

# Updates on the SASRI website



## Improving nutrition efficiency

Nutrient deficiencies are one of the most common causes of poor plant growth, pest and disease susceptibility and inadequate crop yields. These deficiencies are often a result of poor or incorrect fertiliser application. To assist with understanding more about the various nutrients, we have revamped our Nutrition series of Information Sheets.

In this series, we tackle easy identification of each nutrient deficiency in the field, adequate levels required for growth in plant and ratoon crops and the most effective application guidelines for each nutrient. Additionally, we have included useful tables of suggested fertiliser sources for each nutrient. The Nutrition series also describes how to develop an effective nutrition plan, design strip plots, and take soil and leaf samples as per FAS Agricultural Laboratory procedures.

### The following topics are covered in this series:

- 7.1 Developing a nutrient management programme
- 7.2 Nitrogen management
- 7.3 Nitrogen management: N-Monitor plots
- 7.4 Phosphorus Management
- 7.5 Potassium management
- 7.6 Sulphur management
- 7.7 Calcium and magnesium management
- 7.8 Boron management
- 7.9 Iron management
- 7.10 Manganese management
- 7.11 Copper management
- 7.12 Zinc management
- 7.15 Sugarcane leaf sampling
- 7.16 Soil sampling procedures
- 7.17 Nutritional amendments: Filtercake
- 7.18 Organic amendments: manures
- 7.20 Condensed Molasses Solids (CMS)
- 7.21 Organic amendments: High fibre amendments

## Integrated management of weeds

Weeds pose a serious problem in the South African sugarcane industry and, in extreme cases, can lead to complete crop failure. Weeds are normally grouped into the three categories, namely, Broadleaf Weeds, Grasses, and Sedges. The effect that these weeds have on cane yield will depend on crop growth vigour and the type of weed. Weeds are less of a problem in a fast-growing crop.

SASRI advocates an integrated pest management (IPM) approach to weed control. In this series we offer a sustainable approach which combines biological, cultural, physical and chemical tools in a way that minimises economic, health and environmental risks.

### The following topics are covered in this series:

- 10.1 Watergrass Control
- 10.3 Alien Plant Control
- 10.4 Spraying Herbicides with Low Volume
- 10.5 Water Quality for Herbicides
- 10.6 Understanding the label on herbicide containers
- 10.7 Alien Plant Control

To download or view these information sheets please check the eLibrary on the SASRI website ([www.sasri.org.za](http://www.sasri.org.za)).

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