



# Information Sheet

2006

## 13. VARIETIES

### 13.10 **Variety N23**

#### INTRODUCTION

**T**he performance of N23 has been fairly consistent. It is useful on lower potential and less favourable soils but it requires good drainage. Although the plant crop results are usually poor this variety has excellent ratooning ability and yields tend to be stable over ratoons.

**Origin:** SASRI, South Africa

**Year of release:** 1992

**Variety Code:** 81F3402

**Parentage:** NCo376 x N52/219

#### CANE QUALITY & YIELD

**Tons RV:** RV yields are slightly lower than N14 and N19, but N23 is useful on less favourable sites. Sucrose yields improve with successive ratoons. Best yields obtained early season, ripened. Poor yields obtained in the late season.

**Cane yield:** Moderate (lower than N14 and NCo376, but higher than N19)

**RV content:** Low (102%N14, 92%N19, 105%NCo376)

**Fibre content:** Moderate (104%N14, 103%N19, 102%NCo376)

**Purity:** Moderate

**Fibre:sucrose ratio:** Moderate

**Non-sucrose:sucrose ratio:** Low to moderate

#### AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

**Germination (speed and reliability):** Moderate speed and usually reliable (can be uneven and poor in cold, wet conditions)

**Stalk population (at harvest):** High: 134 000/ha

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

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

**Stalk elongation:** Moderately rapid

**Canopy formation:** Rapid canopy formation. Dense canopy formed.

**Flowering:** Profuse

**Lodging:** Slight and infrequent

**Ratooning ability (speed and reliability):** Moderate speed and reliable

#### REACTION TO DISEASES & PESTS

**Smut:** Resistant

**Mosaic:** Intermediate

**RSD:** Intermediate-susceptible

**Rust:** Resistant

**Leaf scald:** Resistant

**Red rot:** Resistant

**Nematodes:** Intermediate

**Eldana:** Intermediate

#### REACTION TO WATER STRESS

**Growth during severe water stress:** Moderate

**Recovery after water stress:** Moderate

**Ratooning after drought:** Moderate

**Poorly drained soils:** Moderately intolerant

**Salinity tolerance:** Moderately sensitive



Irrigated

**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 - recommended

**HARVESTING**

**Best months:** Jul-mid Aug

**BEST FEATURES**

*N23 is generally resistant to diseases. It is useful in less favourable conditions or moderate soils. While plant crop yields are relatively poor, yields tend to be stable over many ratoons. While recommended for mid-season harvesting, good yields are obtained early season when ripener is applied. Generally good payloads are achieved with this variety.*

**LIMITING FEATURES**

*N23 flowers profusely and should be harvested before mid-October. Cane yields after mid-Aug are poor. Yields are generally mediocre. This variety is not suitable for heavy or poorly drained soils. Germination is poor under cold wet soil conditions. Avoid planting N23 on very sandy soils. Avoid carrying over in severe stress conditions and in areas where eldana is a problem. N23 has a fairly high pith:fibre ratio, thereby leading to poor extraction in the mill.*

*Identification Guide***HABIT AND GENERAL APPEARANCE**

A fairly tall, erect variety with a canopy of dark green, slightly drooping leaves. Flowers profusely.

**LEAF**

**Blade:** medium width; dark green to bluish-green. A chlorotic blotch sometimes present.

**Sheath:** green, with slight brown to purplish blotches occurring towards the base of the sheath on exposure to the sun. Hairs present; usually long, not spiky.

**Collar:** medium to narrow in width; indistinct.

**Auricle:** long and pointed.

**STALK****Internode**

Covered with a fair amount of wax bloom. Light yellowish-green, turning to light purple on exposure. Corky markings sometimes present. Cracks may occur, depending on growing conditions. Stalks are fairly thin.

**Wax band:** indistinct.

**Bud furrow:** absent.

**Node**

**Growth ring:** well defined; yellowish-green, sometimes partly purple.

**Root band:** medium to broad in width; yellowish.

**Sheath scar:** neat looking; does not protrude.

**Bud:** small and circular.

**Flange:** narrow; sometimes with hairs at the apex forming a point.



All variety information sheets are available at <http://www.sugar.org.za/sasri/variety/index.htm>

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