



Information Sheet

Variety N54

Introduction

Recommended for a wide range of growing conditions in the hinterland and midlands region.

Best features

Suitable for humic and sandy soils in hinterland and midlands. Does particularly well in sandy lower potential soils. Can be planted in frost areas due to rapid growth. Good cane and RV yields can be achieved on an annual cycle, even under rainfed conditions. Very rapid germination, erect growth habit and good canopy development. High stalk population.

Limiting features

Smut susceptible - smut is common in this variety, inspect and rogue young cane regularly. Early lodging has been observed. Sideshoots very easily. Initial observations are that this variety is susceptible to YSA. Eldana is being observed in this variety in midlands regions.

Yield & quality



The performance of a variety will vary under different conditions and levels of management. For refined yield and quality information, please consult the SASRI Variety Guide at www.sasri.org.za/varietyguide, where you will be able to rank this variety against others of your choice based on your specific area, irrigation regime, cutting cycle, soil potential and time of harvest.



Management Factors

EARLY SEASON HARVEST	YES	NO	
MID-SEASON HARVEST	YES	NO	
LATE SEASON HARVEST	YES	NO	
SUITABILITY FOR CARRYOVER	YES	NO	
SUITABILITY FOR FROST POCKETS	YES	NO	UNKNOWN



Soil Potential

LOW POTENTIAL	YES	NO
AVERAGE POTENTIAL	YES	NO
HIGH POTENTIAL	YES	NO



Agronomic Characteristics

GERMINATION ABILITY	FAST	MODERATE	SLOW	
CANOPY DEVELOPMENT	FAST	MODERATE	SLOW	
STALK POPULATION	HIGH	MODERATE	LOW	
STALK HEIGHT	TALL	MODERATE	SHORT	
FLOWERING	SPARSE	MODERATE	PROFUSE	
LODGING	ERECT	AVERAGE	SEVERE	
TOLERANCE TO WATER STRESS	GOOD	MODERATE	POOR	UNKNOWN
TOLERANCE TO WATER LOGGING	GOOD	MODERATE	POOR	UNKNOWN



Response to Ripeners

ETHEPHON (and generics)	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED	UNKNOWN
FUSILADE (and generics)	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED	UNKNOWN
COMBO ETHEPHON + FUSILADE (and generics)	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED	UNKNOWN
MODDUS	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED	UNKNOWN
COMBO MODDUS + FUSILADE (and generics)	HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	RECOMMENDED	NOT RECOMMENDED	UNKNOWN



Reaction to Pests & Diseases

SMUT	HIGHLY RESISTANT	RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE	INTERMEDIATE SUSCEPTIBLE	SUSCEPTIBLE	HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE	
MOSAIC	HIGHLY RESISTANT	RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE	INTERMEDIATE SUSCEPTIBLE	SUSCEPTIBLE	HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE	
BROWN RUST	HIGHLY RESISTANT	RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE	INTERMEDIATE SUSCEPTIBLE	SUSCEPTIBLE	HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE	UNKNOWN
TAWNY RUST	HIGHLY RESISTANT	RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE	INTERMEDIATE SUSCEPTIBLE	SUSCEPTIBLE	HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE	UNKNOWN
ELDANA	HIGHLY RESISTANT	RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE RESISTANT	INTERMEDIATE	INTERMEDIATE SUSCEPTIBLE	SUSCEPTIBLE	HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE	
THRIPS LEAF DAMAGE	LESS	MODERATE	MORE	UNKNOWN				
YSA LEAF DAMAGE	LESS	MODERATE	MORE	UNKNOWN				



Milling Characteristics

FIBRE CONTENT	VERY LOW	LOW	LOW TO MOD	MODERATE	MOD TO HIGH	HIGH	VERY HIGH
COLOUR	VERY LOW	LOW	ACCEPTABLE	HIGH	VERY HIGH		
PROCESSABILITY	VERY GOOD	GOOD	ACCEPTABLE	POOR	VERY POOR	UNKNOWN	

N54 Identification Guide

Habit and General Appearance

N54 has a medium to high stalk population with medium to thin stalks. It has a fairly erect growth habit with a good canopy. The leaves are of medium width and some bend near the tip.

Leaf

Blade: Medium

Sheath: Green sheath with red blotches sometimes present; fine hairs present. The sheath adheres strongly (clingy trash).

Collar: Not prominent; greenish brown.

Auricle: Long lanceolate auricle on the underlapping leaf; small broad on overlapping leaf.

Stalk

Internode

Appearance: N54 has medium to long conoidal (narrow at middle and bulging at ends) internodes. Older stalks have yellow-green internodes while those of the younger stalks are light green. Areas that have been exposed to the sun are purple. A slight zig-zag alignment is sometimes observed.

Wax band: Not very distinct, wax layer covers most of the internode, especially in young cane.

Bud furrow: Very prominent.

Node

Growth ring: Raised (prominent); green when young, yellow when old.

Root band: Same colour as stalk in older stalks.

Sheath scar: Dipped below bud.

Bud: Squarish pentagonal with wing set high; point of bud sometimes extends above root band; bud situated above the sheath scar.

Flange: Present.



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