Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd. Bulletin 5, September 2025

TALKING CANE TRASH

BLANKETING THE HERBERT WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION

KEY DATES

Corteva FNQ Roadshow: Utrisha® N Biostimulant Information Evening
Tuesday 2nd September
Time: 6pm.
Location: Noorla Bowls Club, Ingham.

HCPSL 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM)
Tuesday 21st OCTOBER
Time: 8am
Location: HSPSL/SRA Office, Fairford Road.
Further details below.

CLOTHIANIDIN... FOR THE CONTROL OF GREYBACK CANEGRUBS

With canegrub pressure on the rise and growers preparing to apply canegrub control with upcoming fertiliser applications now is a good time to revisit an all but forgotten alternative to Imidacloprid… Clothianidin.

Clothianidin can be used for the control of Greyback canegrubs and, although more expensive than Imidacloprid, it is an effective alternative for growers who are looking for another option to rotate with Imidacloprid.

The table below outlines two currently available products with their recommended rates.

Product Name	Ratoon Cane Application Rate	More Information
Clothianidin 200	1.75 – 2.5L/ha	Clothianidin 200 Label
Shield®	1.75 – 2.5L/ha	Shield® Label

For more information: **Sumitomo Technical Infosheet**

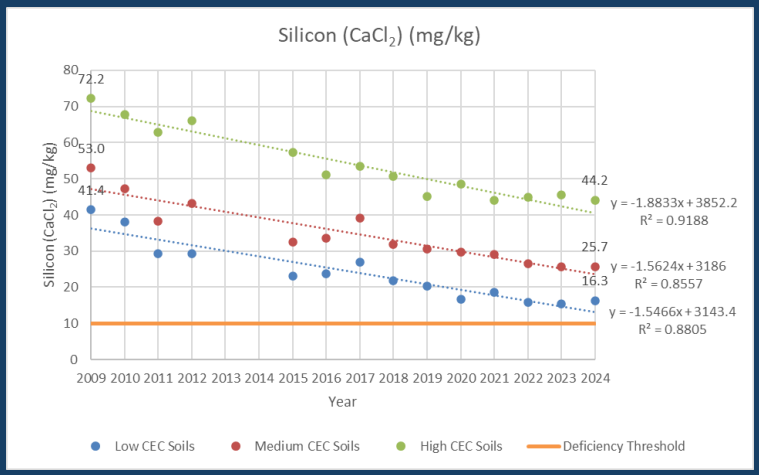
UNDERSTANDING SILICON & ITS IMPORTANCE IN SUGARCANE

"Apart from potassium, sugarcane can take up more silicon than any other mineral nutrient. An average crop can remove 100 to 175 kg/ha of silicon. Very high yielding crops can contain over 250 kg/ha of silicon in the harvested biomass."

- SRA Nutrition Manual

This information indicates that an average cane crop will take up more silicon than nitrogen, calcium, or magnesium.

Soluble silicic acid is the form of silicon that sugarcane uptakes and its availability is highly dependent on soil type. Sandy and lighter textured soils are at highest risk of silicon deficiency due to their low nutrient-holding capacity. Silicon deficiency is not a common issue in the Australian sugarcane industry, however according to soil tests taken between 2009 to 2024 it is likely that silicon deficiency, as shown by the graph on right, will start to increase on some soil types in the Herbert over the coming years.



Common ameliorant strategies are calcium silicate or the use of mill by-products. Products like mill ash can contain as much as 40% silicon and even mill mud can contain up to 28% silicon (more info in link below). It is important to note that not all of the silicon is readily available to the crop, and it may take years for it to become available.

To read more on mill byproducts and Silicon, visit the **HCPSL website HERE**.

SRA CANEGRUB RESEARCH & HCPSL AGM

Sugar Research Australia (SRA) will present information related to their ongoing research into alternate canegrub control at this year's HCPSL AGM. As laboratory testing moves into the field-testing phase SRA research staff will be available to talk about the research and answer any questions growers may have.

Date: 21st October 2025 Time: 8am Location: HCPSL/SRA Building (downstairs meeting room)

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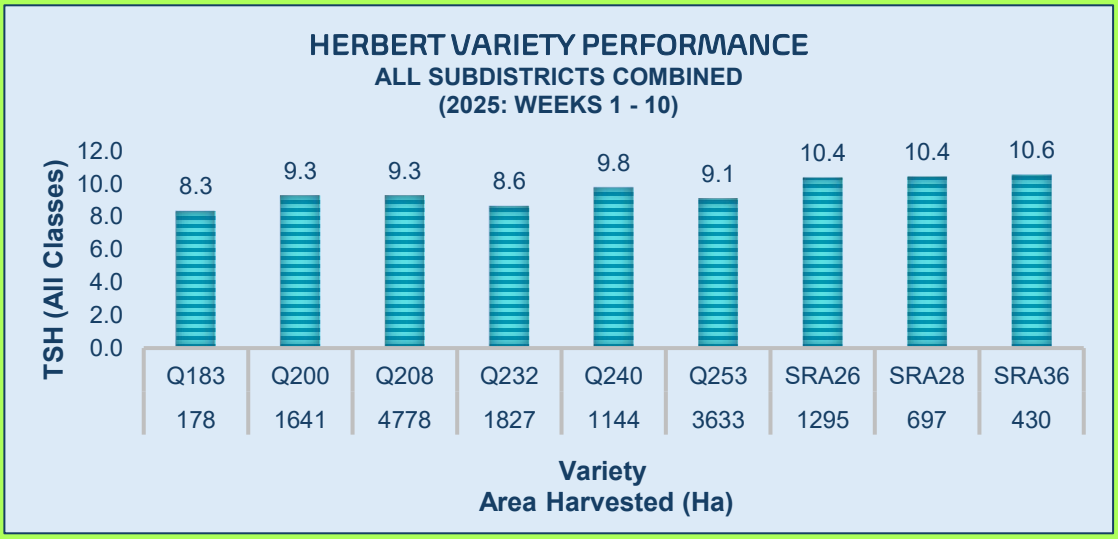
HERBERT VARIETY PERFORMANCE (Weeks 1-10)

The Herbert Variety Performance chart below shows the aggregated sugar yield per hectare (TSH) for a selection of the major varieties over the first 10 weeks of the 2025 crush. The information used is based on the commercial harvest across the Herbert district and should be used as a guide only. Date source: Wilmar Sugar, Variety Trends Report.

Similar charts for each of the six major sub-districts are available on the **HCPSL website (click here).**



SOIL TESTING 101: Where in a block should you take a soil sample?

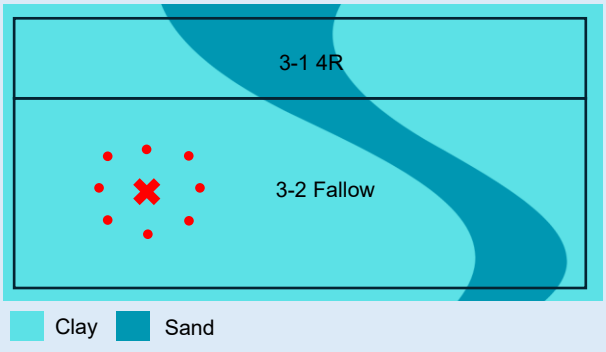
Taking an appropriate soil sample, is crucial in effectively managing soil nutrition and fertiliser requirements. Soil testing allows us to apply nutrients at rates that meet the sugarcane crops' requirements, while also monitoring changes to soil properties over time.

For a future plant crop, the ideal time to soil sample is immediately after the last ratoon has been harvested.

So, where in the block should I sample?

- Sample from an area that is a fair representation of the block; or take multiple samples, each representing different soil types or management zones within the block.
- If taking only a single soil sample avoid sampling areas prone to waterlogging.
- Do not sample the edges of a block
- For blocks with more than one soil type, and when taking only one sample, take the sample from a section of the block that best represents the dominant soil type (refer to Figure 1).
- Collect multiple cores/sub-samples from this area and combine them to form a composite sample (As indicated by ✖ and • in Figure 1)
- Take a GPS point in the centre of sub-samples i.e. ✖

Figure 1: An example map indicating where to soil sample



For further information or advice on any of the above topics, contact HCPSL.
Phone: (07) 4776 1808 or www.hcpsl.com

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