



# Information Sheet

## 3. VARIETIES

### Variety N17

#### INTRODUCTION

**N**17 is suited to well drained soils, ranging from sands to sandy clay loams (Red recent sands, Dwyka tillite, Pietermaritzburg shales, Vryheid sediments and NGS Ordinary). This variety must only be planted in spring or summer and must be harvested in summer. Avoid harvesting in winter because of poor ratooning at this time. The best results for N17 have come from trials on the North Coast and in Zululand. N17 does not perform well in the Midlands.

**Origin:** SASRI, South Africa

**Year of release:** 1984

**Variety Code:** 70F1326

**Parentage:** NCo376 x CB38/22

#### CANE QUALITY & YIELD

**Tons RV:** Yields are generally poorer than N14 in the late season, but better than N14 early to mid-season on the heavier clay soils. On the coast, average is 91%N12 when harvested older than 15 months and 104%N12 when harvested annually. In rainfed areas N17 is better in drier years relative to other varieties and best yields are obtained when harvested annually along the coast (average is 1 t RV/ha > NCo376 on Red recent sands, 0.5 t RV/ha > NCo376 on Dwyka). Best yields obtained in mid-late season (after winter).

**Cane yield:** Low-moderate (lower than N14, N19, NCo376: irrigated) and (lower than NCo376, N12, N16: rainfed)

**RV content:** Moderate to high (105%N14, 97%N19, 107%NCo376: irrigated) and (108%NCo376, 105%N12, 105%N16: rainfed)

**Fibre content:** High (106%N12, 115%N14, 109%N16, 112%N19, 110%NCo376)

**Purity:** Moderate

**Fibre:sucrose ratio:** Moderate to high

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

#### AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

**Stalk population (at harvest):** Medium: 116 000/ha

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

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

**Stalk elongation:** Rapid

**Canopy formation:** Rapid, except in plant crop; erect canopy

**Flowering:** Profuse

**Lodging:** Moderate/severe

#### REACTION TO DISEASES & PESTS

**Smut:** Resistant

**Mosaic:** Intermediate

**RSD:** Highly susceptible

**Brown Rust:** Resistant

**Tawny Rust:** Unknown

**Leaf scald:** Resistant

**Red rot:** Susceptible

**Nematodes:** Susceptible

**Eldana:** Intermediate-resistant

#### REACTION TO WATER STRESS

**Growth during severe water stress:** Moderate to good. Fairly tough.

**Recovery after water stress:** Moderate

**Ratooning after drought:** Moderate

**Poorly drained soils:** Intolerant

**Salinity tolerance:** Tolerant



**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):** Yes

**HARVESTING**

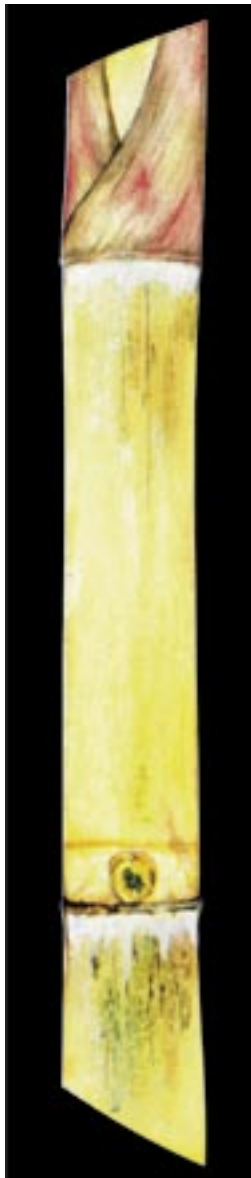
Best months: Aug-Dec

**BEST FEATURES**

*N17 is resistant to smut. It has a fairly high sucrose content and is a tough variety in dry conditions. While it is tolerant of saline conditions, it does need fairly well-drained soil. N17 is best suited to well drained deep loam, or sandy loam soils. Best suited to warm, north or north west facing slopes. Yields improve with ratoons and when cut late in the season. While flowering can be profuse some good yields may still be obtained late season - appears to be less affected by flowering than other varieties (eg N23) when harvested in December.*

**LIMITING FEATURES**

*The germination of N17 is sometimes slow and erratic. N17 is unsuited to cool and/or persistent wet conditions. N17 is not suited to weak sands. It ratoons poorly when harvested in winter but from August onwards ratooning is good. Do not carry over on the Coast or in areas where there is water stress and eldana is a problem. N17 has a low tolerance to Aluminium toxicity. Generally N17 achieves poorer payloads than NCo376 and N14. N17 is sensitive to herbicides.*



## Identification Guide

**HABIT AND GENERAL APPEARANCE**

A high population of thin stalks with an open growth habit, particularly in the plant crop. Canopy is erect, but drooping towards the tips of the leaves.

**LEAF**

**Blade:** narrow and may have a slight chlorotic blotch.

**Sheath:** hairy, green with a slight bloom, and often coloured a reddish-orange due to a non-pathogenic fungal infection (*Cytospora* sp). Trash clings tightly, and no stalk is visible with the adhering trash.

**Collar:** narrow; greenish-yellow in colour.

**Auricle:** no auricle.

**STALK****Internode**

Thin, hard, and often shows corky markings with longitudinal cracking. Generally green or greenish-yellow in colour.

**Wax band:** indistinct. Generally not much wax on this variety.

**Bud furrow:** absent.

**Node**

**Growth ring:** usually slightly swollen; yellow in colour.

**Root band:** narrow; whitish-yellow in colour.

**Sheath scar:** ragged; does not protrude nor sag.

**Bud:** circular.

**Flange:** narrow; arising above the middle of the bud; may be absent. No tuft of hairs at the apex.