



Information Sheet

13. VARIETIES

13.12 Variety N25

Parents: Co62175 x N14. Year of release: 1994.

Permitted Pest, Disease and Variety Control Areas: Permitted in all areas.

Recommended for planting in the irrigated northern regions under a range of yield potential conditions and soils.

BEST FEATURES

N25 is a very robust variety, and is one of the few varieties adapted to low potential, marginal conditions in the irrigated north. The variety responds very well to ripeners early in the season, and this practice is recommended especially at a distance from the mill. It has good agronomic characteristics (except for lodging at times) and can produce economically over many ratoons. It has shown good recovery after water stress and does well in times of drought.

YIELD AND QUALITY*

	Age at harvest (months)**		
	12-15	15-18	18-24
Tons RV	High 99% of N36 98% of N41 99% of N46	Not recommended	Not recommended
Cane yield	High 109% of N36 107% of N41 106% of N46	Not recommended	Not recommended
RV %	Very low 91% of N36 91% of N41 94% of N46	Not recommended	Not recommended
Fibre content	Very low 89% of N36 84% of N41 100% of N46	Not recommended	Not recommended

High RV yields are obtained relative to other varieties under low potential conditions on sandy and shallow soils. The RV yield advantage over other varieties improves as conditions become more marginal. N25 has a low RV content early in the season and should therefore be ripened during this time to improve RV yields. If unripened, harvesting should occur late season only.

*Based on average performance relative to control varieties under the same conditions. Performance may vary under different conditions and levels of management.

**Harvest age is related to region, where 12-15 months represents coastal, 15-18 represents hinterland, and 18-24 represents midlands conditions, in general.

MILLING CHARACTERISTICS

Colour (lower values better)	96% of N41
Processability (higher percolation is necessary)	88% of N41 and 79% of NCo376

LIMITING FEATURES

Stalks often snap when lodged, indicating that careful handling at harvest is necessary. The very low RV content and high cane yield of N25 means that transport costs are normally higher, and poor payloads are often achieved (unless ripened). Lodging often occurs under high potential conditions and on deep, well drained soils. High levels of smut have recently been observed on N25 in the irrigated areas. Moderate to severe infestations of tawny rust are common in this variety. N25 is highly susceptible to RSD.

SOIL SUITABILITY

Soil Group*	Performance
Grey crest to midslope	Moderate to good
Grey lower slopes	Moderate to good
Humics	Good
Red	Good
Black structured	Moderate

*For soil forms that fall within these groups consult SASRI's Soils Bulletin or your local Extension Specialist.

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination	Rapid and reliable
Stalk Population	High (>120 000 stalks/ha)
Stalk Height	High (>200 cm)
Canopy speed	Rapid
Flowering	Sparse
Lodging	Moderate to severe
Ratoon regrowth	Moderate speed and reliable
Reaction to water stress	Good (compared to other irrigated varieties)
Reaction to waterlogging	Moderate
Stalks of N25 often snap, thereby reducing harvesting efficiencies. N25 has very good ratooning ability (RV yields sustained over many crops).	

REACTION TO DISEASES AND PESTS*	
Smut	Intermediate-susceptible (Poorer than N36 and N49, similar to N41)
Mosaic	Intermediate (Similar to N36 and N41)
Brown rust	Intermediate (Poorer than N36, similar to N14)
Tawny rust	Moderate to severe infections common
Eldana	Intermediate-resistant (Better than N36, similar to N41)
Nematodes	Intermediate (Better than N36, similar to N41)
Thrips	Resistant
Severe infestations of smut have been observed on N25 in Mpumalanga and Pongola. Moderate to severe infections of tawny rust have also been observed on this variety, particularly in Pongola. N25 is highly susceptible to RSD.	

* Reactions vary depending on pest and disease pressure and were accurate at the time of publishing

REACTION TO CHEMICAL RIPENING	
Fusilade Forte (250 – 275 ml/ha)*	Yes
Ethephon (1.5 L/ha)	Yes
Tandem (Ethephon + Fusilade Forte)	Yes (highly recommended)

*The higher rates should be used when the chemical is applied by aircraft.

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Habit and General Appearance

A tall, erect, attractive variety with a fairly dense canopy of dark green leaves. Prone to scorching of the leaf tips on very hot days.

Leaf

Blade: Medium width; fairly dark green in colour.

Sheath: Purplish where exposed, otherwise light green with a lot of wax bloom. No hairs present, except on young cane. Trash clings fairly tightly.

Collar: Medium to narrow; yellowish in colour, often outlined with purple.

Auricle: Short and broad, although often absent.

Stalk

Internode

Yellowish; sometimes with a tinge of green, turning to pink on exposure.

Wax band: Narrow; can be distinct.

Bud furrow: Slight; can be more distinct in the younger internodes.

Node

Growth ring: Yellow in older cane; yellowish-green to green in younger nodes. Protrudes slightly.

Root band: Yellow to yellowish-green at the top of the stalk; medium to narrow in width.

Sheath scar: Usually neat; protrudes slightly.

Bud: Medium sized; slightly oval. Frequently extends beyond the growth ring. Young buds often green towards the top.

Flange: Fairly narrow.



Updated by Sanesh Ramburan (Senior Agronomist: Varieties) December 2014

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