

# TALKING CANE TRASH

BLANKETING THE HERBERT WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION

## Variety Performance in 2025

HCPSSL conducted a review of variety performance according to crop class, grouped into plant, young ratoons, mature ratoons and old ratoons, for cane supplied to the Wilmar Herbert River mills during the 2025 crush.

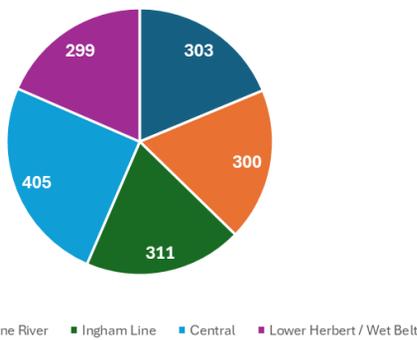
The review used data collected by Wilmar Sugar and looked at a basic comparison of up to 14 varieties; comparing CCS, TCH, and TSH over the entire Herbert region.

The results can be found on the HCPSSL website at <https://hcpsl.com/cms/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Variety-Performance-2025-Harvest.pdf>

## KEY DATES

**Day of Knowledge – Soil Health Workshop**  
 Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> of February at the Noorla Bowls Club  
 RSVP by 2<sup>nd</sup> of February

Test per Subdistrict



## 2026 RSD Testing

HCPSSL will be taking bookings for grower RSD testing from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> of January until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2026.

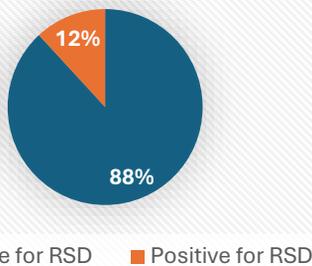
### Growers who book by the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2026:

- Will receive 1 free QPCR sample per 20ha (as per area on farm map) as part of their 'Free Allocation'.
- May receive a PCM (microscope) test as part of their 'Free Allocation' provided it is deemed urgent or necessary.
- Will be charged a discounted rate of \$10 per sample for QPCR or PCM (microscope) once they have exceeded their 'Free Allocation'.

**Growers who have not booked by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April** will be charged at a rate of \$50 per test (no Free Allocation will apply).

Bookings are essential to assist HCPSSL in effective delivery of these services to our growers.

## RSD infection Rate in 2025 Test



## 2025 RSD Stats

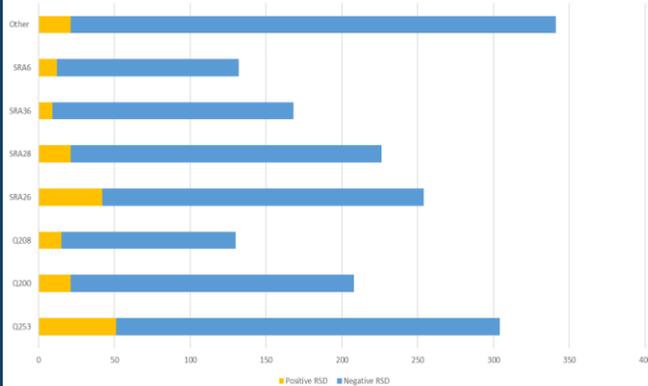
The three graphs to the left have been created using data collected by HCPSSL while conducting RSD testing in 2025.

**Test Per Subdistrict** – The top-left chart indicates that the quantity of tests taken are relatively evenly distributed across all subdistricts. Central recorded the highest number of tests at 405, while Ingham Line followed with 311. Abergowrie and Stone River had similar results with 303 and 300 tests respectively, and Lower Herbert/Wet Belt recorded the lowest at 299.

**RSD Infection Rates** – The middle-left chart shows that the majority of samples tested in 2025 were negative for RSD (88%). Inversely, this means that 12% of samples tested positive for RSD. This indicates that almost 1 in every 8 blocks tested were infected with RSD.

**RSD Infection Rates x Variety** – The graph shows the number of positive and negative RSD tests for different varieties in 2025. The "Other" variety has the highest number of positive tests, while varieties like SRA46, SRA36, and SRA28 also show a notable number of positive tests but with a higher proportion of negative tests. Q253 has the fewest positive RSD tests, with most results being negative.

2025 Positive RSD Test Per Variety



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## N&P Budgets

### Why have a N&P budget?

Sugarcane growers in the Wet Tropics are required to have a Farm Nitrogen and Phosphorus Budget prior to fertilizing their property under the Environmental Protection Act.

A budget needs to be developed and verified by an appropriate person, generally considered to be an agronomist or yourself if you are currently Smartcane BMP accredited or have completed a training program such as the Six Easy Steps® nutrient management training.

### N&P budgets involve:

- Stage 1: A farm map
- Stage 2: Soil testing
- Stage 3: Defining management zones
- Stage 4: Determining the nitrogen and phosphorus rates to calculate a whole-of-farm amount for N & P
- Stage 5: Annual revisions reflecting on-farm changes
- Stage 6: Varying rates within your farm



### How is a farm budget calculated?

Put simply, your whole-of-farm budget is calculated by summing together the regulated amounts of N and P for each block, excluding ploughout blocks, across your whole farm. The 'regulated amounts' are the N and P requirements in your soil test results with adjustments made for any deductions after mill by-product applications or legumes. Where blocks do not have their own soil test a soil test may be allocated to them from a block under the same management.

### What does this mean for my fertiliser applications?

The total amount of fertiliser containing N and P must not exceed the calculated whole-of-farm amount and any higher rates than the 'regulated' amount for a block must be offset by a lower rate on a block elsewhere to remain under budget. It is best to calculate your budget and set your fertiliser rates for blocks ahead of fertilizing, and review with any changes to ploughout as the season progresses.

To learn more about Farm N&P budgets see the Prescribed Methodology for Sugarcane Cultivation or contact HCPSL for support.

SRA will be running a 6ES course sometime in March/April – keep an eye out for dates!

[https://www.qld.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/113146/prescribed-method-sugarcane.pdf](https://www.qld.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0016/113146/prescribed-method-sugarcane.pdf)



For further information or advice on any of the above topics, contact HCPSL.

Phone: (07) 4776 1808 or [www.hcpsl.com](http://www.hcpsl.com)