

Welcome to the third edition of CaneConnection

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In our last edition of CaneConnection, we focused on the fallow period and some of the key steps that can be taken to lay the foundations for the next crop cycle. Having navigated this important phase, we focus on some of the key considerations as we approach planting.

Planting represents the single most expensive operation in the cane-growing calendar. Equally, given that the decisions made at this time have the potential to set the tone for the next four to five years, it is in our best interest to get it right.

So in this edition of CaneConnection, we focus on this important operation—exploring seed sources, what's new on the variety front, and the importance of variety selection in the management of pachymetra. We conclude this series of articles on planting with a topical one discussing

some of the options available to manage weeds in the establishing crop with the recently imposed restrictions on the use of diuron.

For those with established plant and ratoon crops it is also the time of year when canegrub damage becomes evident. Decisions need to be made about the necessity to manage grubs in next season's crop. It is also the time when areas prone to waterlogging start to feel its effect. To address these two production constraints, we have included articles discussing their management options.

Finally, you will have found enclosed with your CaneConnection an update on Yellow Canopy Syndrome and an outline of where our research is leading us as we tackle this important industry issue.

We have also enclosed a DVD containing a selection of last year's CaneClips videos grouped according to the production cycle. We hope you find them interesting and informative. If you don't currently receive them, I encourage you to visit our website www.sugarresearch.com.au and click on the 'Subscribe to Updates' tab on the home page.

Managing poor drainage and waterlogging to improve sugarcane yields: **Page 2**

Connecting with research: **Page 8**

Making sure growers get the best spraying advice: **Page 12**

Stool tipping? Yellowing? Gaps in ratoons? Maybe you've got canegrubs: **Pages 3-5**

Resistant varieties are the only solution to Pachymetra root rot: **Pages 9-10**

Pre-emergent herbicide options to help growers overcome diuron restrictions: **Pages 13-14**

Regional round-up of newly available varieties: **Pages 6-7**

A healthy crop starts with clean seed: **Page 11**

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