Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd. Bulletin 2, June 2025

TALKING CANE TRASH

BLANKETING THE HERBERT WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION

PRE-EMERGENT WEED CONTROL OPTIONS

A 2008 study showed that yield loss due to poor weed control costs growers up to $340/ha. Controlling weeds after planting is critically important and can make or break a plant crop. To assist growers in keeping on top of weeds, three common pre-emergent herbicide option are listed in the table below. For more options or further information contact HCPSL on (07) 4776 1808.

Weeds	Herbicide	Rate	Water Rate
Grasses & Broadleaf	Stomp Xtra Atrazine 900 WG	2.2 – 3.3L/ha 1.6 – 2.2kg/ha	200L+
Grasses & Broadleaf	Dual Gold 960 Atrazine 900 WG	1.45 – 1.8kg/ha 1.6 – 2.2kg/ha	200L+
Grasses & Broadleaf	Dual Gold 960 Diuron 900 DF	1.45 – 1.8L/ha 0.5kg/ha	250L+

Special Notes:
1. Add paraquat where weeds are present and apply as a directed spray.
2. Always adjust application rate according to amount of active ingredient.
3. Always follow the label.
4. Seek further advice if unsure about any application.

KEY DATES

HERBERT MILLS PLANNED START DATE:
Tuesday 10th June.

INGHAM SHOW: Cane Exhibit Submissions Due
TSH & Sugarpol Exhibits: Tues 24th June.
All Other Exhibits: Wed 25th June.
MORE DETAILS BELOW.

INGHAM SHOW:
Thurs 26th & Fri 27th June (Friday Show Holiday HCPSL Closed)

AUTUMN 2026 TISSUE CULTURE ORDERS DUE:
Friday 27th June.
MORE DETAILS BELOW.

NEW VARIETIES APPROVED FOR RELEASE IN THE HERBERT

At the recent Herbert regional variety committee meeting (RVC) two new varieties were approved for release in the Herbert.

SRA32 has performed well in trials across the Herbert displaying high yields with average CCS when compared to the standard commercial varieties (Q200, Q208). Tissue culture orders of SRA32 can be placed with HCPSL in 2025 for delivery to growers in 2026. Distribution of SRA32 from HCPSL Approved Seed plots is scheduled for 2027, however a limited release may be available from selected plots in 2026 pending availability of seed cane material in 2025. SRA32 has intermediate resistance to Pachymetra root rot and Sugarcane smut and is resistant to Leaf scald. For more info on SRA32 follow the link below to the SRA Northern Variety Guide.

Northern Variety Guide - www.sugarresearch.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SRA_Variety-Guide-2024_Northern.pdf

QS10-7130 (SRA48) is the second new release with distribution from HCPSL Approved Seed plots scheduled for 2027. Tissue culture orders of SRA48 can be placed with HCPSL in 2025 for delivery to growers in 2026. SRA48 has performed well in trials across the Herbert displaying average–high yields with average–low CCS when compared to the standard commercial varieties (Q200, Q208). Other benefits of SRA48 include Pachymetra root rot and leaf scald resistance and has intermediate resistance to Sugarcane smut.

Further information on SRA48 will be made available to grower through SRA in 2026.

INGHAM SHOW: CANE ENTRIES 2025

TSH & SUGARPOL EXHIBITS DUE: Tuesday 24th June by 9am. Delivered to SRA/HCPSL Office at 181 Fairford Rd.

ALL OTHER EXHIBITS DUE: Wednesday 25th June between 11am - 5pm (Please note time changes). Delivered to Ingham Showgrounds.

Judging to commence on Thursday 26th at 8am with presentation of Trophies and Awards on Thursday 26th June at 6pm.

AUTUMN 2026 TISSUE CULTURE

ORDERS DUE: FRIDAY 27TH JUNE 2025

Newly released **SRA32** & **SRA48** available to order for 2026 delivery. Cost per plant $2.10 - $2.60.

Phone the HCPSL Office on (07) 4776 1808 to place an order.

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CONSIDERING APPLYING MILL MUD OR ASH?

Mill by-products (mill mud and ash) can be valuable fertiliser sources. A better understanding of the benefits of mill mud based products, combined with new application technology and strategies, have made it more attractive for growers to use these products across the district.

Mill by-products contain a range of nutrients, including nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, calcium, zinc and copper. However, after applying mill mud based products, not all nutrients will be immediately available to the crop.

Research suggests that a 50t/ha application of mill mud can immediately supply 25kg/ha of nitrogen to a sugarcane crop. The remainder of the nitrogen is 'locked up' in organic matter and released slowly over time. For this reason, it's important to apply the right amount of follow up fertiliser to avoid potential deficiencies.

TOTAL Nutrient	Mill Mud (50t/ha)	Ash (50t/ha)	Mud/Ash (Mkn mix - 50t/ha)
Nitrogen	170	25	105
Phosphorus	115	60	90
Potassium	25	245	85
Sulfur	15	60	20
Calcium	240	160	195
Magnesium	40	100	50

Nutrients shown in kg/ha of wet weight based on product analysis conducted by Wilmar in 2019.

TOTAL NITROGEN IN MILL MUD

Mill mud applied @ 50 t/ha

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Urea @ 3 bgs/ac

SRA Nutrition Manual: https://sugarresearch.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2022_SRA-Nutrition-Manual_F2.pdf

ASSCT 2025: A Snapshot of the Latest Industry Research

- **Losses caused by RSD (Ratoon Stunning Disease) could exceed $200 million annually.** Research by Yesmin, Mellor & Young conclude that previous research underestimated RSD incidence, yield losses and sugar prices. Therefore, the total economic loss associated with RSD may have been significantly underestimated.
- **Herbert Soils: Trends in Soil Chemical Fertility**. Since 2009, HCPSL has tested over 5000 soil samples from across the district. Individual soil nutrient levels were averaged each year and trends assessed. Results indicate an increase in soil pH, likely due to growers applying lime. However, downward trends in soil silicon and phosphorus levels were observed, with soils with low cation exchange capacity (sand and loam) approaching deficiency levels. There was a general trend of phosphorus mining of soils that have not received mill by-products.
- **Detecting Hidden Nutrient Constraints: Industry-Wide Soil & Leaf Survey**. Research by Salter, Skocaj, Connellan & Darain surveyed six regions, taking 293 soil samples. In comparison to previous surveys, substantially more samples were found to have low organic carbon. Findings also revealed low soil potassium across most regions, while calcium & magnesium were found to be constraints in the Wet Tropics. Similar to HCPSL's research, silicon results were found to be below critical levels in the Wet Tropics.

For the full list of ASSCT papers, visit the ASSCT website: https://www.assct.com.au/

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

HCPSL
Herbert Cane Productivity Services Ltd.