove Itch Grass. The NBWB management & staff are proactive in assisting BPS to remove this pest. As all growers are aware Itch Grass walkers were again employed by BPS. Over 200 000 plants were rogued. This may sound like a lot, however probably another 200 000 plants germinated. You have to be 100% dedicated to eradicate this pest from your blocks. From the above photos it is obvious BPS is 100% dedicated to trying to eradicate this pest.

"If your neighbor is controlling Itch Grass and you are not so diligent, then all you are doing is propagating the plants for your neighbor"

COOTS (PURPLE SWAMP HEN)

Unfortunately there has been an increase in damage from Coots in some parts of the district. They prefer a habitat of still or slow-flowing sheltered extensive wetland with fresh or brackish water and floating moats or water-lilies. Their diet consists predominantly of plant matter including shoots, leaves, roots, stems, flowers and seeds. Where numbers are large, extensive damage can be done in a short period of time. David Paine and myself have met with Rosemary Menkens (State Member for Burdekin) on 2 separate occasions to see what course of action growers can take.



BPS Staff, DEHP Staff, and grower John Nielsen



Stalk damage in a block of Nielsen's Kalamia Farm

From our last assessment of the coot damage across the district, we estimate that up to 25,000 tonnes of cane has been destroyed. An information sheet that has been provided by DEHP on damage mitigation permits is on the third back page of this newsletter. BPS staff will assist growers to apply for these permits (where necessary) for this year only. A permit is issued for 6 months and takes up to 40 days to issue once the application has been received by the department.

Field News

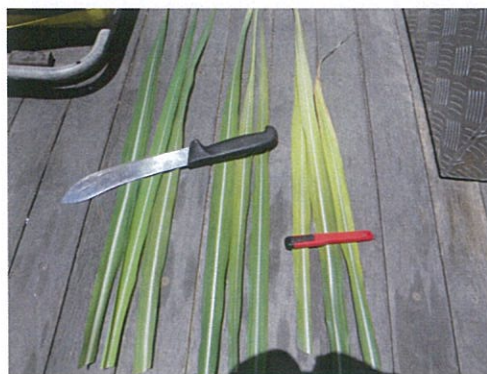
PHOTOTOXICITY TRIALS

The photos on the next page show the results from the new varieties that were treated with different herbicides. We monitored the cane at intervals of 7 days, 14 days and 21 days after treatment (DAT). The take home message is that Ametryn severely affects Q240, QA01-5153 and Q238. These results are consistent with the results coming out of Maryborough, where Q240 and Q238 have been in production for 2 years. We have numerous photos of the trials and if any growers are interested please contact your Field Officer.

"Purple Swamp Hen (Coots) prefer a habitat of still or slow-flowing sheltered wetland with fresh or brackish water and floating moats or water lillies"



7 DAT – Q238 (L to R – Untreated/Soccer/Ametryn)



7 DAT – Q240 (L to R – Untreated/Soccer/Ametryn)



7 DAT – QA00-3093 (L to R – Untreated/Soccer/Ametryn)



7 DAT – QA01-5153 (L to R – Untreated/Soccer/Ametryn)

GREYBACK GRUB SURVEY

BURDEKIN GREYBACK CANEGRUB SURVEY – 2013

Peter Samson and Allen Eaton

As part of the canegrub and satellite imagery project, we are attempting to obtain estimates of canegrub numbers that can be correlated with the satellite image that will be captured later in the year. We are following a three-stage process:

1. Determine which fields are currently unprotected and are likely to have canegrubs in 2013; this was done by discussion with Ray Hildebrandt followed by a quick look around the district on 30 January – 1 February 2013
2. Conduct a preliminary survey of the identified fields by digging a small number of stools (usually four) in part of each field ; this was done for 36 fields on 5–6 February
3. Return to those fields where canegrubs were found and estimate canegrubs numbers in a small patch (about 13 rows x 20 m) by digging 20 stools within that patch; this is still to be done.

We found greyback canegrubs in only 6 of the 36 fields surveyed, and then only in low numbers. The 10 greyback canegrubs we found were mostly small: 5 first instars, 4 second instars and 1 third instar.

We expected to find more grubs on some farms that we know had damage last year. There are a few possible reasons for the low numbers of canegrubs that we found. Perhaps beetle flights were late and we sampled too early (this is supported by our finding of first instars in some fields) or maybe we sampled the wrong fields. Alternatively, grub numbers are going to be low in 2013.

We will return to sample some fields more intensively (as in 3. above), perhaps in March.

Peter Samson will be attending the BPS Cane 2U Grower Information Meeting on 21st March and will answer any questions or queries regarding this trial or any other matters relating to canegrubs.

Industry News

QSL UPDATE by Carla Keith and Cathy Kelly (QSL Industry Relationship Managers)

The latest round of the QSL Pricing and Pool Information Sessions have wrapped up for another year, with the completion of a series of meetings in Isis, Tully and Far North Queensland in February. During these sessions a number of growers ask a variety of questions. A number of these questions are much the same from meeting to meeting. As such, I thought it timely to look at a few frequently asked questions in detail. Of course Cathy and I are always available to discuss any concerns or questions individual growers may have anytime. You'll find our contact details below.

If I nominate into the QSL Guaranteed Floor Pool on or before the 25th February, how do I know what the guaranteed floor price will be ?

- QSL has been publishing indicative (possible) absolute floor prices for the GFP since 11th February 2013 .
- If you have nominated into this pool thinking your indicative (possible) guaranteed floor price was *what it was on the day you nominated into the pool*, this is *not* correct.
- The **final guaranteed floor price** will be "locked in" on after the mill declaration date on 28th February 2013.
- If the floor price achieved by QSL is \$10 less than what we have published as the indicative (possible) absolute floor price on the 28th February, then growers will have the option of withdrawing their nominated tonnes from this pool and putting it into another QSL or Sucrogen pool.
- i.e. On the 28th February the indicative absolute floor price is \$390, but on the 1st March we can only achieve a floor of \$375, then grower will be able to opt out of this pool.
- However those growers still wanting to participate in this pool will be able to do so.

What has influenced the current indicative price for the Harvest Pool?

Harvest Pool Matrix 2012 Season as at 15th February 2013

Gross Price A\$ per mt IPS	\$426.87	Shared Pool	(\$0.35)	Net Price A\$per mt IPS	\$426.52
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- A key feature of the Harvest Pool is the production buffer, which all mills and growers participate in.
- Although some tonnes allocated to the Harvest Pool may be priced in season, roughly half of the tonnes allocated to this pool are kept aside to act as a buffer for any crop variations.
- In 2012 we saw the Harvest Pool's production buffer work to cover an approximate 200,000 mt fall in raw sugar production throughout the season.
- In 2012 QSL started pricing sugar in the production buffer in early November once all Committed Sugar was received.
- The ICE 11 raw sugar futures market was trading lower at that time than it had been earlier in the 2012 season.

What does QSL expect the ICE 11 market to do this year (2013 crush)?

- QSL obtains market information from a variety of sources and experts across the world.
- Suggested key themes from publicly available information for the year ahead are:
 1. A continuing global surplus of raw sugar will most likely continue to weigh on the ICE 11 market;
 2. Brazil is expected to increase production (to around 580 mln mt of cane); and
 3. The impacts on the price of sugar resulting from the Brazilian Government's decision to increase the cost of petrol & increasing the ethanol blend from 20% to 25% won't really be known until after the changes come online in May 2013.

How can I track QSL's performance across the season ?

- The QSL website is the easiest way to monitor QSL's performance across the season (www.qsl.com.au).
- You can opt to have QSL's daily indicative prices and market reports emailed directly to you everyday.
- QSL's website now includes Pool Price Matrices for all QSL-managed pools. These are updated fortnightly.
- QSL's Industry Relationship Managers, Carla Keith (0409 372 305) and Cathy Kelly (0409 285 074) are available to discuss any questions you may have.

NQ DRY TROPICS UPDATE by Amy Basnett (Senior Field Officer – Sugar)

As the five year Reef Rescue program winds down, field staff will be travelling across the region reviewing the 596 successful Reef Rescue sugar projects. Grower feedback on the program and processes, actual practice change data and GIS data for catchment modelling purposes is being collected.

As we draw to the end of the program and funds are now fully committed, NQ Dry Tropics is no longer accepting new applications for water quality improvement grants, however we will be working with the community providing training opportunities for sugar growers in the next few months.

BSES Six Easy Steps nutrient management training will be held on 20th and 21st February at RSL Ayr, for growers who have received funding but have yet to complete the training as per contract. Further training in nutrient, sediment & pesticide management will also be provided in April/May 2013.

If you have completed your Reef Rescue water quality improvement projects and would like to finalise your final payment, please contact Amy Basnett on (07) 4722 5757 or 0400886656.



BPS GROWER INFORMATION MEETING

CLARE CLUB

11st MARCH 2013

STARTING AT 3PM

Speaker	Organisation	Topic
John Deambrosis	BPS	Varieties and BPS Activities
Rob Milla	BPS	Extension Services
Davey Olsen	BSES Research Officer	Phosphate Research
Cam Whiteing Phil Patane	BSES PEC UNIT	Harvesting BMP
Susie Bateman	DAFF	"K" Trial in Mung Beans
Peter McDonnell, Jayson Dowie, Evan Shannon	Farmacist	Trials being conducted in the Burdekin

Understanding Cane

I found an article that was published in a Grains Research & Development Corporation (GRDC) newsletter. I found the article interesting and would be of great interest to growers now that there are several hooded sprayers in the Burdekin where the herbicide glyphosate is used extensively. It is important there is not a breakout of weeds developing resistance to glyphosate herbicides. Important extracts from the GRDC articles follow:

KEY POINTS

- Employing glyphosate as the only method to control fence line weeds will quickly result in herbicide resistance developing.
- Resistant weeds at crop margins can set seed that is transferred into the paddock.
- Resistance develops when repeated applications of the same mode-of-action (MOA) herbicide kill susceptible weeds, and resistant weeds survive and set seed.
- Herbicide resistance will remain as long as there is resistant seed in the soil.
- Integrated weed management (IWM) is a diverse approach using chemical, non-chemical and agronomy tactics that targets weed-set. It is the best way to delay or prevent the development of herbicide resistance.
- Minimising the number of weed seeds in the soil (the seedbank) by preventing weeds from setting seed is the top priority.
- Herbicide-resistant weeds are always possible, whether they occur naturally or are introduced via wind, water or contamination. However, consistently applying IWM will achieve a relatively weed-free system.

BE PROACTIVE

The best way to stop resistance developing is to prevent any survivors of a herbicide application from setting seed and germinating. This is rarely achievable with a single weed management tactic. Integrated weed management (IWM) and agronomy tactics can be used together to provide optimal weed control.

HERBICIDE RESISTANCE IN SUMMER GRASSES

Windmill grass, awnless barnyard grass and liverseed grass have all been confirmed as glyphosate resistant in the GRDC northern grains region. Summer grasses that are resistant to glyphosate pose huge threats to no-till farming systems in summer-rainfall areas of Australia, according to Dr Chris Preston from the University of Adelaide, who chairs the GRDC-funded Australian Glyphosate Sustainability Working Group. Summer grasses are among the weed species with the highest potential to develop resistance to glyphosate due to their high seed production, limited options for fallow control other than glyphosate and reliance on glyphosate in no-till cropping systems. In addition, there are limited post-emergent control options. GRDC-funded research across Australia has sought to better understand the biology and ecology of the summer grasses, and to develop and promote integrated weed management systems to control these costly weeds. Research is ongoing to look at other Group A herbicides that may perform better.

Awnless barnyard grass populations with resistance to glyphosate have trebled since 2011 in the northern grains region, according to a recent GRDC-funded survey led by the New South Wales Department of Primary Industries with assistance from the Northern Grower Alliance. The survey tested awnless barnyard samples that had survived spraying from zero-till fallow paddocks across southern Queensland and northern NSW. Of the 64 populations tested, 40 were resistant to seven times the normal rate of glyphosate; a further five populations were deemed marginally resistant. All resistant cases came from areas in which there had been sustained glyphosate use, often for more than 15

years, with few other weed control measures. Integrated weed management is critical to staying on top of the glyphosate-resistant populations. It needs to include: targeting young plants, monitoring for and removing spray survivors; and using a double-knock in fallows, with a residual herbicide early in the fallow.

GLYPHOSATE RESISTANCE

Glyphosate is the most valuable herbicide in Australian agriculture. It is a cheap and highly effective non-selective herbicide with a unique mode-of-action that has a low environmental and toxicological risk. It is the default fallow and pre-seeding weed control option at the expense of a more comprehensive IWM program.

DO THE JOB RIGHT

The over-reliance on glyphosate for weed control in fallows has led to the development of resistance, because a reasonably high kill rate is often considered sufficient. This leaves behind a small percentage of survivors potentially with glyphosate-resistant genes.

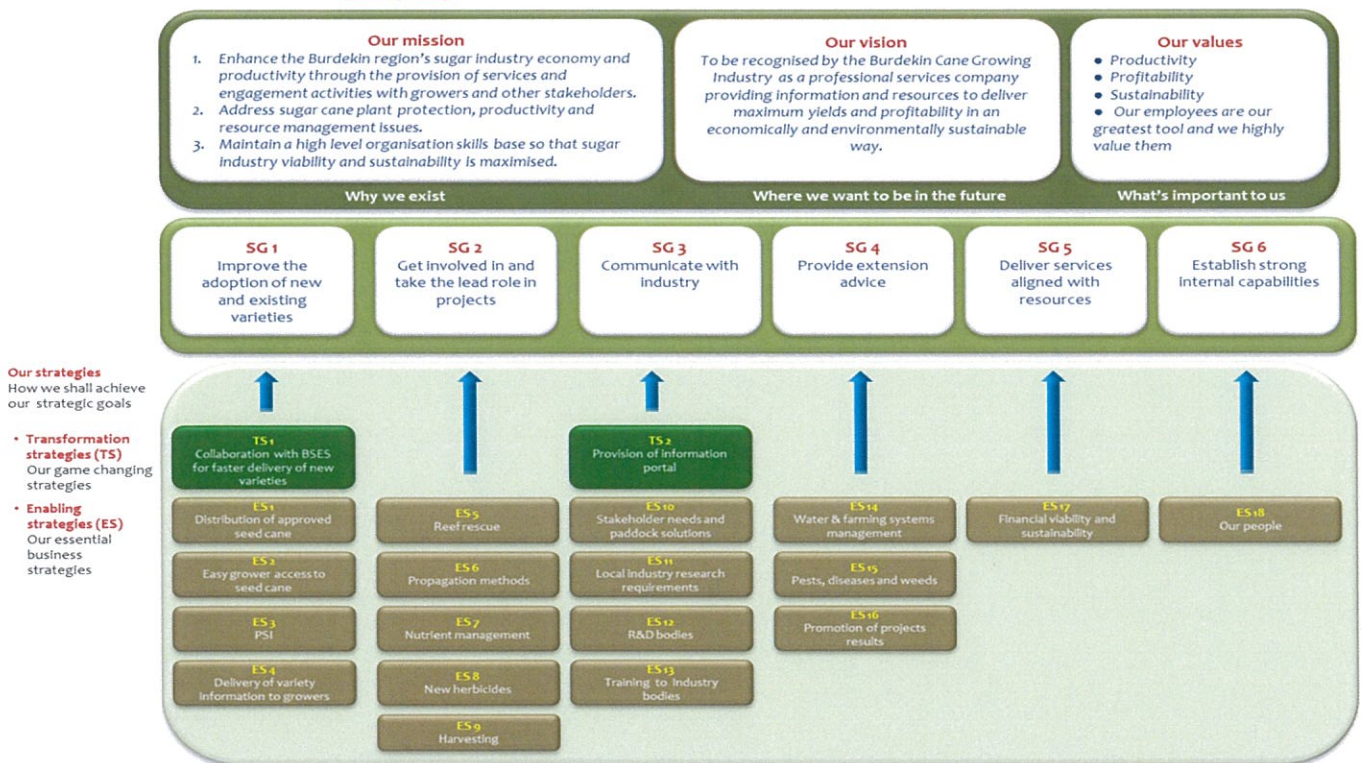
If the survivors are not targeted with another control, they are able to set seed and increase their numbers in subsequent seasons.

To preserve the effectiveness of glyphosate, it is critical that a greater level of monitoring after spraying takes place and any survivors eradicated.

For all herbicide applications, the use of appropriate nozzles, water rates, and adjuvants, applied in optimal conditions to small and actively growing weeds, will provide the best chance of success.



BPS Strategy Summary 2012 - 2015



"For all herbicide applications, the use of appropriate nozzles, water rates, adjuvants, applied in optimal conditions to small and actively growing weeds will provide the best chance of success"

IRRIGATION TOUR

DAFF Queensland will be running an Irrigation bus tour which will travel through the wet tropics and up to the Atherton Tablelands. The tour will be run by Evan Shannon and will focus on Irrigation systems primarily as well as looking at sustainable farming practices, experimental herbicide application technology and other agricultural crops. The 3 day tour will be commencing on the 25th March, so if you are interested in attending please contact Brock Dembowski (DAFF) on 0467 819 592 or John Deambrosis on 0428 927 079.



Minimising Glyphosate Resistance in Cane

While the information on the previous page is based around broad acre grain production, most of the principles are applicable to a cane based system. The main issues to consider in Sugar Cane are:

- Control weeds in the fallow before they seed
- Ensure that you do not rely on one herbicide group (look for the group letter on the label)
- Follow label directions, particularly in relation to mixing compatibility, addition of wetters and rates required for different weed stages
- Keep an eye out for weeds that might seed after a poor kill and manually remove the seeds – particularly on headlands
- Resistance can develop for any herbicide, not just glyphosate

Staff Contacts

Contact	Title	Contact Number	Email
Office		(07) 4783 1101	reception@bps.net.au
Fax		(07) 4783 5327	
210 Old Clare Road, Ayr QLD 4807			
PO Box 237, Ayr QLD 4807			
John Deambrosis	Manager	0428 927 079	jdeambrosis@bps.net.au
Lance Wassmuth	Business Services Co-ordinator	0427 834 800	lance.wassmuth@bps.net.au
Rob Milla	Extension Agronomist	0490 036 329	milla@bps.net.au
Raymond Hildebrandt	Field Officer - Inkerman	0409 831 863	rhildebrandt@bps.net.au
David Paine	Field Officer - Kalamia	0427 167 159	dpaine@bps.net.au
Wayne Squires	Field Officer - Invicta	0427 372 124	wsquires@bps.net.au
Kristine Grasso	Field Officer - Pioneer	0407 167 159	kgrasso@bps.net.au
Joe Savorgnan	Trainee Field Officer - Inkerman	0407 960 057	jsavorgnan@bps.net.au

Upcoming Events

Grower Meeting	11 th March 2013	Clare Club
Grower Information Meeting	21 March 2013	Ayr Showgrounds
Nominations Open for Director Elections	1 April 2013	-

If you would like any further information or like to list an important grower event then please contact Lance or Margaret to have it added

Information sheet

Wildlife management

Damage mitigation permit

Overview

Queensland's native wildlife is protected by the *Nature Conservation Act 1992* (the Act) and regulations to ensure the conservation of nature. Anyone wanting to take, keep or use native plants and animals should become familiar with the laws of this State. A licence, permit or authority is required to take, keep and use many native plants and animals.

From time to time, wildlife comes into conflict with humans for a range of reasons. The legislation recognises that, in some situations, it is necessary to take wildlife to minimise damage to property (e.g. crops) or protect human health. A damage mitigation permit allows a person to take wildlife in such circumstances.

The assessment of damage mitigation permit applications is rigorous, and you will need to demonstrate that there is a real need to take the wildlife. Where the application relates to the protection of property, you must demonstrate that you have taken all reasonable measures to control the damage without success.

Ultimately, the responsibility for the protection of crops lies with the landholder, and these types of issues should be taken into consideration in property management plans. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry can also provide advice regarding appropriate crop protection strategies.

A damage mitigation permit may be granted only for wildlife that is classified under the Act as 'least concern' or in certain circumstances 'near threatened', unless a conservation plan allows otherwise.

Before issuing a damage mitigation permit, the following criteria must be met:

- that significant economic damage is being caused or is likely to be caused by specified least concern wildlife; or
- wildlife represents a threat to human well-being; and
- the proposed method of taking provides an effective method of minimising the impact of the wildlife; and
- that any technique used for taking the wildlife is humane; and
- the impact of the activity will not detrimentally affect ecological sustainability.

Note: Many activities involving non-lethal crop protection or actions, such as the capture and release of snakes and possums, require a damage mitigation permit.

How do I apply for a permit?

You need to send a completed application form to Permit and Licence Management, GPO Box 2454 Brisbane QLD 4001.

INKERMAN						
	Plot Estimate			Orders to Date	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	
Variety	Area	Tonne	Total			
Q240	4.65	90	419	287	132	
QA3093	2.55	90	230	297	(68)	
KQ228	5.06	90	455	349	106	
Q208	4.34	90	391	386	5	
Q183	5.41	90	487	323	164	
Q247	0.18	90	16	3	13	
Q200	0.45	90	41	8	33	
Q232	0.27	90	24	23	1	

P & K						
	Plot Estimate			Orders to Date	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	
Variety	Area	Tonne	Total			
Q240	3.49	90	314	821	(500)	
QA3093	2.88	90	259	721	(462)	
KQ228	3.18	90	286	329	(43)	
Q208	3.15	90	284	415	(131)	
Q183	3.44	90	310	721	(411)	
Q247	1.42	90	128	34	94	
Q200	0.54	90	49	30	19	
Q232	1.23	90	111	183	(72)	

GIRU						
	Plot Estimate			Orders to Date	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	
Variety	Area	Tonne	Total			
Q240	0.68	90	61	114	(53)	
QA3093	1.1	90	99	174	(75)	
KQ228	1.37	90	123	52	71	
Q208	1.65	90	149	117	32	
Q183	2.5	90	225	152	73	
Q247	0.82	90	74	0	74	
Q200	0.55	90	50	23	27	
Q232	0.27	90	24	18	6	

BROCK ROAD						
	Plot Estimate			Orders to Date	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	
Variety	Area	Tonne	Total			
Q240	0.87	90	78	155	(77)	
QA3093	0.8	90	72	152	(80)	
KQ228	1.1	90	99	51	48	
Q208	1.1	90	99	102	(3)	
Q183	1.5	90	135	160	(25)	
Q247	1.1	90	99	3	96	
Q200	0.5	90	45	14	31	
Q232	0.5	90	45	64	(19)	

RAPISARDA						
	Plot Estimate			Orders to Date	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	
Variety	Area	Tonne	Total			
Q240	0.68	90	61	40	21	
QA3093	0.81	90	73	0	73	
KQ228	1.2	90	108	0	108	
Q208	0.7	90	63	0	63	
Q183	0.7	90	63	40	23	
Q247	0	90	0	0	0	
Q200	0	90	0	0	0	
Q232	0.6	90	54	0	54	

MILLAROO						
	Plot Estimate			Orders to Date	Surplus/ (Shortfall)	
Variety	Area	Tonne	Total			
Q240	0.27	90	24	88	(64)	
QA3093	0.14	90	13	73	(60)	
KQ228	0.3	90	27	21	6	
Q208	0.2	90	18	40	(22)	
Q183	0.5	90	45	25	20	
Q247	0.14	90	13	0	13	
Q200	0.1	90	9	16	(7)	
Q232	0	90	0	0	0	

Burdekin Variety Improvement Program

The BSES Variety Improvement Program in the Northern region targets the needs of the local sugar industry through the optimised selection and release of more productive and disease-resistant varieties.



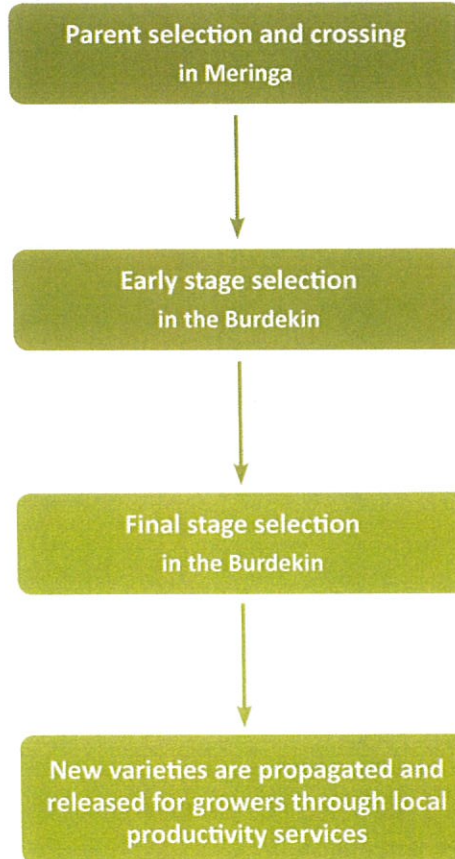
Far left: *Burdekin variety team*
(From left to right)
Variety Officer: Catherine Kettle
Farm Manager: Jeff Blackburn
Technician: Greg McGrath
Plant Breeder: Xianming Wei



Female and male flowers are positioned in a 'lantern' to facilitate pollen transfer and prevent contamination.



Potential new varieties are screened for disease resistance by BSES Pathologists.



Seedlings grown from true seed from crossings are planted to the field for assessment.



Measuring cane yield with commercial harvesters and weighing equipment. Sucrose content (CCS) is analysed by Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIR).



New varieties which are approved for release are propagated for growers by Burdekin Productivity Services (BPS).

Burdekin Variety Improvement Program

The BSES team is focused on providing an efficient and effective Variety Improvement Program to the Burdekin sugar industry. Some of the improvements are as follows:

- ✓ Better statistical analysis methods to assess potential new varieties in trials, which are compared to the current major commercial varieties.
- ✓ By using new trial designs, we have increased the number of potential new varieties we trial in the final stage by 50%; without an increase in resources.
- ✓ Final stage selections are assessed over 4 locations in the Burdekin. The performance of potential new varieties are tested under different soil types, management practices and micro-climates.
- ✓ The top performing potential new varieties from the first plant crop harvest results of the final stage trials each year are also repeated in a second set of trials to collect more productivity data before release.
- ✓ The SmutBuster program has doubled the number of early stage potential varieties as a response to the smut outbreak.
- ✓ The time from initial crossing to release of a new variety to the industry has been reduced from 12-13 years to 10-11 years.
- ✓ Potential new varieties advancing through the selection program are screened for disease resistance to smut, Fiji leaf gall, leaf scald, mosaic, yellow spot at Woodford and for pachymetra root rot in Tully by BSES pathologists. This means disease ratings are available early before variety release decisions are made.
- ✓ The BSES breeding program identifies and selects parents for crossing with traits that will enhance the clone performance for Burdekin challenges. These parents come from the vast BSES germplasm collection of old and current varieties as well as wild and foreign varieties.
- ✓ The BSES variety exchange program exchanges varieties with 17 countries around the world, including Brazil and the USA. These varieties are included in assessment trials in the Burdekin region. They are also used for parents in the crossing programs, providing valuable traits.
- ✓ Wild species of cane, closely related to the domesticated cane cultivars, have been used in the production of hybrids to capture valuable traits such as vigour, ratooning ability and disease resistance.
- ✓ Inter Station Exchange (ISE) – As a method of exchanging elite clones between the other Variety Improvement Programs (North, Herbert, Central and Southern). This facilitates earlier adoption of new varieties from other regions.
- ✓ Top performing varieties are assessed, for not only performance, but also suitability for the industry, with physical features such as lodging, arrowing, suckering, side shooting and bud prominence taken into consideration.



GROWER INFORMATION DAY

MARCH 21ST AYR SHOWGROUNDS

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS & SMALL FIELD DAY 9.30AM START

START TIME	SPEAKER	TOPIC	DURATION
9.30 am		Coffee	½ hour
10.00 am	John Deambrosis	Opening Address	10 min
10.10 am	DERM	Intoduction to Project	5 min
10.15 am	Julian Connellan (BSES)	N Trial	20 min talk 10 min Q&A
10.45 am	Dr Rob Magarey (BSES) Dr Peter Samson (BSES)	Bio-Security Sesamia Borer	20 min. talk 10 min. Q&A
11.15 am		Short break for tea/coffee	15 minutes
11.30 am	Aaron Davies (ACTFR) Rob Milla	Catchment Water Quality Results Barratta/Reef	20 min. talk 10 min. Q&A
12.00 pm		Lunch/Visit Trade Displays	1¼ hours
1.15 pm	Craig Doyle (Executive General Manager - Sucrogen)	Mills Update	20 min. talk 5 min. Q&A
1.40 pm	Brent Casey (General Manager of Marketing & Business Development - QSL)	Sugar Price Futures	15 min. talk 5 min. Q&A
2.00 pm	John Deambrosis	Close Meeting/ Visit Trade Displays/Enjoy a beer or softdrink	2 hours

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY



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