



Information Sheet

3. VARIETIES

Variety N36

Parents: 82F1225 x 78Z1635. Year of release: 2000.

Permitted Pest, Disease and Variety Control Areas: Permitted in all areas.

Recommended for planting in irrigated areas and harvested throughout the season. Also recommended for planting in coastal areas on moderate to high potential soils and harvested at 12 months.

BEST FEATURES

N36 is a widely adapted dual-purpose (irrigated and rainfed) variety that can be grown under varying conditions in the industry. Excellent RV yields are achieved throughout the season in irrigated areas. It is one of the best performing varieties in frost pockets in the Midlands, under rainfed and supplementary irrigation conditions. It exhibits rapid germination and canopy closure. High RV yields have been sustained over many ratoons in irrigated areas.

LIMITING FEATURES

N36 is susceptible to eldana and should not be carried over for this reason. Although rare, smut (in irrigated regions) and mosaic (midlands) have been observed on this variety. N36 lodges readily, and its bent stalks increase both harvesting and transport costs. Ratoon re-growth is often patchy due to low stalk populations. Germination can be poor under cold and extremely wet conditions. Care needs to be taken not to damage stools when harvesting under wet conditions.

YIELD AND QUALITY*

	Region		
	Irrigated	Coastal	Midlands (annual)
Tons RV	High 101% of N25 99% of N41 102% of N46	High 108% of N27 109% of N39 105% of N41	Very high 126% of N39 111% of N41
Cane yield	Moderate 90% of N25 98% of N41 95% of N46	Moderate to high 103% of N27 108% of N39 105% of N41	Moderate to high 117% of N39 103% of N41
RV %	High 112% of N25 101% of N41 107% of N46	High 103% of N27 100% of N39 99% of N41	High 108% of N39 109% of N41
Fibre content	Moderate 108% of N25 93% of N41 112% of N46	Moderate 99% of N27 95% of N39 100% of N41	Moderate 101% of N39 105% of N41

N36 produces excellent RV yields on an annual cutting cycle in all three regions. Severe lodging (irrigated region) and eldana damage (coastal and midlands) limits the ageing of this variety. RV yields under marginal conditions and waterlogged soils have not been as good as other varieties like N25 or N41.

**Based on average performance relative to control varieties under the same conditions. Performance may vary under different conditions and levels of management.*

MILLING CHARACTERISTICS

Colour (lower values better)	Unknown
Processability (higher percolation is necessary)	Unknown

SOIL SUITABILITY

Soil Group*	Performance
Grey crest to midslope	Poor
Grey lower slopes	Moderate
Humics	Good
Red	Good
Black structured	Moderate to poor

**For soil forms that fall within these groups consult SASRI's Soils Bulletin or your local Extension Specialist.*

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination	Rapid and reliable
Stalk Population	Low (107 000 stalks/ha)
Stalk Height	Moderate (185 cm)
Canopy speed	Rapid
Flowering	Moderate
Lodging	Severe (especially under irrigation)
Ratoon regrowth	Rapid (patchy due to low population)
Reaction to water stress	Moderate to poor
Reaction to waterlogging	Moderate to poor

N36 produces a low population of thick, heavy stalks which are often bent and lodged. It has wide leaves which form a dense canopy. The ratooning ability (ability to sustain RV yields over ratoons) is very good despite the patchy ratoon re-growth.

REACTION TO DISEASES AND PESTS*	
Smut	Intermediate (Better than N25 and N41)
Mosaic	Intermediate (Similar to N25 and N41)
Brown rust	Resistant (Better than N39 and N41)
Tawny rust	Resistant
Eldana	Intermediate-susceptible (Poorer than N39 and N41)
Nematodes	Susceptible (Poorer than N41 and N25)
Thrips	Intermediate-susceptible (Poorer than N25, similar to N27)
Smut and mosaic have been observed on N36.	

* Reactions vary depending on pest and disease pressure and were accurate at the time of publishing

REACTION TO CHEMICAL RIPENING	
Fusilade Forte (250 – 275 ml/ha)*	Yes
Ethephon (1.5 L/ha)	Yes
Tandem (Ethephon + Fusilade Forte)	Yes (marginal gains)

*The higher rates should be used when the chemical is applied by aircraft.

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Habit and General Appearance

N36 is a low population variety with medium to thick stalks, and a slightly open growth habit. The stalks often grow slightly bent. The canopy is fairly sparse, with erect dark green leaves, medium to broad in width.

Leaf

Blade: Medium width, erect, sometimes with bent leaf tips. Often there is light chlorotic blotching on both the midrib and blade.

Sheath: Green, with hairs present and a lot of wax bloom. The trash can be peeled off fairly easily.

Collar: Medium width, yellow-green, sometimes with slight purple.

Auricle: Broad, long and pointed; on one side only.

Stalk

Internode

Medium length and diameter, staggered, sometimes with cracks. There are some corky markings present. Light yellow in colour, becoming yellow-green on exposure.

Wax band: Medium width, fairly distinct.

Bud furrow: Often present.

Node

Growth ring: Medium, slightly protruding, light yellow-green.

Root band: Medium width, light green-yellow in colour.

Sheath scar: Slanting slightly.

Bud: Medium, slightly longer than broad, arises at the sheath scar.

Flange: Medium to small, with long hairs at the apex. Arises towards the top of the bud. Usually reaches the growth ring.



Updated by Sanesh Ramburan (Senior Agronomist: Varieties) December 2014

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