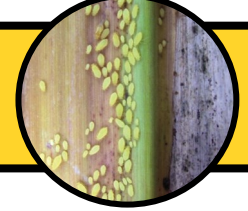




# BIOSECURITY ALERT



Widespread and serious outbreaks of yellow sugarcane aphid (*Sipha flava*) are currently occurring across the South African sugar industry. Growers are strongly advised to look out for this pest as it can cause **significant crop losses**. The pest is present in **most varieties** but some are more affected than others.

Outbreaks **most commonly occur in Spring and Autumn** but growers should be on the alert throughout the year, particularly in times when the crop is stressed.

*If an outbreak is suspected please urgently contact your SASRI Extension Specialist or Biosecurity Officer for advice.*



**The most effective approach to managing yellow sugarcane aphid (YSA) is through early scouting and the use of an integrated pest management (IPM) plan**

## Scouting advice

Scouting should be focused on areas of stressed cane. This may be a result of water stress or soil factors. YSA is attracted to this cane, so determine the cause and minimise the stress, if possible.

Generally, outbreaks of YSA are first seen as either yellow patches of cane in a field or very obvious yellowing, reddening and dying of the lower leaves on the cane plant (see photo below). However, by the time symptoms are obvious, the damage has been done. Therefore scout **continuously and carefully** when outbreaks occur in the area by looking for aphids on the **undersides of green leaves (lower leaves more favoured)**. Early detection is **crucial** if infestations are to be treated before they cause significant damage. Aphid numbers build up very rapidly and response time has to be within days of detecting a potential outbreak in a field.



Certain grass species are also susceptible to YSA and signs of the presence of the pest can be detected in the indigenous vegetation and grass breaks within canefields.



*Typical patches of heavy infestations of YSA.*

## Variety rating

Certain varieties are more susceptible than others and these should be scouted more frequently.

*YSA leaf damage categories of commercial varieties*

Low	Low-intermediate	Intermediate	Severe
N14	N12	NCo376	N16
N40	*N41	N17	N19
N46	N47	N25	N36
N49		N27	N37
N53		N31	N42
N57		N35	N54
		N39	N61
		N44	
		N45	
		N48	
		N50	
		N51	
		N52	
		N55	
		N56	
		N58	
		N59	
		N62	

\*Some observations suggest that N41 may be **intermediate**.



## Chemical control

Three products are registered for the control of YSA on sugarcane, namely Alice®, Actara® and Ampligo®. Use of these products and the timing of applications should be considered carefully and in consultation with your Extension Specialist or advisor. Certain LPD&VCCs may require mandatory spraying of this pest as a control measure to contain outbreaks in their control areas. **Contact your Biosecurity Officer for details.**