



Information Sheet

2006

13. VARIETIES

13.12 **Variety N25**

INTRODUCTION

N25 is a fairly robust variety that is very useful on a range of soils and conditions. This includes shallow and poorly drained soils. As this variety tends to have a high yield and low sucrose content it should be planted close to the mill when ripeners are not used. N25 has responded very well to ripeners. N25 can be harvested throughout the year but should be ripened when harvested early season. It is better to plant N25 on the lower potential/more marginal soils as the very high cane yield may lead to lodging on higher potential soils. This variety has a low fibre content and stalks are brittle. When cane lodges the stalks can snap.

Origin: SASRI, South Africa

Year of release: 1994

Variety Code: 84F3097

Parentage: Co62175 x N14

CANE QUALITY & YIELD

Tons RV: High. Average is 108%N14, 109%N19, 110%NCo376 on a range of soils and conditions. Good yields throughout the year but the RV yield relative to the other irrigated varieties tends to improve when harvested later in the season. Low RV content in the early season.

Cane yield: High (higher than N14, N19, NCo376)

RV content: Low (103%N14, 93%N19, 104%NCo376)

Fibre content: Low (92%N14, 89%N19, 87%NCo376)

Purity: Moderate

Fibre:sucrose ratio: Low

Non-sucrose:sucrose ratio: Moderate

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination (speed and reliability): Rapid and reliable

Stalk population (at harvest): Medium: 118 000/ha

Stalk mass (at harvest): High

Stalk height (at harvest): Tall

Stalk elongation: Rapid

Canopy formation: Moderately rapid. Dense canopy formed.

Flowering: Sparse

Lodging: Moderate, can be severe in high yielding crops

Ratooning ability (speed and reliability): Moderate speed and reliable

REACTION TO DISEASES & PESTS

Smut: Intermediate

Mosaic: Intermediate

RSD: Highly susceptible

Rust: Resistant

Leaf scald: Resistant

Red rot: Susceptible

Nematodes: Intermediate

Eldana: Intermediate-resistant

REACTION TO WATER STRESS

Growth during severe water stress: Moderate (leaves scorch)

Recovery after water stress: Good

Ratooning after drought: Moderate



Irrigated

Poorly drained soils: Moderately tolerant

Salinity tolerance: Moderately tolerant

NUTRITION

Nitrogen use efficiency: Moderate to high

RIPENER RECOMMENDATIONS

Fusilade Forte: Ground rigs (250 ml/ha), Aerial (275 ml/ha): Yes

Ethephon (1.5 l/ha): Yes

Gallant Super: No data

Tandem (Ethephon + Fusilade Forte): Yes (highly recommended)

HARVESTING

Best months: Aug-Dec

BEST FEATURES

N25 produced good sucrose yields on a range of soils and conditions. It responds well to the combination ripener treatment. N25 can be harvested all year round but it has a significant yield advantage over other varieties when harvested late in the season. High N use efficiency indicates that a lower rate of N fertiliser can be applied. It is suited to good, moderate and poor (duplex) soils. Its yield advantage tends to increase relative to other varieties on the poorer soils. Yields are very good on very sandy soils. Apparently immune to sugarcane yellow leaf virus infection.

LIMITING FEATURES

N25 has an intermediate resistance to diseases. It is moderately susceptible to smut. It has a moderate to low sucrose content. Do not carry over on the Coast or in areas where there is water stress and eldana is a problem. The stalks tend to be brittle and need to be handled with care at harvesting. Avoid planting on high potential soils as lodging can occur early on, potentially leading to yield losses due to snapping of lodged stalks. Strong winds can also lead to severe lodging of N25. Poor payloads are achieved with this variety. Leaves may show symptoms of scorch during water stress, after hot, dry winds, or under high temperature conditions but plants tend to recover quickly. N25 has a very high pith:fibre ratio, which may lead to relatively poor extraction at the mill compared to other varieties.



Identification Guide

HABIT AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

A tall, erect, attractive variety with a fairly dense canopy of dark green leaves. Prone to scorching of the leaf tips on very hot days.

LEAF

Blade: medium width; fairly dark green in colour.

Sheath: purplish where exposed, otherwise light green with a lot of wax bloom. No hairs present, except on young cane. Trash clings fairly tightly.

Collar: medium to narrow; yellowish in colour, often outlined with purple.

Auricle: short and broad, although often absent.

STALK

Internode

Yellowish; sometimes with a tinge of green, turning to pink on exposure.

Wax band: narrow; can be distinct.

Bud furrow: slight; can be more distinct in the younger internodes.

Node

Growth ring: yellow in older cane; yellowish-green to green in younger nodes. Protrudes slightly.

Root band: yellow to yellowish-green at the top of the stalk; medium to narrow in width.

Sheath scar: usually neat; protrudes slightly.

Bud: medium sized; slightly oval. Frequently extends beyond the growth ring. Young buds often green towards the top.

Flange: fairly narrow.