



# Information Sheet

2006

## 3. VARIETIES

### Variety N26

#### INTRODUCTION

**N**26 performs best when planted in the better, high potential soils and requires good irrigation management. It is suited to planting some distance from the mill as it has a very high sucrose content. The sucrose content is particularly high early in the season. This variety has performed well not only in the Northern irrigated areas but also in the irrigated areas in the Midlands.

**Origin:** SASRI, South Africa

**Year of release:** 1996

**Variety Code:** 83F2008

**Parentage:** 75F1463 x 69F0607

#### CANE QUALITY & YIELD

**Tons RV:** When harvested early season, RV yields are 110%N14, 104%N19 on good, well drained soils. Poor yields obtained late in the season.

**Cane yield:** Low (lower than N14, N19, NCo376)

**RV content:** Very high (119%N14, 108%N19, 121%NCo376)

**Fibre content:** Moderate (101%N14, 98%N19, 95%NCo376)

**Purity:** High

**Fibre:sucrose ratio:** Low

**Non-sucrose:sucrose ratio:** Low

#### AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

**Germination (speed and reliability):** Rapid and reliable (although has low tiller numbers)

**Stalk population (at harvest):** Low: 98 000/ha

**Stalk mass (at harvest):** High

**Stalk height (at harvest):** Average

**Stalk elongation:** Rapid

**Canopy formation:** Slow in plant cane, moderately rapid in ratoons.

**Flowering:** Sparse

**Lodging:** Severe (similar to N19)

**Ratooning ability (speed and reliability):** Generally rapid but can be slow through winter, reliable ratooning

#### REACTION TO DISEASES & PESTS

**Smut:** Resistant

**Mosaic:** Resistant

**RSD:** Susceptible

**Brown Rust:** Intermediate

**Tawny Rust:** Unknown

**Leaf scald:** Resistant

**Red rot:** Resistant

**Nematodes:** Highly susceptible

**Eldana:** Susceptible

#### REACTION TO WATER STRESS

**Growth during severe water stress:** Poor

**Recovery after water stress:** Poor

**Ratooning after drought:** Moderate

**Poorly drained soils:** Moderately tolerant

**Salinity tolerance:** Moderately tolerant



Irrigated

**NUTRITION**

**Nitrogen use efficiency:** Moderate to low

**RIPENER RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Fusilade Forte:** Ground rigs (250 ml/ha), Aerial (275 ml/ha): Yes

**Ethephon (1.5 l/ha):** No

**Gallant Super:** No data

**Tandem (Ethephon + Fusilade Forte):** Marginal gains

**HARVESTING**

**Best months:** Apr-Jun

**BEST FEATURES**

*N26 has a very high sucrose content in the early season. It is resistant to most diseases. The yields of N26 tend to improve with ratoons. Good payloads are achieved with this variety.*

**LIMITING FEATURES**

*Plant crop yields of N26 can be mediocre. N26 is highly susceptible to eldana. This variety should be limited to the high potential soils where eldana is not a problem. Do not age or carry over. It is not suitable for very sandy soils. Lodging in N26 can be severe. It may be sensitive to low temperatures when ratooning. It has a moderate to low N use efficiency which indicates that a higher rate of N fertiliser may be required. N26 has a fairly high pith:fibre ratio, thereby leading to poor extraction in the mill.*

## Identification Guide

**HABIT AND GENERAL APPEARANCE**

A low population, thick-stalked variety with a yellowish-green canopy of broad, erect leaves. Clinging trash covers virtually the entire stalk.

**LEAF**

**Blade:** yellowy-green; broad and erect with leaf tips often bent. Midrib sometimes yellow on the underside.

**Sheath:** hairy; light yellowish-green, with brownish blotches on older sheaths.

**Collar:** medium width; yellow; often with a purplish tinge.

**Auricle:** small; usually present; fairly broad.

**STALK****Internode**

Thick, yellowy-green, with corky markings sometimes present. Cracks on older internodes in some conditions.

**Wax band:** narrow and distinct.

**Bud furrow:** sometimes present, although slight.

**Node**

**Growth ring:** dark yellow to yellowish-green in younger nodes.

**Root band:** medium width; yellow; often with three rows of root primordia.

**Sheath scar:** does not protrude below the bud.

**Bud:** smallish; round; often protruding.

**Flange:** narrow, often with a purplish tinge in the younger buds. Hairs sometimes present at the apex.



All variety information sheets are available at <http://www.sugar.org.za/sasri/variety/index.htm>

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