



ISSUE 8 - OCTOBER 2012



John's Corner

With the plots closed staff will turn their focus to other core business activities. Their duties will consist of:

- Smut trial inspection and counting of whips
- Visiting all growers to do Data Collection/Obtaining Seed Cane orders for 2013 planting
- Itch Grass rogueing
- Bio security in respect to rogue stools of cane growing in drains, culverts, sidings etc.
- Pests and Diseases inspection on farms where growers have a problem
- Machinery inspection
- Mother Plots/Distribution Plots inspection for diseases
- Attending district meetings and courses to increase our knowledge to share with growers
- Collecting data from new varieties that were given out last year then passing on relevant information at grower meetings
- Conduct Grower Information Meetings when time allows

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Data Collection from growers has taken on a new format. We will only be collecting relevant data in relation to seed cane planting, pests & diseases on farms and growers' control of these. With our AgDat computer recording system we will be able to generate meaningful reports such as the area treated for grubs, pig damage, Itch Grass areas. All pests and diseases will be tracked so we can see where increases/decreases of pests and diseases occur. Other data that was collected in the past like fertilizer use/type will no longer be collected.

Remember we now do machinery inspections.

Remember we now do machinery inspections. From a Bio Security perspective it is important to have machinery cleaned and inspected so a permit to shift can be issued. The Burdekin area is relatively disease free and we want to keep it that way. There are a lot of noxious weeds growing in other cane growing areas that we do not have here and certainly do not want brought into the district on unclean harvesting/farming machinery.

As mentioned previously, pigs and grubs are the largest cost to our industry in the Burdekin. High dirt level readings in your bins can be an indication of grubs. If you have grubs it is important to treat, unfortunately if you treat and your neighbour does not treat then the overall numbers of beetles does not diminish. From data collected last year the area of damage from grubs was 1088ha and the area treated for grubs was 2788ha.



Brock Road – 2013 Seed Plot

Plot News

All the Mother/Distribution plots were planted by 30th August and the strike looks good on all the plots. It is pleasing to note that the new varieties are fast in germination and comparable with Q183 and KQ228.

The new varieties to be released next year are Q240 and QA00-3093.

Seed cane distribution ceased at the end of September, total distribution from each plot will be disclosed in the January newsletter. Sib Rapisarda has our seed plot grown under trickle and it is looking good as you can see from the photos below.

Rapisarda – 2013 Seed Plot
(Trickle Irrigated)Rapisarda – 2013 Seed Plot
(Trickle Irrigated)

The new varieties being released to growers next year are Q240 and QA00-3093

Pest & Diseases News

ITCH GRASS/ROGUE CANE

Itch Grass has now been declared a pest in the entire local government area, this declaration now gives the local council the power to order landholders to eradicate this noxious weed. Burdekin Shire Council is providing some chemicals at 50% subsidy to help control Itch Grass. In order to apply and receive the subsidy the landholder will be required to complete a Pest Management Plan and Agreement Form. This is a very simple form to complete and BPS staff can assist you in completing it if required.

It is pleasing to see Harvesters in known Itch Grass areas cleaning down machines before shifting.

We have commenced walking blocks for Itch Grass eradication. Please remember the cost is shared 50% by BPS and 50% by the grower. We will continue to rogue Sorghum again this year as a fee for service activity. The cane blocks that were rogued last year are relatively clean this year and it is pleasing to see that the hard work and effort rewards those who are proactive.

The district will again be patrolled for rogue stools of cane in abnormal places. These will be sprayed

PIGS

BPS has budgeted funds available and is willing to work with growers who form groups to do a shoot by providing financial assistance in the form of an hour's helicopter hire. BPS will also conduct an aerial shooting program on the fringes between riparian zones and cane lands to ensure the aerial shooting programs within cane areas are effective. The Burdekin Shire Council still does 1080 baiting for free, please contact customer service on (07) 4783 9800

The Burdekin district is relatively free of sugar cane pests & diseases, we can all contribute to keeping the district clean by spraying out all rogue stools of cane in drains, culverts, riparian areas etc..

Field News

I would like to thank Rob Ahern for allowing BPS to plant a Variety demonstration field plot on his property. Six rows of all the varieties were planted and the plot was treated with Mill Mud prior to planting. If a grower would like a tour of our Mother Plots or Rob's farm to view the varieties for comparison then I encourage you to contact one of our field staff for a tour. Rob said the QA00-3093 (Q96 crossed with Q208) had the fastest germination. As indicated in my last newsletter Q232 was first to flower and first to lodge. With reference to the 2 new varieties to be released next year QA00-3093 flowered early however Q240 had just started to lightly flower at the end of September.

BPS staff have recently observed some brown rust in the new variety QA01-5153. This was observed in both the plant and 1st Ratoons. We will monitor this and provide continued updates to growers. It is surprising that the variety did not show signs of this problem in the mother plots planted back in 2010 and first distributed on a trial basis in 2011.

RSD

Three samples have returned positive from just over 1000 samples we collected this year. These growers have been contacted and informed of their responsibility. One grower was irate when informed as he always purchases approved Seed Cane every year, however another grower in his harvesting group had not purchased any Seed Cane for years and as a result he has got RSD on his farm from poor sterilisation technique.

RSD is probably the most important disease of Sugar Cane as it can reduce yields by up to 50%. It was estimated in the early 1990's that it affected 30% of the farms in NSW. The incidence of the disease in parts of NSW has been reduced due to an extension campaign promoting clean approved seed cane. RSD can easily be controlled by purchasing approved Seed Cane each year and good planter/tool splitter/harvester hygiene, Steri-max or equivalent commercial grade products work the best. It is a highly infectious disease which infects vascular tissues of Sugar Cane.

Variety Results

Here are some results from various growers who have old and new varieties planted. These results should not be used in isolation without receiving further advice.

BSES - DURRIE'S FARM

Variety	Stage	TCH	CCS	T/Ha
KQ228	Plt	163	15.25	24.86
QA01-5153	Plt	153	13.5	20.66
Q238	Plt	144	13.3	19.15
Q240	Plt	145	14.4	20.88
KQ228	1R	116	14.15	16.41
QA01-5153	1R	125	14.3	17.88
Q238	1R	96	13.5	12.96
Q240	1R	125	14.8	18.5

CATALANO'S FARM

Variety	Stage	TCH	CCS	T/Ha
Q247	1R	135	13.2	17.82
Q183	1R	120	15.0	18.0

ROB AHERN'S FARM

Variety	Stage	TCH	CCS	T/Ha
QA01-5153	Plt	162.76	13.95	22.71
Q183	Plt	138.16	13.83	19.11
Q247	Plt	138.27	13.65	18.87

Industry News

DERM Update

The extract below is the latest update from Sally Morris from the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP), she is based in Townsville. Those who attended shed meetings will remember Sally and her two colleagues, Kerry Sutton and Jenni Edmonds, all former employees of DERM. From Sally's email it is clear that DERM will be wound up, she will remain in her current position until the 31st December to answer and issues regarding Reef Water Quality.

Dear John,

Please find the blurb to appear in the your newsletter below;

"The Queensland Department of Environment and Heritage Protection (EHP) will continue its reef protection work under the revised Reef Water Quality program. The grazing and cane industries in reef catchments will transition to industry-developed Best Management Practice (BMP) systems, supported by EHP and DAFF extension and science programs—the regulations that commenced in 2010 will remain in place while this transition occurs. As a result of this change, the regional Reef Protection Unit will wind up on 31 December 2012 and continued support for the program will be available from EHP's Brisbane-based Reef Water Quality team. For enquiries up to 31 December 2012 please contact Sally Morris in Townsville on 4722 5272. After this date, all enquiries should go to the Brisbane Office on 3330 5637".

Regards,
Sally Morris
Senior Reef Protection Officer
Environment and Heritage Protection
NEW NUMBER: 4722 5272
Mobile: 0447 108 013

Latest from IPL on N & P Rates (compiled and supplied by Rob Dwyer)

TOTAL – ALL REGIONS:**Average N and P Rates (kg/ha) by Year – Eastern Australia**

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
kg/ha N	206	197	190	199	179	177	171	166	169	165	169	164	148	169	146	164
kg/ha P	27	27	24	21	21	23	19	19	19	19	21	19	12	21	18	17

Average N and P Rates (kg/ha) by Year – Burdekin

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
kg/ha N	272	246	247	269	233	229	234	219	223	213	218	212	198	231	227	215
kg/ha P	26	23	23	22	21	19	17	19	21	22	18	16	10	16	19	15

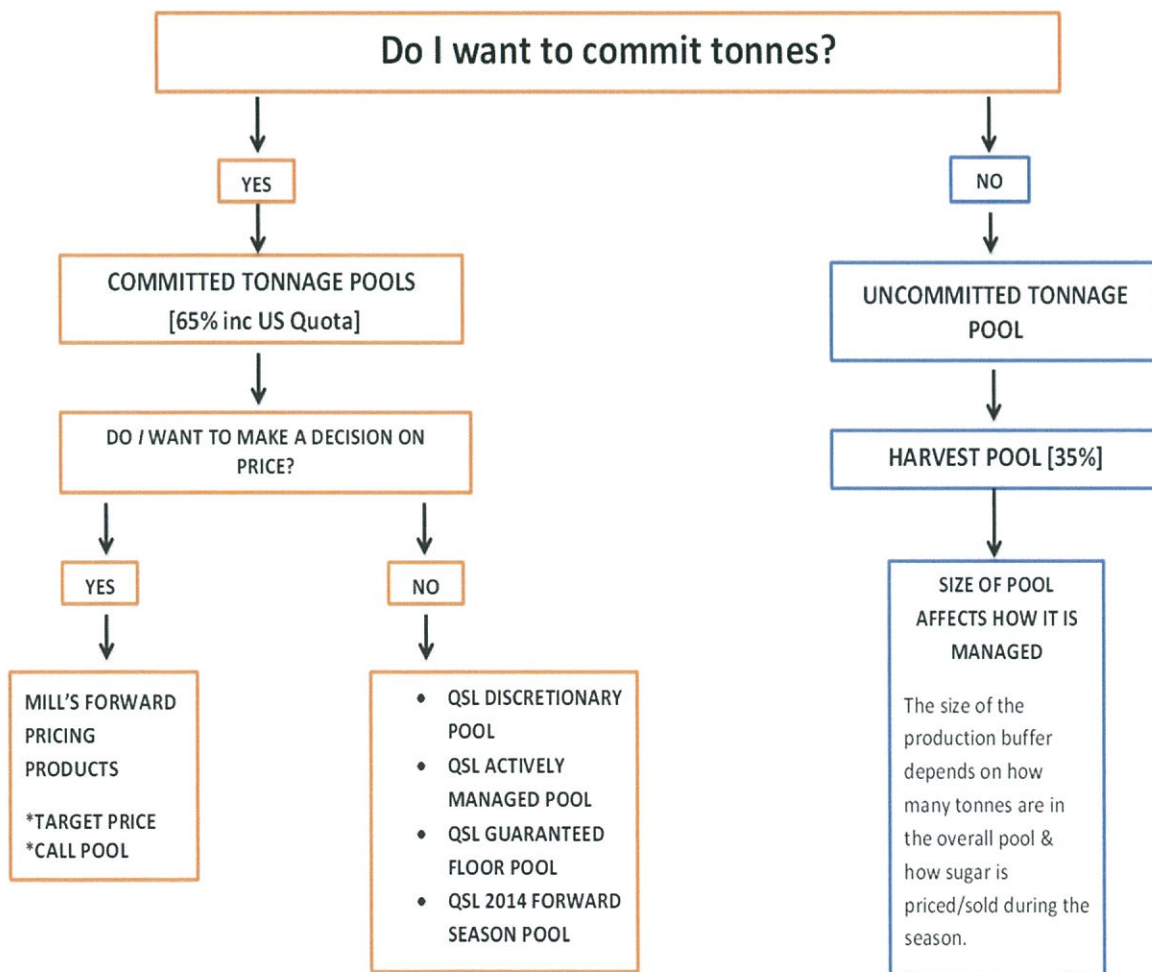
QSL Update

While we are all currently preoccupied with the crush, I'd like to gently remind you that as the year draws to a close you'll be asked to consider your pricing options for the 2013 crop. QSL and your local mill reps will be holding a series of information sessions regarding your pricing options late this year and early next before the declaration date in February 2013. But in the interim you may find the following 'Mind Map' a helpful tool for the coming decision making process. It aims to set out some of the key questions you may ask yourself when evaluating which QSL pools you may like to participate in for the 2013 season. Some of the key considerations you need to weigh up include:

- All growers and millers automatically have 35% of their sugar allocated to the Harvest Pool, although you can choose to have more tonnes in this pool.
- The Harvest Pool contains the Production Buffer, which is a portion of the crop that is not priced or sold until the latter part of the season in order to ensure sugar is available to cover commitments in the event of an in season crop failure. Due to this arrangement, the Harvest Pool has a smaller pricing window for a large proportion of its sugar (the Production Buffer), so if you intend to assign additional tonnes to this pool you need to consider what this *opportunity cost* may mean for your business.
- If you choose to participate in other pools and pricing options, then you must decide if you want to make the pricing decisions or if you want QSL to make these decisions for you. This will influence which pool or pricing option you may want to participate in.
- The Harvest Pool is the only Uncommitted Tonnage Pool, meaning that all the other pools require a tonnage commitment and have ramifications for the individual grower if these tonnes are not delivered.
- Remember that you can participate in multiple pricing options and pools, including combination of QSL and Mill pricing options.

If you have any questions about the above, please don't hesitate to give me a call on 0409 285 074, or email me at Cathy.Kelly@qsl.com.au.

Cathy Kelly, QSL Industry Relationship Manager



Staff News

Our field staff have been busy weighing approved seed cane and treating/planting our mother plots and distribution plots for next year. It is a hectic time of year and growers and contractors are asked to show patience when ordering cane, our staff are here to assist growers and contractors, remember they are servicing you to ensure the district remains disease free.

Lance has been working on getting a web page in place for BPS. Preliminary designs and information will make this a hot spot for growers to use and obtain information. It will be mobile friendly and will continue to develop as time progresses. Take the time to check it out once you receive your user name and temporary password.

Remember we are here to assist all growers any way we can. If you have any issues regarding BPS please do not hesitate to contact us.

Understanding Cane

WATER QUALITY

At the rear of the newsletter is a copy of an open water sample taken from Whitson's channel, originally from the Burdekin River.

From the sample : EC (Electrical conductivity) is 0.32 dS/m.
RSC (Residual alkali) is 0.85 meq/L.

From the BSES Manual "Irrigation of Sugar Cane" this sample is classified as:

Type 2 Water

Low salinity waters with free alkali

Electrical conductivity : 0 – 0.6 dS/m

Residual alkali : 0.2 – 2.4 meq/L

The presence of residual alkali in this type of water aggravates the penetration problem on light textured soils. Residual alkali (reported as Res. Sod. Carb. - RSC on the lab result) represents the amount of Sodium Carbonate and Sodium Bicarbonate in the water sample if the concentration of carbonate and bicarbonate exceeds the concentration of Calcium and Magnesium. Sodium Bicarbonate is also known as Baking Soda. These salts remove Calcium and Magnesium from the soil and replace them with Sodium, this increases the relative Sodium concentration or ESP in the soil. Of interest also is the pH of the water being 8.2. Although soils, particularly clays are resistant to pH change, over time it will have an effect on the pH of the soil. Remember Phosphorous starts to become unavailable as pH increases above 8.0. Another important component is the Calcium/Magnesium ratio of the water. Calcium is 3.2 mg/L, Magnesium is 12 mg/L so Ca/Mg ratio is 0.27. A good soil should be 3 to 1. This water is 0.27 to 1. Over time this will reduce the Calcium/Magnesium ratio in the soil and in order to maintain crop production, gypsum must be applied to combat the negative effects caused by using this TYPE 2 water. Growers wanting any further information please do not hesitate to get in contact with me. I have a few ground water pump results here to compare the difference with river water.

Pump Location	Ca mg/L	Mg mg/L	EC dS/m	RSC meq/L	pH	Type Water in BSES Book
OSBORNE	70	30	1.1	0.1	7.1	3
MONA PARK	58	29	1.15	0.1	7.1	3

TYPE 3 water with average salinity can be used on all types of soil. It does not cause water penetration problems or result in excessive build up of soluble salts if leaching occurs. Using this type of water no gypsum/lime is required to improve water penetration. Please note the Ca/Mg ratio as well as the pH of the water is good. The above water falls into the Type 3 category.

Type 3 Water

Average salinity waters

Electrical Conductivity : 0.6 – 1.5 dS/m

Residual alkali : 0 -0.6 meq/L

Soil Structure Stability

The EC value can be used to predict soil structure stability in relation to Sodium Absorption Ratio (SAR). The SAR is a measure of the relative concentration of Sodium to Calcium and Magnesium. The following is extracted from a DERM publication "Irrigation Water – salinity and soil structure stability".

High concentrations of sodium in irrigation water can result in the degradation of soil structure. This will reduce water infiltration into the soil surface and down the profile, and limit aeration, leading to reduced crop growth.

The potential impact of irrigation water quality on soil structure can be evaluated using EC_i and SAR values, as shown in Figure 1.

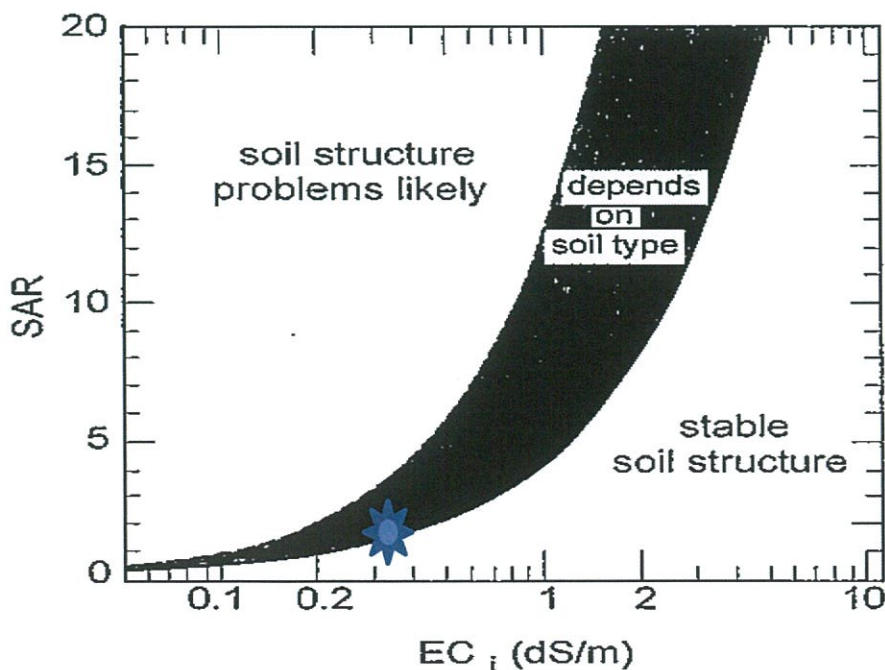


Figure 1—Relationship between SAR and EC_i of Irrigation water for prediction of soil structure stability

In Figure 1 above, water quality that falls to the right of the coloured area is considered satisfactory for use, while values to the left are considered unsatisfactory and special irrigation management will be required. Values that fall between the lines (indicating marginal water quality) should be treated with caution.

Crop salt tolerance

Crop salt tolerance also needs to be taken into account when assessing the suitability of water and soil for irrigation.

The take home message is that river water for irrigation has high pH, very little nutrient value due to the low micro elements concentration, low electrical conductivity with residual alkali. Over time applying this irrigation water will affect the structure of your soil. In order to maintain crop production an ameliorant must be applied i.e. Mill Mud/Gypsum/Lime.

Remember the old story, if it does not soak it does not grow.

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	Manger	0428 927 079	jdeambrosis@bps.net.au
Lance Wassmuth	Finance and Corporate Services Officer	0427 834 800	lance.wassmuth@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 (Clare Area)	Nov 2012	Clare Club
Grower Meeting (Jarvisfield/Rita Island)	Nov 2012	Jarvisfield, TBA
Grower Information Meeting	Mar 21 2013	Ayr Showgrounds

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



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Nutrient Report

JOHN DEAMBROSIS

PO BOX 237

AYR

QLD 4807

Report Print Date: 05/10/2012

Agent/Dealer:

Advisor/Contact: John Deambrosis

Phone: 07 4783 1101

Purchase Order No: 598579

Grower Name : JOHN DEAMBROSIS

Sample No: 021308010

Paddock Name: NO 2

Sample Name: SUNWATER

Nearest Town: AYR

Test Code: C1

Sample Type: Water

Sampling Date: 29/08/2012

Analyte / Assay	Units	Value
Elect. Conductivity	dS/m	0.32
pH		8.2
Chloride (Cl)	mg/L	27.00
Sodium (Na)	mg/L	30.00
Salinity Class		1.00
Res. Sod. Carb. (RSC)	meq/L	0.85
Sodium Ads. Ratio (SAR)		1.70
Sodicity Class		0.00
Total Alkalinity	mg CaCO ₃ /L	100.00
Bicarbonate Alkalinity (HCO ₃)	mg CaCO ₃ /L	100.00
Carbonate	meq/L	0.00
Carbonate Alkalinity (CO ₃)	mg CaCO ₃ /L	0.00
Bicarbonate	meq/L	2.00
Calcium Carbonate Saturation Index		0.08
Water Hardness	mg CaCO ₃ /L	57.00
Aluminium (Al)	mg/L	0.08
Boron (B)	mg/L	<0.03
Calcium (Ca)	mg/L	3.20
Copper (Cu)	mg/L	<0.01
Iron (Fe)	mg/L	0.03
Magnesium (Mg)	mg/L	12.00
Manganese (Mn)	mg/L	<0.01
Ammonium Nitrogen (NH ₄)	mg/L	<1.00



NATA Accreditation No: 11958

Certificate of Analysis is available upon request.

Analyses conducted by **Nutrient Advantage Laboratory Services**

8 South Road, Werribee VIC 3030

Tel: 1800 803 453

Email: lab.feedback@incitecpivot.com.au

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Nutrient Report

Grower Name :	JOHN DEAMBROSIS	Nearest Town:	AYR
Sample No:	021308010	Test Code:	C1
Paddock Name:	NO 2	Sample Type:	Water
Sample Name:	SUNWATER	Sampling Date:	29/08/2012

Analyte / Assay	Units	Value
Nitrate Nitrogen (NO3)	mg/L	<1.00
Phosphorus (P)	mg/L	<0.10
Potassium (K)	mg/L	3.30
Sulphur (S)	mg/L	2.10
Zinc (Zn)	mg/L	<0.02
Total Dissolved Solids	mg/L	210.00

The results reported pertain only to the sample submitted

Analyses performed on an 'as received' basis

* One or more components of this test are below their detection limit. The value used is indicative only.

Disclaimer: Laboratory analyses and fertiliser recommendations are made in good faith, based on the best technical information available as at the date of this report. Incitec Pivot Limited, its officers, employees, consultants, Agents and Dealers do not accept any liability whatsoever arising from or in connection with the analytical results, interpretations and recommendations provided, and the client takes the analytical results, interpretations and recommendations on these terms. In respect of liability which cannot be excluded by law, Incitec Pivot's liability is restricted to the re-supply of the laboratory analysis or the cost of having the analysis re-supplied.



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