



Burdekin Productivity Services Grower Update

APRIL 2012 EDITION 6

HOT TOPICS

Itch Grass

This is still a major focus of BPS. All NBWB channels, the riverbanks and mill cane railways have been inspected and anywhere Itch Grass was found it was sprayed out. Remember if you have Itch Grass on your farm it is your responsibility to remove it and sterilise/clean any machinery to prevent any further spread. It is my intention to visit all growers that have Itch Grass and ask for their co-operation to become proactive in the eradication of the plant. Most growers are proactive, however it only takes one grower to be complacent then they will aide in the spread of Itch Grass.

This year we will supervise a rogueing service to remove Itch Grass and Sorghum but will not supply a team to complete the job. A trained team by BPS staff will be set up to deal with commercial activities. This will allow BPS to fund extra activities in areas where hotspots of Itch Grass are detected and on public lands. BPS will continue the chemical trials started last year.

NOTICES

Approved Seed Cane

The prices for seed cane, harvesting etc. for the 2012 season are attached. Seed cane prices have been kept the same as last year. Although there are some increases in both the billet and full stick harvesting costs. G & G Ag Contracting have been selected to replace Gavin Jones at Whitson's Plot and Dave MacDonald has been selected to replace Owen Menkens at the Inkerman Plot. Sean & Jemal Horgan will continue to provide a hand cutting service.

Both Inkerman and Whitson's plots opened last week and are in full swing. The Giru plot situated on Lyon's farm (Bruce Highway) and the Millaroo Plot will receive another watering and will be open for plant sales at the end of April. Rapisarda's plot will be open from the 23rd April. Please remember to give Wayne Squires adequate notice because he cannot be at three plots at once, co-operating with us will mean a better and more streamlined distribution process that will benefit all. I have been told that Millaroo was always dedicated a Wednesday.

Availability

Growers who purchase their seed cane from Whitson's plot are advised to review the table on the next page:

	KQ228	Q247	Q232	Q208	Q200	Q183	Q171	Q133
ORDERS	550	210	90	550	50	1200	20	2
AVAILABLE	380	160	90	370	80	700	200	40

From the above table it is obvious that there are more orders than seed cane available. Every grower will be subject to a reduced order to ensure that seed cane is distributed to all growers who placed an order.

Growers who have ordered QA01-5153 will not be able to obtain this variety as it was not approved for release.

Growers can elect to make up their order with 1st ratoons where available, we need to respect that P & K Farming has forward pricing arrangements in place. Please note that 1st Ratoons are an extra \$10/tonne. BPS does not set the price of the seed or the harvesting prices, they are set by the plot owners and the harvesting contractors.

Please find enclosed the prices for all cane and harvesting at our distribution plots. The issue is set to become worse next year with more new varieties being released, it is inevitable that more ground is required in order to meet distribution plot requirements and P & K Farming have been approached regarding this.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SRDC Regional Expo—Clare Club 11.15am—3.15pm 10th May

Cane 2U Information Day—Tom Pontarelli's Shed 9.30am start

ACROSS THE MANAGERS DESK

Staff

Recently Brad Woodford and Robbie McKenna have resigned from their positions and informed me of their decision to move into employment with a local grower after 7.5 years and 6.5 years respectively. Both employees will finish on Friday the 20th April and BPS directors, manager and staff wish them well in their future endeavours.

Extra workload will be placed on existing staff however it will still be business as usual and ask for growers patience when accessing services in the short term. I will step out into the field and lend assistance where necessary to ensure our core business focus is maintained. Kristine Grasso will be assigned Brad's mobile and will be responsible for seed cane sales at Whitson's plot.

I will be putting on extra staff when suitable applicants are identified, until then remember I am available to help out with plant source inspections and any pest and disease inspections if my staff cannot attend to your requirements.

Varieties

Last week Dr Mike Cox—Programme Leader (Plant Breeding) met with Burdekin Industry Representatives to discuss the release of new varieties at a meeting chaired by Catherine Kettle the local variety officer. 4 clones were discussed - QA01-5153, QA00-3093, Q240 and Q238. All of these clones have been extensively trialled in the Burdekin Area on different soil types.

The outcomes of the meeting were:

Q240 will be planted into our distribution plots this year for sale to growers next year

QA00-3093 will be planted into our distribution plots this year for sale to growers next year.

QA01-5153 shows good promise in tonnes but is lagging behind other varieties in sugar. This year BPS will assist BSES by carrying out further trials and it may be suitable for the growers in poorer soil areas throughout the district. For now it will remain in our Mother Plots.

Q238 will remain in the Mother Plots so further trial work can be completed.

Unfortunately *Q238* has a high chlorotic streak rating which makes it less suitable to growers with recycle pits.

Other clones from the BSES plant breeding program that showed promise will now be planted into the isolation plot for further trials. These clones are - *Q231*, *Q250*, *QA01-5267*, *QA04-1448*. Catherine must be congratulated for her dedicated work and tireless hours she devotes to new varieties. If you require any further information please feel free to contact Catherine, myself or any of the BPS staff.

Every year before the Mother Plots are planted all cane is Hot Water Treated (HWT) at 50°C for 3 hours. Seed cane varieties that have a leaf scald rating greater than 4 are also cold water soaked for 40-48 hours prior to HWT.

STAFF CONTACT DETAILS

Manager

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BURDEKIN PRODUCTIVITY SERVICES LIMITED

ABN: 18 107 846 060

APPROVED PLANTS PRICES 2012

Points to Note

1. BPS is the on-seller of approved seed cane and does not set the prices. Prices are set by plot owners and managers.
2. BPS has been granted permission by the owners of all plots to advertise the prices they have set.
3. In addition to the price, BPS sets a surcharge of \$4/t to provide and support this service to cover:
 - a Unforeseen circumstances
 - b Transport of planting material to plots
 - c Operation of Isolation plot
 - d Operation of additional Mother plots for transition to billet planting

	<i>Base Price/T (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>BPS Surcharge (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Inclusive)</i>
Approved Seed – Non BPS Member	\$ 400.00	\$ 4.00	\$404.00	\$444.40

INKERMAN

	<i>Base Price/T (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>BPS Surcharge (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Inclusive)</i>
Approved Seed - Ink Area Grower	\$ 45.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 53.90
Commercial Plants - Ink Area Grower	\$ 50.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 54.00	\$ 59.40
All Plants - Non Ink Area Grower	\$ 70.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 81.40
Cutter - Full Stick	\$ 35.00		\$ 35.00	\$ 38.50
Cutter - Billet	\$ 28.00		\$ 28.00	\$ 30.80
Loader - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00
Cartage - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 79.55		\$ 79.55	\$ 87.50

AYR

	<i>Base Price/T (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>BPS Surcharge (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Inclusive)</i>
Approved Seed (KCGO/PCGO members OR Pion Kal mill suppliers)	\$ 45.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 49.00	\$ 53.90
Commercial Plants (KCGO/PCGO members OR P.K mill suppliers)	\$ 55.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 59.00	\$ 64.90
All plants (Grower is non-member AND non-mill supplier)	\$ 70.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 81.40
Cutter - Full Stick	\$ 35.00		\$ 35.00	\$ 38.50
Cutter - Billet	\$ 27.00		\$ 27.00	\$ 29.70
Loader - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 100.00		\$ 100.00	\$ 110.00
Cartage - Full Stick (per hour)	\$ 79.55		\$ 79.55	\$ 87.50
Cartage - Billet (per hour)	\$ 90.91		\$ 90.91	\$ 100.00

INVICTA

	<i>Base Price/T (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>BPS Surcharge (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Exclusive)</i>	<i>Price to Grower (GST Inclusive)</i>
Approved Seed	\$ 70.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 74.00	\$ 81.40
Approved Seed (Mother Plot)	\$ 75.00	\$ 4.00	\$ 79.00	\$ 86.90
Cutter - Full Stick	\$ 40.00		\$ 40.00	\$ 44.00
Cutter - Full Stick (Millaroo)	\$ 45.00		\$ 45.00	\$ 49.50
Cutter - Billet	\$ 26.20		\$ 26.20	\$ 28.82
Cartage per hour - Full Stick	\$ 79.55		\$ 79.55	\$ 87.50
Cartage per hour - Billet	\$ 90.91		\$ 90.91	\$ 100.00

Defintions

Approved Seed Plant source only from approved seed plot

Commercial Plants Quantity of plants obtained above seed source requirements either from approved seed plot or ratoons

All Plants Plants obtained by growers not fulfilling requirements of area and/or membership

Plant Breeder Rights (PBR) Act Growers who do not pay the PBR to BSES cannot receive PBR protected varieties from BPS Plots.

Terms of Trade

1. Strictly 30 day trading terms on approved seed cane sales
2. All commercial quantities above seed source requirements will require either a mill deduction authority or approval by BPS to extend credit.
3. BPS reserves the right to refuse credit.

Orange rust in Q208^A

By

Rob Magarey, BSES Limited, Tully

In recent times there has been concern about the observation of orange rust in commercial crops of Q208^A in Queensland, including the Burdekin region. Some farmers and Productivity Staff noticed significant orange rust infection in a few crops from January onwards and were concerned that the pathogen may have mutated - causing Q208^A to become more susceptible to the disease. With Q208^A becoming a major cane in many regions, a sudden disease outbreak could cause serious economic outcomes.

BSES, in conjunction with industry staff, have been closely monitoring the situation and have made repeated visits to a number of sites in the Burdekin, Proserpine, Mackay and Bundaberg areas to assess the status of Q208^A. Though orange rust has been seen in Q208^A, our observations suggest that the variety remains relatively resistant to the disease and at this stage there is no cause for alarm.

Our advice to farmers is to maintain a policy of restricting the cropping of individual varieties to <35% of the farm, so that should a disease (not just orange rust) incursion occur, transition out of susceptible varieties will be possible without large economic consequences.

BSES and industry staff will continue to monitor orange rust in Q208^A and will keep growers up-to-date with any developments in this area.

12 April 2012

UPDATE - Orange rust in Q208^Ø

- Orange rust remains at low levels in the majority of crops of Q208^Ø in Queensland.
- Q208^Ø is considered to be intermediate to resistant to orange rust.
- The only Q208^Ø crops with moderate levels of orange rust are on poorer soils or fields where the crop has been stressed.
- In some cases, the crops are showing severe chlorotic flecking and spotting on the younger leaves.
- This flecking is a common resistance mechanism in plants to attack from rust fungi and is known as a hypersensitive reaction. Cells around the point where the rust tries to enter the leaf die, preventing the rust fungus from penetrating and growing in the leaf.
- Even in the worst affected blocks, orange rust levels are still below the level that past research has shown to cause significant yield loss.
- BSES will continue to monitor the situation.
- BSES recommends that growers limit the area planted to any one variety on their farm to 30-40% to limit their exposure to outbreaks of disease.
- Q208^Ø was 39% of the harvest in the Central region and 36% of the Bundaberg/Isis, 34% of the Burdekin and 23% of the Maryborough regions in 2011. In the Herbert and far Northern regions, Q208^Ø accounted for 10-14% of the 2011 harvest. In most regions Q208^Ø was one of the most widely planted varieties in 2011 so we expect the percentage of Q208^Ø in the 2012 harvest to increase further.
- Q208^Ø continued to perform well in all districts in 2011.
- Other smut resistant varieties that have performed well in 2011 were KQ228^Ø, Q183^Ø, Q200^Ø, Q232^Ø, Q238^Ø, Q240^Ø and Q242^Ø.
- Growers should maximise their profit by planting the best performing varieties while managing risk by selecting varieties with a range of disease reactions.
- QCANESelect™ is a good source of information on the performance of varieties. All 2011 harvest data is now available through the Regional Reporting section of QCANESelect™.
- The Whole Farm Planning section in QCANESelect™ can help growers to plan a balanced mix of varieties for their planting in 2012 and beyond.

Please note:

Future BSES Limited Media Releases will only be issued if the situation changes significantly. Information will be updated on the BSES orange rust website page as required (bSES.com.au/Diseases/orangerust.html).

>>> ends

For further information contact: Eve McDonald, Marketing and Communications Specialist, ph 07 3331 3340.

About us - BSES Limited is the leading provider of research, development and extension services to the Australian sugarcane industry.