

New and updated publications on sugarcane pest management

Thrips and YSA Manual

SASRI has recently launched a comprehensive manual designed to aid in the effective management of Thrips and Yellow Sugarcane Aphid (YSA).

This manual serves as a valuable resource for growers, equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary for the identification of Thrips and YSA. Moreover, it offers a wealth of practical guidance on control measures for these pests, including the optimisation of natural habitats, the reduction of plant stress through the management of soil physical and biological health, the selection of suitable crop varieties, and the implementation of sound field hygiene practices.

The manual highlights the importance of adjusting planting dates to minimise the risk of infestations and emphasises the critical role of proper nutrition management.

Growers are strongly encouraged to regularly scout their fields for the presence of these pests and are provided with expert advice on the judicious use of registered insecticides for the control of Thrips and YSA.

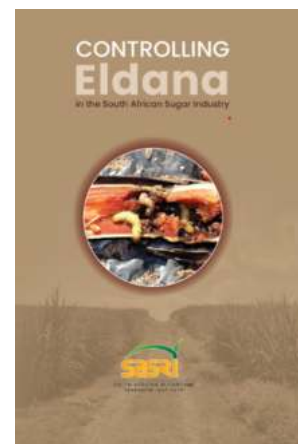


Eldana Manual

We have just updated our *Eldana Manual* which contains easy-to-follow guidelines for managing eldana in sugarcane. SASRI's best management practices (BMPs) for eldana control include advice for dealing with stressed sugarcane, on-farm scouting and agrochemical formulations that have been registered for use in the South African sugar industry. In addition, the manual contains details on varietal resistance to eldana and a section on the role and legal standing of Local Pest Disease & Variety Control Committees.

Growers are probably aware that optimal eldana control does not lie in any single solution but rather in a range of interventions incorporated into an integrated pest management programme for the farm. This integrated approach is covered in greater technical detail in SASRI's other publication, *IPM for Eldana Control*. Ask your local SASRI Extension Specialist for more advice.

Copies of both publications are available from the <https://sasri.org.za/e-Library/>



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