Information Sheet

3. VARIETIES

Variety N69

Parents: *86H0430 x unknown males*

Selected at Glenside Research station and tested at the advanced variety stage in three trials on humic soils (one trial on Bruyns Hill Research Station and two trials on a grower co-operator farm), and three trials on sandy soils (one trial on Glenside Research Station and two trials on grower co-operator farms). Results are from the plant, first and second ratoon crops.

Recommended for planting in humic and sandy soils on a longer cutting cycle of 18 to 24 months in the rainfed high altitude/Midlands regions.

Rainfed

BEST FEATURES
Good eldana and smut ratings. High cane and RV yields in humic and sandy soils. Less prone to lodging. Good canopy formation. Good ratooning. Low colour. Good mill processing characteristics.

LIMITING FEATURES
None

YIELD AND QUALITY	
Tons RV	115% of N12, 125% of N16, 129% of N31, 108% of N52, 102% of N66 in humic soils 111% of N12, 103% of N16, 126% of N31, 124% of N50, 99% of N52, 120% of N66 in sandy soils
Cane yield	125% of N12, 128% of N16, 117% of N31, 103% of N52, 114% of N66 in humic soils 124% of N12, 107% of N16, 117% of N31, 128% of N50, 98% of N52, 127% of N66 in sandy soils
RV content	92% of N12, 96% of N16, 109% of N31, 105% of N52, 88% of N66 in humic soils 93% of N12, 96% of N16, 105% of N31, 91% of N50, 99% of N52, 91% of N66 in sandy soils
Fibre content	101% of N12, 107% of N16, 95% of N31, 106% of N50, 92% of N52
Purity	98% of N12, 100% of N16, 102% of N31, 100% of N50, 100% of N52
Yield and quality data from Midlands humic and sandy soils where the variety is recommended for harvest on a longer cutting cycle of 18 to 24 months.	

REACTION TO DISEASES AND PESTS	
Smut	Intermediate
Mosaic	Intermediate Resistant
Brown rust	Intermediate
Tawny rust	Intermediate
Eldana	Intermediate Resistant

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS	
Germination	Good
Stalk Population	90% of N12
Stalk Height	127% of N12
Stalk diameter	106% of N12
Canopy	Fast
Flowering	Low risk
Lodging	Low risk
Ratooning	Good

MILLING CHARACTERISTICS	
Colour	Good. Low colour, less than NCo376, N12 and N16
Processability	Slightly lower percolation rate than N12, similar to N16 Similar density to N12 and N16

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Habit and General Appearance

Upright growth structure with narrow leaves; good canopy and good population

Leaf

Blade: Narrow width and erect, bending slightly near the tip.

Sheath: Very loose adherence to the stalk; without hairs but lightly covered with wax

Collar: Small and distinct with darker brownish colour

Auricle: There is no auricle but there is a tuft of hairs (beard)

Stalk

Internode:

Cylindrical in shape; moderate zigzag pattern; dark-green colour where exposed to sun; corky markings present

Wax Band: Distinct; medium width band and not heavily waxed

Bud Furrow: Present; shallow indentation and very short in length

Node:

Growth Ring: Indented on the older nodes but protruding on younger nodes

Root Band: Protruding primordia older nodes but flat on the younger nodes; dark brown centres

Sheath scar: Protruding and rough but a neat detachment

Bud: Small bud positioned within the root band; round in shape with a brownish mark/stripe at the bottom on the centre

Flange: Distinct with a darker brownish colour

Compiled by Marvellous Zhou (Senior Plant Breeder)

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