

DARNALL EXTENSION MATTERS

61 Commercial Rd, Gingindlovu

Tel : +27 35 337 1593

Call : +27 82 655 0358

Email: ruth.rhodes@sugar.org.za

www.sasri.org.za



RUTH RHODES
EXTENSION SPECIALIST /
PSD OFFICER

Hi Darnall Growers,

It has been super to meet a number of you – and I look forward to meeting you soon, if I haven't already. Although I will be in the Darnall area regularly for visits, I'll send out a newsletter every few months to update you on any relevant news from the area or from SASRI.

Darnall Variety Trial on sands

SASRI variety agronomists will plant the newest varieties – including N76, N77 & N79 – in Darnall in spring this year, to test their performance on sandy soils. Who will be crowned Queen of the Sands?

NEW VARIETY N79

To be released for bulking in Darnall in spring 2023
Coastal
Short cycle
Average to high potential soils



Barbados Romance

Some SASRI varieties were crossed with Barbados varieties recently, to introduce greater diversity into our gene pool. We are specifically looking for **coastal, long-cycle varieties**. Their offspring have been planted for testing at Ging research station

GM Cane

With industry leadership having agreed to the start of genetically modified (GM) cane trials, **two GM cane varieties** will be planted at the SASRI Ging farm in September 2023:

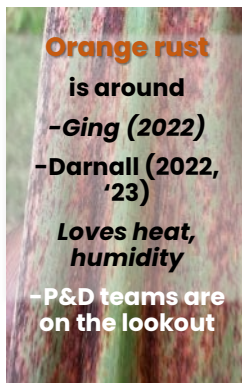
- **BT cane** (eldana will die when it bites into it)
- **Arsenal-resistant cane**

This trial will be very strictly controlled, with all trial cane destroyed afterwards.

Eldana numbers are high for the second year in a row due to increased carryover cane ☹️

RSD inspections will start soon. Darnall has a great track record *keep it up!*

Oh, **SM*T...** sadly, N59 has been badly infested by smut this year in some areas – be vigilant and keep up your roguing efforts



Orange rust

is around

- Ging (2022)
- Darnall (2022, '23)

Loves heat, humidity

-P&D teams are on the lookout

SASTA Congress 2023

The annual SASTA congress will take place from 15-17 Aug 2023

Durban ICC

REGISTRATION IS OPEN

www.sasta.co.za

Networking, learning and FUN!



It is time to plant your winter **green manure crops!**
Call me to chat about options and **keep your soil HAPPY** 😊