

TALKING CANE TRASH

BLANKETING THE HERBERT WITH THE LATEST INFORMATION

PROTECTING YOUR SEED CANE FROM RSD

1 IN EVERY 10 GROWER SEED CANE BLOCKS ARE INFECTED WITH RATOON STUNTING DISEASE (RSD)... that's the finding from HCPSL's RSD sampling conducted in 2024 and 2025. With such a high level of infection, in what should be the cleanest blocks on the farm, we can assume that RSD is widespread in ratoon crops.

While there are a number of possible causes, several investigations into RSD positive blocks in 2025 pointed towards cane volunteers in the grower's fallow as the likely source of infection. Clean seed cane is a major investment and HCPSL urges growers to be vigilant in removing ALL volunteers from fallow blocks as soon as possible after the last ratoon crop is harvested.

Other ways RSD can infect grower seed cane blocks include.

- Cane knives and whole stalk cutters
- Whole stalk and billet planters (particularly dip planters)
- Any other cutting or 'destructive' farm machinery such as slashers, mulchers, stool splitters etc.

The best protection from spreading RSD though machinery and equipment is chemical sterilisation.

Steriliser	Rate	Application
Methylated Spirits	70% metho : 30% water	1. Ensure all surfaces are clean and free from cane residue. 2. Thoroughly cover all surfaces and allow the chemical solution to dry before cutting commences.
Sterimax	1L Sterimax : 100L water	1. Ensure all surfaces are clean and free from cane residue. 2. Thoroughly drench all surfaces with the chemical solution and wait for at least 5min before cutting commences. 3. Dispose of any leftover solution within 24hrs of mixing Sterimax with water as it will deactivate over time.

For more info on RSD and how to manage it click on the link below.
<https://sugarresearch.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Wet-Tropics-RSD-Extension-Package-for-Growers-and-Contractors.pdf>

KEY DATES

HOT WATER TREATMENT TANKS NOW OPEN

Monday – Thursday at Victoria Mill.

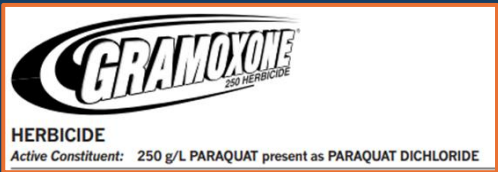
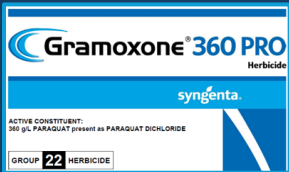
Phone the HCPSL Office on (07) 47761808 to make a booking.



Above: A sea of cane volunteers in a legume fallow... it only takes a single volunteer to infect a block of seed cane.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GRAMOXONE 360 PRO AND GRAMOXONE 250

Both products contain Paraquat as the active ingredient, however Gramoxone 360 PRO has 360 g/L of Paraquat and Gramoxone 250 has 250 g/L of Paraquat. One of the common problems we are finding is that growers are using Gramoxone 360 PRO at the same rate per hectare as Gramoxone 250. The labels below show what application rate you can use for each of the products. At the top rate both deliver 0.4L of active ingredient per hectare. There is no need to over apply Gramoxone 360 PRO to achieve the same results as Gramoxone 250.



Crop Use or Situation	Weeds Controlled	Growth Stage	State	Rate/ha
Sugarcane (Plant and Ratoon)	Grasses and some broadleaf weeds	Up to 5cm high	QLD, NSW & NT Only	835mL to 1.1L per sprayed ha + adjuvant
	Grasses and some broadleaf weeds – enhancement with Diurex WG	Up to 5cm high		835mL to 1.1L + 275g to 500g Diurex + adjuvant

Crop	Weeds Controlled	Growth Stage	State	Rate/ha
Sugarcane (Plant and Ratoon)	Grass & some broadleaf weeds	Up to 5cm high	QLD, NSW, NT Only	1.2 to 1.6L per sprayed ha
	Grass & some broadleaf weeds – enhancement with Diurex	Up to 5cm high		1.2 to 1.6L + 275g to 500g Diurex

ALWAYS READ THE LABEL BEFORE USING. Additional information will be available on the HCPSL website soon.

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NDVI and HCPSL: Understanding NDVI and its Uses

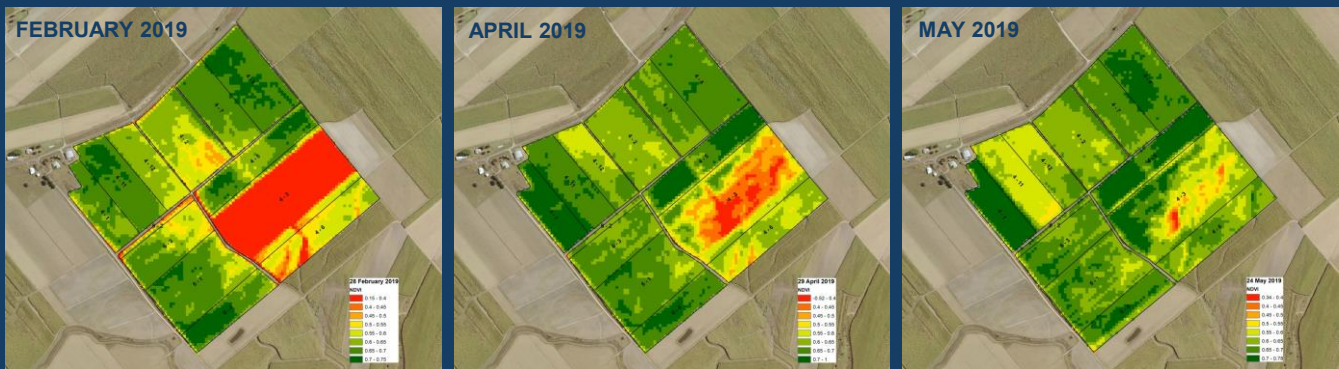
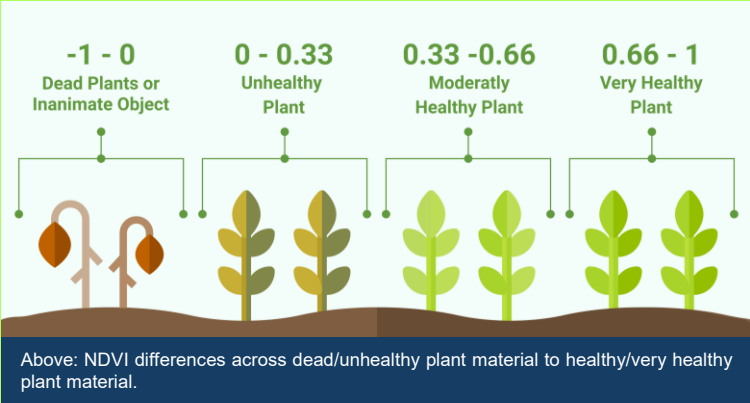
NDVI stands for Normalised Difference Vegetation Index. NDVI can provide an insight into the infield performance of a crop, identifying areas of lower crop health/vigour and potential yield. NDVI is a tool growers and agronomists can use to assess soil limitations and formulate appropriate recommendations to increase the productivity of a block. Additionally, satellite imagery provides a view of the centre of a cane block when the cane has grown too tall to easily look over.

To calculate NDVI, HCPSL regularly downloads satellite imagery that is applicable to agriculture and vegetation management. This information is provided to users at no cost to promote its use in vegetation and crop management.

HCPSL produces four to six district-wide NDVI map sets each year with individual NDVI farm maps also available to growers upon request (pending cloud cover). Have a chat with our GIS Officer Rod Neilson about accessing maps for your farm.

For more information you can contact Rod on 4776 1808 or 0493 891 563 or flick him an email at rnielson@hcpsl.com.au.

Further information about NDVI and other imagery can be found on the HCPSL website - <https://hcpsl.com/farm-management/precision-agriculture>



Above: An example of how NDVI can be used as a tool to identify variation across a block or farm over time.



HOT WATER TREATMENT FACILITY OPEN

The hot water treatment (HWT) facility at Victoria mill is now operational.

To make a booking (Monday – Thursday) phone the HCPSL office on (07) 47761808.

Along with clean seed from the HCPSL Approved Seed plots, HWT is another way growers can protect their on-farm seed cane material from ratoon stunting disease (RSD).

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