



Information Sheet

2006

3. VARIETIES

Variety N28

INTRODUCTION

N28 is an erect variety that can be planted on low and high potential soils. It performs better than N19 in heavy waterlogged soils. This variety should preferably be harvested mid-season.

Origin: SASRI, South Africa

Year of release: 1997

Variety Code: 86F3396

Parentage: 76F1553 x 69F0179

CANE QUALITY & YIELD

Tons RV: Yields best when harvested mid-season (106%N14, 112%N19) on good, well drained soils

Cane yield: Moderate (lower than N14 and NCo376, but higher than N19)

RV content: Moderate (104%N14, 96%N19, 106%NCo376)

Fibre content: Low (95%N14, 94%N19, 90%NCo376)

Purity: Moderate

Fibre:sucrose ratio: Low

Non-sucrose:sucrose ratio: Low

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination (speed and reliability): Rapid and reliable

Stalk population (at harvest): High: 124 000/ha

Stalk mass (at harvest): High

Stalk height (at harvest): Short to average

Stalk elongation: Moderate

Canopy formation: Moderate

Flowering: Sparse

Lodging: Erect

Ratooning ability (speed and reliability): Rapid and reliable

REACTION TO DISEASES & PESTS

Smut: Intermediate

Mosaic: Intermediate

RSD: Intermediate-susceptible

Brown Rust: Resistant

Tawny Rust: Unknown

Leaf scald: Resistant

Red rot: Intermediate

Nematodes: Susceptible

Eldana: Intermediate-resistant

REACTION TO WATER STRESS

Growth during severe water stress: Poor - intolerant of drought conditions

Recovery after water stress: Poor

Ratooning after drought: Moderate

Poorly drained soils: Tolerant

Salinity tolerance: Moderately sensitive



Irrigated

NUTRITION

Nitrogen use efficiency: Moderate

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): No data

HARVESTING

Best months: Jul-Oct

BEST FEATURES

N28 has erect, straight stalks at harvest (good payloads). It is tolerant of waterlogging.

LIMITING FEATURES

Yields of N28 are generally poor in comparison to other irrigated varieties. Avoid carrying over in severe stress conditions and in areas where eldana is a problem.



Identification Guide

HABIT AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

An erect variety that has a fairly high stalk population and a canopy of erect, dark green leaves. The leaf sheath and stalk, when exposed, are purple in colour.

LEAF

Blade: medium width, erect, dark green, often with a bent leaf tip.

Sheath: green, with the edges of the sheath sometimes purplish. A fair amount of wax bloom present. The entire sheath turns to purple on exposure. Sheath is purplish on the inside of the base. A few hairs usually present. Trash comes away easily.

Collar: medium to broad, purplish.

Auricle: fairly broad and pointed, present on one side only.

STALK**Internode**

Medium diameter, yellowish-green, often with sooty dark patches. Turns dark purple on exposure where the trash does not cover the stalk. Corky markings sometimes present. Under some growing conditions, cracks or splits can occur.

Wax band: narrow to medium, fairly distinct.

Bud furrow: absent.

Node

Growth ring: yellowish-green, can be fairly indistinct. On the lower portion of the stalk, the growth ring is sometimes partly orange in colour.

Root band: light yellow, fairly broad.

Sheath scar: protruding slightly just below the bud.

Bud: small to medium, round, protruding or slightly swollen. Young buds can be brownish in colour.

Flange: narrow, sometimes with a purplish colouring at the apex. The flange does not reach the growth ring.