



Information Sheet

2006

13. VARIETIES

13.13 **Variety N26**

INTRODUCTION

N26 performs best when planted in the better, high potential soils and requires good irrigation management. It is suited to planting some distance from the mill as it has a very high sucrose content. The sucrose content is particularly high early in the season. This variety has performed well not only in the Northern irrigated areas but also in the irrigated areas in the Midlands.

Origin: SASRI, South Africa

Year of release: 1996

Variety Code: 83F2008

Parentage: 75F1463 x 69F0607

CANE QUALITY & YIELD

Tons RV: When harvested early season, RV yields are 110%N14, 104%N19 on good, well drained soils. Poor yields obtained late in the season.

Cane yield: Low (lower than N14, N19, NCo376)

RV content: Very high (119%N14, 108%N19, 121%NCo376)

Fibre content: Moderate (101%N14, 98%N19, 95%NCo376)

Purity: High

Fibre:sucrose ratio: Low

Non-sucrose:sucrose ratio: Low

AGRONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Germination (speed and reliability): Rapid and reliable (although has low tiller numbers)

Stalk population (at harvest): Low: 98 000/ha

Stalk mass (at harvest): High

Stalk height (at harvest): Average

Stalk elongation: Rapid

Canopy formation: Slow in plant cane, moderately rapid in ratoons.

Flowering: Sparse

Lodging: Severe (similar to N19)

Ratooning ability (speed and reliability): Generally rapid but can be slow through winter, reliable ratooning

REACTION TO DISEASES & PESTS

Smut: Resistant

Mosaic: Resistant

RSD: Susceptible

Rust: Intermediate

Leaf scald: Resistant

Red rot: Resistant

Nematodes: Highly susceptible

Eldana: Highly susceptible

REACTION TO WATER STRESS

Growth during severe water stress: Poor

Recovery after water stress: Poor

Ratooning after drought: Moderate

Poorly drained soils: Moderately tolerant

Salinity tolerance: Moderately tolerant



Irrigated

NUTRITION

Nitrogen use efficiency: Moderate to low

RIPENER RECOMMENDATIONS

Fusilade Forte: Ground rigs (250 ml/ha), Aerial (275 ml/ha): Yes

Ethephon (1.5 l/ha): No

Gallant Super: No data

Tandem (Ethephon + Fusilade Forte): Marginal gains

HARVESTING

Best months: Apr-Jun

BEST FEATURES

N26 has a very high sucrose content in the early season. It is resistant to most diseases. The yields of N26 tend to improve with ratoons. Good payloads are achieved with this variety.

LIMITING FEATURES

Plant crop yields of N26 can be mediocre. N26 is highly susceptible to eldana. This variety should be limited to the high potential soils where eldana is not a problem. Do not age or carry over. It is not suitable for very sandy soils. Lodging in N26 can be severe. It may be sensitive to low temperatures when ratooning. It has a moderate to low N use efficiency which indicates that a higher rate of N fertiliser may be required. N26 has a fairly high pith:fibre ratio, thereby leading to poor extraction in the mill.

Identification Guide

HABIT AND GENERAL APPEARANCE

A low population, thick-stalked variety with a yellowish-green canopy of broad, erect leaves. Clinging trash covers virtually the entire stalk.

LEAF

Blade: yellowy-green; broad and erect with leaf tips often bent. Midrib sometimes yellow on the underside.

Sheath: hairy; light yellowish-green, with brownish blotches on older sheaths.

Collar: medium width; yellow; often with a purplish tinge.

Auricle: small; usually present; fairly broad.

STALK**Internode**

Thick, yellowy-green, with corky markings sometimes present. Cracks on older internodes in some conditions.

Wax band: narrow and distinct.

Bud furrow: sometimes present, although slight.

Node

Growth ring: dark yellow to yellowish-green in younger nodes.

Root band: medium width; yellow; often with three rows of root primordia.

Sheath scar: does not protrude below the bud.

Bud: smallish; round; often protruding.

Flange: narrow, often with a purplish tinge in the younger buds. Hairs sometimes present at the apex.



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

March 2006