



Information Sheet

3. VARIETIES

Variety N68

Parents: 90H0482 x 89H0622

Selected at Kearsney research station and tested at the advanced variety stage in three trials in coastal long cycle average potential soils (one trial at Gingindlovu research station and two trials on grower co-operator farms), and two trials in the coastal long cycle high potential soils (one trial at Kearsney research station and one trial on a grower co-operator farm). Results are from the plant, first and second ratoon crops.

Recommended for planting on high potential soils on a longer cutting cycle of 14 to 18 months in the coastal rainfed regions.

BEST FEATURES

Good general disease and eldana resistance.
High RV yields in coastal long cycle high potential environments on a 14 to 18 months cutting cycle.
Good millability characteristics.

LIMITING FEATURES

Prone to lodging. Not recommended for poor to average potential soils.

YIELD AND QUALITY

Tons RV	121% of N39, 137% of N41 in coastal long cycle high potential soils 98% of N39, 104% of N41 in coastal long cycle average potential soils
Cane yield	129% of N39, 146% of N41 in coastal long cycle high potential soils 108% of N39, 117% of N41 in coastal long cycle average potential soils
RV content	94% of N39, 95% of N41 in coastal long cycle high potential soils 92% of N39, 90% of N41 in coastal long cycle average potential soils
Fibre content	94% of N39, 99% of N41
Purity	99% of N39, 99% of N41
Yield and quality data from coastal long cycle average and high potential soils where the variety is recommended for high potential soils to be harvested on a 14 to 18 month cutting cycle.	

REACTION TO DISEASES AND PESTS

Smut	Intermediate resistant
Mosaic	Intermediate resistant
Brown rust	Resistant
Tawny rust	Intermediate resistant
Eldana	Intermediate resistant
Mild tawny rust observed in trials.	

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination	Good
Stalk Population	83% of N39
Stalk Height	114% of N39
Stalk diameter	107% of N39
Canopy	Good
Flowering	Low
Lodging	Prone to lodging
Ratooning	Good

MILLING CHARACTERISTICS

Colour	Low colour value (< 10 000 ICUMSA), less than NCo376
Processability	Acceptable density (< 300 kg/m ³). Similar to NCo376. Percolation rate not determined.

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Habit and General Appearance

Upright growth structure; large canopy; thick stalks

Leaf

Blade: Broad width leaves; no markings

Sheath: Medium adherence to the stalk, not waxy; very short fine hairs present

Collar: Same colour as the stalk; medium size

Auricle: Present mostly on the underlapping side only (on one side)

Stalk

Internode:

Cylindrical shape; light yellow green when not exposed but brownish green when exposed; very weak zigzag alignment

Wax Band: Narrow; less distinct on younger internodes

Bud Furrow: Not present

Node:

Growth Ring: Slightly protruding; distinct colour on younger nodes

Root Band: Broad width root band; primordia are flat and in 3 rows

Sheath scar: Flat; tidy

Bud: Oval shape; always within the growth band.

Flange: Distinct but narrow



Compiled by Marvellous Zhou (Senior Plant Breeder)
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